





# **Holy Bible**

*Aionian* **Edition**®

**Aionian Bible**  
**22 Book Digest, Special Edition**

*Holy Bible Aionian Edition* ®  
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22 Book Digest, Special Edition

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*Celebrate Jesus Christ's victory of grace!*

# Preface

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The *Holy Bible Aionian Edition* ® is the world's first Bible *un-translation*! What is an *un-translation*? Bibles are translated into each of our languages from the original Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. Occasionally, the best word translation cannot be found and these words are transliterated letter by letter. Four well known transliterations are *Christ*, *baptism*, *angel*, and *apostle*. The meaning is then preserved more accurately through context and a dictionary. The Aionian Bible un-translates and instead transliterates eleven additional Aionian Glossary words to help us better understand God's love for individuals and all mankind, and the nature of afterlife destinies.

The Aionian Bible *un-translation* helps us to see these eleven underlying words in context. Actually, the original translation is unaltered and a note is added to 64 Old Testament and 198 New Testament verses. Also the Aionian Bible is not one Bible, but an entire library of public domain and Creative Common Bible texts. In each of the Bible republications the original text is wholly unaltered, except for this particular translation which is specifically named the *Aionian Bible* translation. The *Aionian Bible* translation is a new translation identical to the public domain *World English Bible Updated* except for the retranslation of the verses containing Aionian Glossary words and a few additional verses are revised to correspond with the underlying Hebrew and Greek. This new translation includes the same inline notes as every Bible in the Aionian Bible library, but also retranslates the Aionian Glossary words to more accurately reflect the underlying Hebrew and Greek words. Every verse retranslation in the *Aionian Bible* translation is based on meticulous reference to the underlying language sources. The *World English Bible Updated* was chosen as a base text simply because it is the most readable public domain English translation.

The first three Greek words reconsidered are *aion*, *aionios*, and *aïdios*, typically translated as *eternal* and also *world* or *eon*. In fact, the Aionian Bible is named after an alternative spelling of *aionios*. Consider that researchers question if *aion* and *aionios* actually mean *eternal*. Translating *aion* as *eternal* in Matthew 28:20 makes no sense, as all agree. The Greek word for *eternal* is *aïdios*, used in Romans 1:20 about God and in Jude 6 about demon imprisonment. Therefore, *aïdios* remains translated as *everlasting* in the *Aionian Bible* translation. Yet what about *aionios* in John 3:16? Certainly we do not question whether salvation is eternal! However, *aionios* means something much more wonderful than infinite time! Ancient Greeks used *aion* to mean *eon* or *age*. The similar spelling of *aion* and *eon* is easily seen. They also used the adjective *aionios* to mean *entirety*, such as *complete* or even *consummate*, but never infinite time. Thus *aionios* is retranslated *consummate* 64 times, *of the ages* three times, and *wholly* one time in the *Aionian Bible* translation. *Aion* is retranslated as *age* 95 times and *lifetime* two times. Note that familiar Hebrews verses now say more accurately, and perhaps even more poetically, '*Jesus is a priest for the age.*'

The wonderful rediscovery is that the *aionios* life promised in John 3:16 is not simply a ticket to eternal life in the future, but the invitation through faith to the *consummate* life beginning now! *Aionios* is the perfect description of God's Word which has *everything* we need for life and godliness.

The next seven words are *Sheol*, *Hades*, *Geenna*, *Tartaroo*, *Abyssos*, and *Limne Pyr*. These words are often translated as *Hell*, the place of eternal punishment. However, *Hell* is ill-defined when compared with the Hebrew and Greek. For example, *Sheol* is the abode of deceased believers and unbelievers and should never be translated as *Hell*. *Hades* is a temporary place of punishment, Revelation 20:13-14. *Geenna* is the Valley of Hinnom, Jerusalem's refuse dump, a temporal judgment for sin. *Tartaroo* is a prison for demons, mentioned once in 2 Peter 2:4. *Abyssos* is a temporary prison for the Beast and Satan. Translators are also inconsistent because *Hell* is used by the King James Version 54 times, the New International Version 14 times, and the *World English Bible* zero times. Finally, *Limne Pyr* is the Lake of Fire, yet Matthew 25:41 explains that these fires are prepared for the Devil and his angels. So there is reason to review our conclusions about the destinies of redeemed mankind and fallen angels.

The eleventh word, *eleēsē*, reveals the grand conclusion of grace in Romans 11:32. Take the time to understand these eleven words. The Aionian Bible project invites you to reconsider traditional Christian understanding. It may seem utterly ridiculous to suggest that the most well-known verse in the history of Christianity, John 3:16, was improperly translated. And it may seem preposterous to propose that a destiny of Heaven or Hell is not the complete picture. Yet is it ridiculous? Is it preposterous? Have we or our forefathers ever carried ignorance and errors along for decades and even centuries in the past? We have. Even so, the purpose of the Aionian Bible project is not to abandon tradition or Christian heritage. We have much to learn from the belief and practice of godly men and women throughout all ages. Instead the purpose of this project is to invite us to compare our current conclusions with Scripture. We should never be afraid to review our understanding. Do consider Dr. Heleen Keizer's article '*ETERNITY REVISITED*' *A Study of the Greek Word aion* and other resources at [AionianBible.org/Aionios-and-Aidios](http://AionianBible.org/Aionios-and-Aidios). This article is a useful introduction to the first century usage and meaning of *aion* and *aionios*. Further resources can be found countless places online and in print. Then study the Scripture and ask the Lord for understanding. Hopefully you find this invitation to reconsider fair, thought-provoking, and above all, honoring to God's Word.

Again, the original text for each translation in the Aionian Bible library is unaltered, except for this particular Bible named the *Aionian Bible*, which is itself a new translation based on the *World English Bible* as explained above. To help parallel study and Strong's Concordance use, apocryphal text is removed and most variant verse numbering is mapped to the English standard. We thank our sources at [eBible.org](http://eBible.org), [Crosswire.org](http://Crosswire.org), [unbound.Biola.edu](http://unbound.Biola.edu), [Bible4u.net](http://Bible4u.net), and [NHEB.net](http://NHEB.net). The Aionian Bible is copyrighted with [creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/4.0](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/4.0), allowing 100% freedom to copy and print, if respecting source copyrights. Check the Reader's Guide and read online at [AionianBible.org](http://AionianBible.org), with Android, and TOR network.

Why purple? King Jesus' Word is royal... and purple is the color of royalty!

# History

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- 04/15/85 - Aionian Bible conceived as B. and J. pray.
- 12/18/13 - Aionian Bible announced as J. and J. pray.
- 06/21/15 - Aionian Bible birthed as G. and J. pray.
- 01/11/16 - AionianBible.org domain registered.
- 06/21/16 - 30 translations available in 12 languages.
- 12/07/16 - Nainoia Inc established as non-profit corporation.
- 01/01/17 - Creative Commons Attribution No Derivatives 4.0 license added.
- 01/16/17 - Aionian Bible Google Play Store App published.
- 07/01/17 - 'The Purple Bible' nickname begins.
- 07/30/17 - 42 translations now available in 22 languages.
- 02/01/18 - Holy Bible Aionian Edition® trademark registered.
- 03/06/18 - Aionian Bibles available in print at Amazon.com.
- 10/20/18 - 70 translations now available in 33 languages.
- 11/17/18 - 104 translations now available in 57 languages.
- 03/24/19 - 135 translations now available in 67 languages.
- 10/28/19 - Aionian Bible nursed as J. and J. pray.
- 10/31/19 - 174 translations now available in 74 languages.
- 02/22/20 - Aionian Bibles available in print at Lulu.com.
- 05/25/20 - Illustrations by Gustave Doré, La Grande Bible de Tours, Felix Just.
- 08/29/20 - Aionian Bibles now available in ePub format.
- 12/01/20 - Right to left and Hindic languages now available in PDF format.
- 03/31/21 - 214 translations now available in 99 languages.
- 11/17/21 - Aionian Bible Branded Leather Bible Covers now available.
- 12/20/21 - Social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, etc.
- 01/01/22 - 216 translations now available in 99 languages.
- 01/09/22 - StudyPack resources for Bible translation study.
- 02/14/22 - Strong's Concordance from Open Scriptures and STEP Bible.
- 02/14/23 - Aionian Bible published on the TOR Network.
- 12/04/23 - Eleēsē added to the Aionian Glossary.
- 02/04/24 - 352 translations now available in 135 languages.
- 05/01/24 - 371 translations now available in 151 languages.



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# OLD TESTAMENT



## **Adam and Eve Driven Out of the Garden of Eden**

*So he drove out the man; and he placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.*

Genesis 3:24

# Genesis

**1** In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. **2** The earth was formless and empty. Darkness was on the surface of the deep and God's Spirit was hovering over the surface of the waters. **3** God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. **4** God saw the light, and saw that it was good. God divided the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light "day", and the darkness he called "night". There was evening and there was morning, the first day. **6** God said, "Let there be an expanse in the middle of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." **7** God made the expanse, and divided the waters which were under the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so. **8** God called the expanse "sky". There was evening and there was morning, a second day. **9** God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together to one place, and let the dry land appear;" and it was so. **10** God called the dry land "earth", and the gathering together of the waters he called "seas". God saw that it was good. **11** God said, "Let the earth yield grass, herbs yielding seeds, and fruit trees bearing fruit after their kind, with their seeds in it, on the earth;" and it was so. **12** The earth yielded grass, herbs yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit, with their seeds in it, after their kind; and God saw that it was good. **13** There was evening and there was morning, a third day. **14** God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs to mark seasons, days, and years; **15** and let them be for lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth;" and it was so. **16** God made the two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He also made the stars. **17** God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light to the earth, **18** and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. God saw that it was good. **19** There was evening and there was morning, a fourth day. **20** God said, "Let the waters abound with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the sky." **21** God created the large sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed, after their kind, and every winged

bird after its kind. God saw that it was good. **22** God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." **23** There was evening and there was morning, a fifth day. **24** God said, "Let the earth produce living creatures after their kind, livestock, creeping things, and animals of the earth after their kind;" and it was so. **25** God made the animals of the earth after their kind, and the livestock after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind. God saw that it was good. **26** God said, "Let's make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the sky, and over the livestock, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." **27** God created man in his own image. In God's image he created him; male and female he created them. **28** God blessed them. God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." **29** God said, "Behold, I have given you every herb yielding seed, which is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree, which bears fruit yielding seed. It will be your food. **30** To every animal of the earth, and to every bird of the sky, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food;" and it was so. **31** God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. There was evening and there was morning, a sixth day.

**2** The heavens, the earth, and all their vast array were finished. **2** On the seventh day God finished his work which he had done; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done. **3** God blessed the seventh day, and made it holy, because he rested in it from all his work of creation which he had done. **4** This is the history of the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens. **5** No plant of the field was yet in the earth, and no herb of the field had yet sprung up; for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth. There was not a man to till the ground, **6** but a mist went up from the earth, and watered the whole surface of the ground. **7** The

LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. **8** The LORD God planted a garden eastward, in Eden, and there he put the man whom he had formed. **9** Out of the ground the LORD God made every tree to grow that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food, including the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. **10** A river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it was parted, and became the source of four rivers. **11** The name of the first is Pishon: it flows through the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; **12** and the gold of that land is good. Bdellium and onyx stone are also there. **13** The name of the second river is Gihon. It is the same river that flows through the whole land of Cush. **14** The name of the third river is Hiddekel. This is the one which flows in front of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates. **15** The LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate and keep it. **16** The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; **17** but you shall not eat of 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 said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make him a helper comparable to him." **19** Out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field, and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. Whatever the man called every living creature became its name. **20** The man gave names to all livestock, and to the birds of the sky, and to every animal of the field; but for man there was not found a helper comparable to him. **21** The LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. As the man slept, he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. **22** The LORD God made a woman from the rib which he had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. **23** The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh. She will be called 'woman,' because she was taken out of Man." **24** Therefore a man will leave his father and his mother, and will join with his wife, and they will be one flesh. **25** The man and his wife were both naked, and they were not ashamed.

**3** Now the serpent was more subtle than any animal of the field which the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Has God really said, 'You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?'" **2** The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees of the garden, **3** but not the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden. God has said, 'You shall not eat of it. You shall not touch it, lest you die.'" **4** The serpent said to the woman, "You will not really die, **5** for God knows that in the day you eat 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 that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took some of its fruit, and ate. Then she gave some to her husband with her, and he ate it, too. **7** Their eyes were opened, and they both knew that they were naked. They sewed fig leaves together, and made coverings for themselves. **8** They heard the LORD God's voice walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. **9** The LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" **10** The man said, "I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; so I hid myself." **11** God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" **12** The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it." **13** The LORD God said to the woman, "What have you done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." **14** The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, you are cursed above all livestock, and above every animal of the field. You shall go on your belly and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. **15** I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will bruise your head, and you will bruise his heel." **16** To the woman he said, "I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth. You will bear children in pain. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." **17** To Adam he said, "Because you have listened to your wife's voice, and have eaten from the tree, about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it,' the ground is cursed for your

sake. You will eat from it with much labor all the days of your life. **18** It will yield thorns and thistles to you; and you will eat the herb of the field. **19** You will eat bread by the sweat of your face until you return to the ground, for you were taken out of it. For you are dust, and you shall return to dust.” **20** The man called his wife Eve because she would be the mother of all the living. **21** The LORD God made garments of animal skins for Adam and for his wife, and clothed them. **22** The LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand, and also take of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever—” **23** Therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. **24** So he drove out the man; and he placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

**4** The man knew Eve his wife. She conceived, and gave birth to Cain, and said, “I have gotten a man with the LORD’s help.” **2** Again she gave birth, to Cain’s brother Abel. Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. **3** As time passed, Cain brought an offering to the LORD from the fruit of the ground. **4** Abel also brought some of the firstborn of his flock and of its fat. The LORD respected Abel and his offering, **5** but he did not respect Cain and his offering. Cain was very angry, and the expression on his face fell. **6** The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why has the expression of your face fallen? **7** If you do well, will not it be lifted up? If you do not do well, sin crouches at the door. Its desire is for you, but you are to rule over it.” **8** Cain said to Abel, his brother, “Let’s go into the field.” While they were in the field, Cain rose up against Abel, his brother, and killed him. **9** The LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel, your brother?” He said, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?” **10** The LORD said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood cries to me from the ground. **11** Now you are cursed because of the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. **12** From now on, when you till the ground, it will not yield its strength to you. You will be a fugitive and a wanderer in the earth.” **13** Cain said to the

LORD, “My punishment is greater than I can bear. **14** Behold, you have driven me out today from the surface of the ground. I will be hidden from your face, and I will be a fugitive and a wanderer in the earth. Whoever finds me will kill me.” **15** The LORD said to him, “Therefore whoever slays Cain, vengeance will be taken on him sevenfold.” The LORD appointed a sign for Cain, so that anyone finding him would not strike him. **16** Cain left the LORD’s presence, and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden. **17** Cain knew his wife. She conceived, and gave birth to Enoch. He built a city, and named the city after the name of his son, Enoch. **18** Irad was born to Enoch. Irad became the father of Mehujael. Mehujael became the father of Methushael. Methushael became the father of Lamech. **19** Lamech took two wives: the name of the first one was Adah, and the name of the second one was Zillah. **20** Adah gave birth to Jabal, who was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. **21** His brother’s name was Jubal, who was the father of all who handle the harp and pipe. **22** Zillah also gave birth to Tubal Cain, the forger of every cutting instrument of bronze and iron. Tubal Cain’s sister was Naamah. **23** Lamech said to his wives, “Adah and Zillah, hear my voice. You wives of Lamech, listen to my speech, for I have slain a man for wounding me, a young man for bruising me. **24** If Cain will be avenged seven times, truly Lamech seventy-seven times.” **25** Adam knew his wife again. She gave birth to a son, and named him Seth, saying, “for God has given me another child instead of Abel, for Cain killed him.” **26** A son was also born to Seth, and he named him Enosh. At that time men began to call on the LORD’s name.

**5** This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, he made him in God’s likeness. **2** He created them male and female, and blessed them. On the day they were created, he named them Adam. **3** Adam lived one hundred thirty years, and became the father of a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. **4** The days of Adam after he became the father of Seth were eight hundred years, and he became the father of other sons and daughters. **5** All the days that Adam lived were nine hundred thirty years, then he died. **6** Seth lived one hundred five years, then became

the father of Enosh. 7 Seth lived after he became the father of Enosh eight hundred seven years, and became the father of other sons and daughters. 8 All of the days of Seth were nine hundred twelve years, then he died. 9 Enosh lived ninety years, and became the father of Kenan. 10 Enosh lived after he became the father of Kenan eight hundred fifteen years, and became the father of other sons and daughters. 11 All of the days of Enosh were nine hundred five years, then he died. 12 Kenan lived seventy years, then became the father of Mahalalel. 13 Kenan lived after he became the father of Mahalalel eight hundred forty years, and became the father of other sons and daughters. 14 and all of the days of Kenan were nine hundred ten years, then he died. 15 Mahalalel lived sixty-five years, then became the father of Jared. 16 Mahalalel lived after he became the father of Jared eight hundred thirty years, and became the father of other sons and daughters. 17 All of the days of Mahalalel were eight hundred ninety-five years, then he died. 18 Jared lived one hundred sixty-two years, then became the father of Enoch. 19 Jared lived after he became the father of Enoch eight hundred years, and became the father of other sons and daughters. 20 All of the days of Jared were nine hundred sixty-two years, then he died. 21 Enoch lived sixty-five years, then became the father of Methuselah. 22 After Methuselah's birth, Enoch walked with God for three hundred years, and became the father of more sons and daughters. 23 All the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty-five years. 24 Enoch walked with God, and he was not found, for God took him. 25 Methuselah lived one hundred eighty-seven years, then became the father of Lamech. 26 Methuselah lived after he became the father of Lamech seven hundred eighty-two years, and became the father of other sons and daughters. 27 All the days of Methuselah were nine hundred sixty-nine years, then he died. 28 Lamech lived one hundred eighty-two years, then became the father of a son. 29 He named him Noah, saying, "This one will comfort us in our work and in the toil of our hands, caused by the ground which the LORD has cursed." 30 Lamech lived after he became the father of Noah five hundred ninety-five years, and became the father of other sons and daughters. 31 All the days of Lamech were

seven hundred seventy-seven years, then he died. 32 Noah was five hundred years old, then Noah became the father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

**6** When men began to multiply on the surface of the ground, and daughters were born to them, 2 God's sons saw that men's daughters were beautiful, and they took any that they wanted for themselves as wives. 3 The LORD said, "My Spirit will not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; so his days will be one hundred twenty years." 4 The Nephilim were in the earth in those days, and also after that, when God's sons came in to men's daughters and had children with them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown. 5 The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of man's heart was continually only evil. 6 The LORD was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him in his heart. 7 The LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the surface of the ground—man, along with animals, creeping things, and birds of the sky—for I am sorry that I have made them." 8 But Noah found favor in the LORD's eyes. 9 This is the history of the generations of Noah: Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time. Noah walked with God. 10 Noah became the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. 11 The earth was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 God saw the earth, and saw that it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. 13 God said to Noah, "I will bring an end to all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them and the earth. 14 Make a ship of gopher wood. You shall make rooms in the ship, and shall seal it inside and outside with pitch. 15 This is how you shall make it. The length of the ship shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. 16 You shall make a roof in the ship, and you shall finish it to a cubit upward. You shall set the door of the ship in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, and third levels. 17 I, even I, will bring the flood of waters on this earth, to destroy all flesh having the breath of life from under the sky. Everything that is in the earth will die. 18 But I will establish my covenant with you. You shall come into the ship, you, your sons, your



wife, and your sons' wives with you. **19** Of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ship, to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female. **20** Of the birds after their kind, of the livestock after their kind, of every creeping thing of the ground after its kind, two of every sort will come to you, to keep them alive. **21** Take with you some of all food that is eaten, and gather it to yourself; and it will be for food for you, and for them." **22** Thus Noah did. He did all that God commanded him.

**7** The LORD said to Noah, "Come with all of your household into the ship, for I have seen your righteousness before me in this generation. **2** You shall take seven pairs of every clean animal with you, the male and his female. Of the animals that are not clean, take two, the male and his female. **3** Also of the birds of the sky, seven and seven, male and female, to keep seed alive on the surface of all the earth. **4** In seven days, I will cause it to rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights. I will destroy every living thing that I have made from the surface of the ground." **5** Noah did everything that the LORD commanded him. **6** Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came on the earth. **7** Noah went into the ship with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, because of the floodwaters. **8** Clean animals, unclean animals, birds, and everything that creeps on the ground **9** went by pairs to Noah into the ship, male and female, as God commanded Noah. **10** After the seven days, the floodwaters came on the earth. **11** In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the sky's windows opened. **12** It rained on the earth forty days and forty nights. **13** In the same day Noah, and Shem, Ham, and Japheth—the sons of Noah—and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered into the ship— **14** they, and every animal after its kind, all the livestock after their kind, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, every bird of every sort. **15** Pairs from all flesh with the breath of life in them went into the ship to Noah. **16** Those who went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God commanded him; then the LORD shut him in. **17** The flood was forty days on the earth. The

waters increased, and lifted up the ship, and it was lifted up above the earth. **18** The waters rose, and increased greatly on the earth; and the ship floated on the surface of the waters. **19** The waters rose very high on the earth. All the high mountains that were under the whole sky were covered. **20** The waters rose fifteen cubits higher, and the mountains were covered. **21** All flesh died that moved on the earth, including birds, livestock, animals, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. **22** All on the dry land, in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, died. **23** Every living thing was destroyed that was on the surface of the ground, including man, livestock, creeping things, and birds of the sky. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ship. **24** The waters flooded the earth one hundred fifty days.

**8** God remembered Noah, all the animals, and all the livestock that were with him in the ship; and God made a wind to pass over the earth. The waters subsided. **2** The deep's fountains and the sky's windows were also stopped, and the rain from the sky was restrained. **3** The waters continually receded from the earth. After the end of one hundred fifty days the waters receded. **4** The ship rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on Ararat's mountains. **5** The waters receded continually until the tenth month. In the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were visible. **6** At the end of forty days, Noah opened the window of the ship which he had made, **7** and he sent out a raven. It went back and forth, until the waters were dried up from the earth. **8** He himself sent out a dove to see if the waters were abated from the surface of the ground, **9** but the dove found no place to rest her foot, and she returned into the ship to him, for the waters were on the surface of the whole earth. He put out his hand, and took her, and brought her to him into the ship. **10** He waited yet another seven days; and again he sent the dove out of the ship. **11** The dove came back to him at evening and, behold, in her mouth was a freshly plucked olive leaf. So Noah knew that the waters were abated from the earth. **12** He waited yet another seven days, and sent

out the dove; and she did not return to him any more. **13** In the six hundred first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth. Noah removed the covering of the ship, and looked. He saw that the surface of the ground was dry. **14** In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. **15** God spoke to Noah, saying, **16** "Go out of the ship, you, your wife, your sons, and your sons' wives with you. **17** Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh, including birds, livestock, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, that they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful, and multiply on the earth." **18** Noah went out, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives with him. **19** Every animal, every creeping thing, and every bird, whatever moves on the earth, after their families, went out of the ship. **20** Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal, and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. **21** The LORD smelled the pleasant aroma. The LORD said in his heart, "I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake because the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth. I will never again strike every living thing, as I have done. **22** While the earth remains, seed time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night will not cease."

**9** God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, and replenish the earth. **2** The fear of you and the dread of you will be on every animal of the earth, and on every bird of the sky. Everything that moves along the ground, and all the fish of the sea, are delivered into your hand. **3** Every moving thing that lives will be food for you. As I gave you the green herb, I have given everything to you. **4** But flesh with its life, that is, its blood, you shall not eat. **5** I will surely require accounting for your life's blood. At the hand of every animal I will require it. At the hand of man, even at the hand of every man's brother, I will require the life of man. **6** Whoever sheds man's blood, his blood will be shed by man, for God made man in his own image. **7** Be fruitful and multiply. Increase abundantly in the earth, and multiply in it." **8** God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying, **9** "As for me, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your offspring after you, **10** and with

every living creature that is with you: the birds, the livestock, and every animal of the earth with you, of all that go out of the ship, even every animal of the earth. **11** I will establish my covenant with you: All flesh will not be cut off any more by the waters of the flood. There will never again be a flood to destroy the earth." **12** God said, "This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: **13** I set my rainbow in the cloud, and it will be a sign of a covenant between me and the earth. **14** When I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow will be seen in the cloud, **15** I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh, and the waters will no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. **16** The rainbow will be in the cloud. I will look at it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." **17** God said to Noah, "This is the token of the covenant which I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth." **18** The sons of Noah who went out from the ship were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Ham is the father of Canaan. **19** These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated. **20** Noah began to be a farmer, and planted a vineyard. **21** He drank of the wine and got drunk. He was uncovered within his tent. **22** Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. **23** Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it on both their shoulders, went in backwards, and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were backwards, and they did not see their father's nakedness. **24** Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his youngest son had done to him. **25** He said, "Canaan is cursed. He will be a servant of servants to his brothers." **26** He said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem. Let Canaan be his servant. **27** May God enlarge Japheth. Let him dwell in the tents of Shem. Let Canaan be his servant." **28** Noah lived three hundred fifty years after the flood. **29** All the days of Noah were nine hundred fifty years, and then he died.

**10** Now this is the history of the generations of the sons of Noah and of Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Sons were born to them after the flood. **2** The sons of

Japheth were: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras. **3** The sons of Gomer were: Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah. **4** The sons of Javan were: Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim. **5** Of these were the islands of the nations divided in their lands, everyone after his language, after their families, in their nations. **6** The sons of Ham were: Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan. **7** The sons of Cush were: Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca. The sons of Raamah were: Sheba and Dedan. **8** Cush became the father of Nimrod. He began to be a mighty one in the earth. **9** He was a mighty hunter before the LORD. Therefore it is said, "like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before the LORD". **10** The beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. **11** Out of that land he went into Assyria, and built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah, **12** and Resen between Nineveh and the great city Calah. **13** Mizraim became the father of Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim, **14** Pathrusim, Casluhim (which the Philistines descended from), and Caphtorim. **15** Canaan became the father of Sidon (his firstborn), Heth, **16** the Jebusites, the Amorites, the Girgashites, **17** the Hivites, the Arkites, the Sinites, **18** the Arvadites, the Zemarites, and the Hamathites. Afterward the families of the Canaanites were spread abroad. **19** The border of the Canaanites was from Sidon—as you go toward Gerar—to Gaza—as you go toward Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim—to Lasha. **20** These are the sons of Ham, after their families, according to their languages, in their lands and their nations. **21** Children were also born to Shem (the elder brother of Japheth), the father of all the children of Eber. **22** The sons of Shem were: Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, and Aram. **23** The sons of Aram were: Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash. **24** Arpachshad became the father of Shelah. Shelah became the father of Eber. **25** To Eber were born two sons. The name of the one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided. His brother's name was Joktan. **26** Joktan became the father of Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, **27** Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, **28** Obal, Abimael, Sheba, **29** Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were the sons of Joktan. **30** Their dwelling extended from Mesha, as you go toward Sephar, the mountain of the east. **31** These are the sons of Shem,

by their families, according to their languages, lands, and nations. **32** These are the families of the sons of Noah, by their generations, according to their nations. The nations divided from these in the earth after the flood.

**11** The whole earth was of one language and of one speech. **2** As they traveled east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they lived there. **3** They said to one another, "Come, let's make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar. **4** They said, "Come, let's build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top reaches to the sky, and let's make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad on the surface of the whole earth." **5** The LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men built. **6** The LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do. Now nothing will be withheld from them, which they intend to do. **7** Come, let's go down, and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." **8** So the LORD scattered them abroad from there on the surface of all the earth. They stopped building the city. **9** Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. From there, the LORD scattered them abroad on the surface of all the earth. **10** This is the history of the generations of Shem: Shem was one hundred years old when he became the father of Arpachshad two years after the flood. **11** Shem lived five hundred years after he became the father of Arpachshad, and became the father of more sons and daughters. **12** Arpachshad lived thirty-five years and became the father of Shelah. **13** Arpachshad lived four hundred three years after he became the father of Shelah, and became the father of more sons and daughters. **14** Shelah lived thirty years, and became the father of Eber. **15** Shelah lived four hundred three years after he became the father of Eber, and became the father of more sons and daughters. **16** Eber lived thirty-four years, and became the father of Peleg. **17** Eber lived four hundred thirty years after he became the father of Peleg, and became the father of more sons and daughters. **18** Peleg lived thirty years, and became the father of Reu. **19** Peleg lived two hundred

nine years after he became the father of Reu, and became the father of more sons and daughters. 20 Reu lived thirty-two years, and became the father of Serug. 21 Reu lived two hundred seven years after he became the father of Serug, and became the father of more sons and daughters. 22 Serug lived thirty years, and became the father of Nahor. 23 Serug lived two hundred years after he became the father of Nahor, and became the father of more sons and daughters. 24 Nahor lived twenty-nine years, and became the father of Terah. 25 Nahor lived one hundred nineteen years after he became the father of Terah, and became the father of more sons and daughters. 26 Terah lived seventy years, and became the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran. 27 Now this is the history of the generations of Terah. Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Haran became the father of Lot. 28 Haran died in the land of his birth, in Ur of the Chaldees, while his father Terah was still alive. 29 Abram and Nahor married wives. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife was Milcah, the daughter of Haran, who was also the father of Iscah. 30 Sarai was barren. She had no child. 31 Terah took Abram his son, Lot the son of Haran, his son's son, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife. They went from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan. They came to Haran and lived there. 32 The days of Terah were two hundred five years. Terah died in Haran.

**12** Now the LORD said to Abram, "Leave your country, and your relatives, and your father's house, and go to the land that I will show you. 2 I will make of you a great nation. I will bless you and make your name great. You will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who treats you with contempt. All the families of the earth will be blessed through you." 4 So Abram went, as the LORD had told him. Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. 5 Abram took Sarai his wife, Lot his brother's son, all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they went to go into the land of Canaan. They entered into the land of Canaan. 6 Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time, Canaanites were in the land. 7 The LORD

appeared to Abram and said, "I will give this land to your offspring." He built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him. 8 He left from there to go to the mountain on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the LORD's name. 9 Abram traveled, still going on toward the South. 10 There was a famine in the land. Abram went down into Egypt to live as a foreigner there, for the famine was severe in the land. 11 When he had come near to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, "See now, I know that you are a beautiful woman to look at. 12 It will happen that when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' They will kill me, but they will save you alive. 13 Please say that you are my sister, that it may be well with me for your sake, and that my soul may live because of you." 14 When Abram had come into Egypt, Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. 15 The princes of Pharaoh saw her, and praised her to Pharaoh; and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. 16 He dealt well with Abram for her sake. He had sheep, cattle, male donkeys, male servants, female servants, female donkeys, and camels. 17 The LORD afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife. 18 Pharaoh called Abram and said, "What is this that you have done to me? Why did not you tell me that she was your wife? 19 Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her to be my wife? Now therefore, see your wife, take her, and go your way." 20 Pharaoh commanded men concerning him, and they escorted him away with his wife and all that he had.

**13** Abram went up out of Egypt—he, his wife, all that he had, and Lot with him—into the South. 2 Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. 3 He went on his journeys from the South as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, 4 to the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first. There Abram called on the LORD's name. 5 Lot also, who went with Abram, had flocks, herds, and tents. 6 The land was not able to bear them, that they might live together; for their possessions were so great that they could not live together. 7 There was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and

the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. The Canaanites and the Perizzites lived in the land at that time. 8 Abram said to Lot, "Please, let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen; for we are relatives. 9 Is not the whole land before you? Please separate yourself from me. If you go to the left hand, then I will go to the right. Or if you go to the right hand, then I will go to the left." 10 Lot lifted up his eyes, and saw all the plain of the Jordan, that it was well-watered everywhere, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as you go to Zoar. 11 So Lot chose the Plain of the Jordan for himself. Lot traveled east, and they separated themselves from one other. 12 Abram lived in the land of Canaan, and Lot lived in the cities of the plain, and moved his tent as far as Sodom. 13 Now the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinners against the LORD. 14 The LORD said to Abram, after Lot was separated from him, "Now, lift up your eyes, and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, 15 for I will give all the land which you see to you and to your offspring forever. 16 I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if a man can count the dust of the earth, then your offspring may also be counted. 17 Arise, walk through the land in its length and in its width; for I will give it to you." 18 Abram moved his tent, and came and lived by the oaks of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and built an altar there to the LORD.

**14** In the days of Amraphel, king of Shinar; Arioch, king of Ellasar; Chedorlaomer, king of Elam; and Tidal, king of Goiim, 2 they made war with Bera, king of Sodom; Birsha, king of Gomorrah; Shinab, king of Admah; Shemeber, king of Zeboiim; and the king of Bela (also called Zoar). 3 All these joined together in the valley of Siddim (also called the Salt Sea). 4 They served Chedorlaomer for twelve years, and in the thirteenth year they rebelled. 5 In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him came and struck the Rephaim in Ashteroth Karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the Emim in Shaveh Kiriathaim, 6 and the Horites in their Mount Seir, to El Paran, which is by the wilderness. 7 They returned, and came to En Mishpat (also called Kadesh), and struck all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites, that

lived in Hazazon Tamar. 8 The king of Sodom, and the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (also called Zoar) went out; and they set the battle in array against them in the valley of Siddim 9 against Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of Goiim, Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar; four kings against the five. 10 Now the valley of Siddim was full of tar pits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and some fell there. Those who remained fled to the hills. 11 They took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their food, and went their way. 12 They took Lot, Abram's brother's son, who lived in Sodom, and his goods, and departed. 13 One who had escaped came and told Abram, the Hebrew. At that time, he lived by the oaks of Mamre, the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner. They were allies of Abram. 14 When Abram heard that his relative was taken captive, he led out his three hundred eighteen trained men, born in his house, and pursued as far as Dan. 15 He divided himself against them by night, he and his servants, and struck them, and pursued them to Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus. 16 He brought back all the goods, and also brought back his relative Lot and his goods, and the women also, and the other people. 17 The king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, at the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). 18 Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High. 19 He blessed him, and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth. 20 Blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand." Abram gave him a tenth of all. 21 The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the people, and take the goods for yourself." 22 Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have lifted up my hand to the LORD, God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth, 23 that I will not take a thread nor a sandal strap nor anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich.'" 24 I will accept nothing from you except that which the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men who went with me: Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre. Let them take their portion."

**15** After these things the LORD's word came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." **2** Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will you give me, since I go childless, and he who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" **3** Abram said, "Behold, you have given no children to me: and, behold, one born in my house is my heir." **4** Behold, the LORD's word came to him, saying, "This man will not be your heir, but he who will come out of your own body will be your heir." **5** The LORD brought him outside, and said, "Look now toward the sky, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." He said to Abram, "So your offspring will be." **6** He believed in the LORD, who credited it to him for righteousness. **7** He said to Abram, "I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give you this land to inherit it." **8** He said, "Lord GOD, how will I know that I will inherit it?" **9** He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." **10** He brought him all these, and divided them in the middle, and laid each half opposite the other; but he did not divide the birds. **11** The birds of prey came down on the carcasses, and Abram drove them away. **12** When the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. Now terror and great darkness fell on him. **13** He said to Abram, "Know for sure that your offspring will live as foreigners in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them. They will afflict them four hundred years. **14** I will also judge that nation, whom they will serve. Afterward they will come out with great wealth; **15** but you will go to your fathers in peace. You will be buried at a good old age. **16** In the fourth generation they will come here again, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet full." **17** It came to pass that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold, a smoking furnace and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. **18** In that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "I have given this land to your offspring, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates: **19** the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, **20** the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, **21** the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."

**16** Now Sarai, Abram's wife, bore him no children. She had a servant, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar. **2** Sarai said to Abram, "See now, the LORD has restrained me from bearing. Please go in to my servant. It may be that I will obtain children by her." Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. **3** Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to Abram her husband to be his wife. **4** He went in to Hagar, and she conceived. When she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes. **5** Sarai said to Abram, "This wrong is your fault. I gave my servant into your bosom, and when she saw that she had conceived, she despised me. May the LORD judge between me and you." **6** But Abram said to Sarai, "Behold, your maid is in your hand. Do to her whatever is good in your eyes." Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her face. **7** The LORD's angel found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain on the way to Shur. **8** He said, "Hagar, Sarai's servant, where did you come from? Where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from the face of my mistress Sarai." **9** The LORD's angel said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hands." **10** The LORD's angel said to her, "I will greatly multiply your offspring, that they will not be counted for multitude." **11** The LORD's angel said to her, "Behold, you are with child, and will bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the LORD has heard your affliction. **12** He will be like a wild donkey among men. His hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him. He will live opposed to all of his brothers." **13** She called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "You are a God who sees," for she said, "Have I even stayed alive after seeing him?" **14** Therefore the well was called Beer Lahai Roi. Behold, it is between Kadesh and Bered. **15** Hagar bore a son for Abram. Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. **16** Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

**17** When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty. Walk before me and be blameless.

2 I will make my covenant between me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.” 3 Abram fell on his face. God talked with him, saying, 4 “As for me, behold, my covenant is with you. You will be the father of a multitude of nations. 5 Your name will no more be called Abram, but your name will be Abraham; for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. 6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you. Kings will come out of you. 7 I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God to you and to your offspring after you. 8 I will give to you, and to your offspring after you, the land where you are traveling, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession. I will be their God.” 9 God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. 10 This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you. Every male among you shall be circumcised. 11 You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin. It will be a token of the covenant between me and you. 12 He who is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every male throughout your generations, he who is born in the house, or bought with money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring. 13 He who is born in your house, and he who is bought with your money, must be circumcised. My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. 14 The uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that soul shall be cut off from his people. He has broken my covenant.” 15 God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but her name shall be Sarah. 16 I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. Yes, I will bless her, and she will be a mother of nations. Kings of peoples will come from her.” 17 Then Abraham fell on his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, “Will a child be born to him who is one hundred years old? Will Sarah, who is ninety years old, give birth?” 18 Abraham said to God, “Oh that Ishmael might live before you!” 19 God said, “No, but Sarah, your wife, will bear you a son. You shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his offspring after

him. 20 As for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He will become the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. 21 But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this set time next year.” 22 When he finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham. 23 Abraham took Ishmael his son, all who were born in his house, and all who were bought with his money: every male among the men of Abraham’s house, and circumcised the flesh of their foreskin in the same day, as God had said to him. 24 Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. 25 Ishmael, his son, was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. 26 In the same day both Abraham and Ishmael, his son, were circumcised. 27 All the men of his house, those born in the house, and those bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.

**18** The LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day. 2 He lifted up his eyes and looked, and saw that three men stood near him. When he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself to the earth, 3 and said, “My lord, if now I have found favor in your sight, please do not go away from your servant. 4 Now let a little water be fetched, wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. 5 I will get a piece of bread so you can refresh your heart. After that you may go your way, now that you have come to your servant.” They said, “Very well, do as you have said.” 6 Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Quickly prepare three seahs of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes.” 7 Abraham ran to the herd, and fetched a tender and good calf, and gave it to the servant. He hurried to dress it. 8 He took butter, milk, and the calf which he had dressed, and set it before them. He stood by them under the tree, and they ate. 9 They asked him, “Where is Sarah, your wife?” He said, “There, in the tent.” 10 He said, “I will certainly return to you at about this time next year; and behold, Sarah your wife will have a son.” Sarah heard in the tent door, which was behind him. 11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age. Sarah had passed the age of

childbearing. **12** Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "After I have grown old will I have pleasure, my lord being old also?" **13** The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Will I really bear a child when I am old?'" **14** Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, when the season comes around, and Sarah will have a son." **15** Then Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. He said, "No, but you did laugh." **16** The men rose up from there, and looked toward Sodom. Abraham went with them to see them on their way. **17** The LORD said, "Will I hide from Abraham what I do, **18** since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed in him?" **19** For I have known him, to the end that he may command his children and his household after him, that they may keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice; to the end that the LORD may bring on Abraham that which he has spoken of him." **20** The LORD said, "Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous, **21** I will go down now, and see whether their deeds are as bad as the reports which have come to me. If not, I will know." **22** The men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, but Abraham stood yet before the LORD. **23** Abraham came near, and said, "Will you consume the righteous with the wicked? **24** What if there are fifty righteous within the city? Will you consume and not spare the place for the fifty righteous who are in it? **25** May it be far from you to do things like that, to kill the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be like the wicked. May that be far from you. Should not the Judge of all the earth do right?" **26** The LORD said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare the whole place for their sake." **27** Abraham answered, "See now, I have taken it on myself to speak to the Lord, although I am dust and ashes. **28** What if there will lack five of the fifty righteous? Will you destroy all the city for lack of five?" He said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." **29** He spoke to him yet again, and said, "What if there are forty found there?" He said, "I will not do it for the forty's sake." **30** He said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry, and I will speak. What if there are thirty found there?" He said, "I will not do it if I find thirty there." **31** He said, "See

now, I have taken it on myself to speak to the Lord. What if there are twenty found there?" He said, "I will not destroy it for the twenty's sake." **32** He said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry, and I will speak just once more. What if ten are found there?" He said, "I will not destroy it for the ten's sake." **33** The LORD went his way as soon as he had finished communing with Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

**19** The two angels came to Sodom at evening. Lot sat in the gate of Sodom. Lot saw them, and rose up to meet them. He bowed himself with his face to the earth, **2** and he said, "See now, my lords, please come into your servant's house, stay all night, wash your feet, and you can rise up early, and go on your way." They said, "No, but we will stay in the street all night." **3** He urged them greatly, and they came in with him, and entered into his house. He made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate. **4** But before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, surrounded the house, both young and old, all the people from every quarter. **5** They called to Lot, and said to him, "Where are the men who came in to you this night? Bring them out to us, that we may have sex with them." **6** Lot went out to them through the door, and shut the door after himself. **7** He said, "Please, my brothers, do not act so wickedly. **8** See now, I have two virgin daughters. Please let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them what seems good to you. Only do not do anything to these men, because they have come under the shadow of my roof." **9** They said, "Stand back!" Then they said, "This one fellow came in to live as a foreigner, and he appoints himself a judge. Now we will deal worse with you than with them!" They pressed hard on the man Lot, and came near to break the door. **10** But the men reached out their hand, and brought Lot into the house to them, and shut the door. **11** They struck the men who were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they wearied themselves to find the door. **12** The men said to Lot, "Do you have anybody else here? Sons-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city, bring them out of the place: **13** for we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown so great before the LORD that the LORD has sent us to destroy it."



14 Lot went out, and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were pledged to marry his daughters, and said, "Get up! Get out of this place, for the LORD will destroy the city!" But he seemed to his sons-in-law to be joking. 15 When the morning came, then the angels hurried Lot, saying, "Get up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the iniquity of the city." 16 But he lingered; and the men grabbed his hand, his wife's hand, and his two daughters' hands, the LORD being merciful to him; and they took him out, and set him outside of the city. 17 It came to pass, when they had taken them out, that he said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you, and do not stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be consumed!" 18 Lot said to them, "Oh, not so, my lord. 19 See now, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have magnified your loving kindness, which you have shown to me in saving my life. I cannot escape to the mountain, lest evil overtake me, and I die. 20 See now, this city is near to flee to, and it is a little one. Oh let me escape there (is not it a little one?), and my soul will live." 21 He said to him, "Behold, I have granted your request concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow the city of which you have spoken. 22 Hurry, escape there, for I cannot do anything until you get there." Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar. 23 The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar. 24 Then the LORD rained on Sodom and on Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the LORD out of the sky. 25 He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew on the ground. 26 But Lot's wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt. 27 Abraham went up early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD. 28 He looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and saw that the smoke of the land went up as the smoke of a furnace. 29 When God destroyed the cities of the plain, God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the middle of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in which Lot lived. 30 Lot went up out of Zoar, and lived in the mountain, and his two daughters with him; for he was afraid to live in Zoar. He lived in a cave with his two daughters. 31 The firstborn said to the younger, "Our father is old, and

there is not a man in the earth to come in to us in the way of all the earth. 32 Come, let's make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve our father's family line." 33 They made their father drink wine that night: and the firstborn went in, and lay with her father. He did not know when she lay down, nor when she arose. 34 It came to pass on the next day, that the firstborn said to the younger, "Behold, I lay last night with my father. Let's make him drink wine again tonight. You go in, and lie with him, that we may preserve our father's family line." 35 They made their father drink wine that night also. The younger went and lay with him. He did not know when she lay down, nor when she got up. 36 Thus both of Lot's daughters were with child by their father. 37 The firstborn bore a son, and named him Moab. He is the father of the Moabites to this day. 38 The younger also bore a son, and called his name Ben Ammi. He is the father of the children of Ammon to this day.

**20** Abraham traveled from there toward the land of the South, and lived between Kadesh and Shur. He lived as a foreigner in Gerar. 2 Abraham said about Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." Abimelech king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah. 3 But God came to Abimelech in a dream of the night, and said to him, "Behold, you are a dead man, because of the woman whom you have taken; for she is a man's wife." 4 Now Abimelech had not come near her. He said, "Lord, will you kill even a righteous nation? 5 Did not he tell me, 'She is my sister'? She, even she herself, said, 'He is my brother.' I have done this in the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands." 6 God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know that in the integrity of your heart you have done this, and I also withheld you from sinning against me. Therefore I did not allow you to touch her. 7 Now therefore, restore the man's wife. For he is a prophet, and he will pray for you, and you will live. If you do not restore her, know for sure that you will die, you, and all who are yours." 8 Abimelech rose early in the morning, and called all his servants, and told all these things in their ear. The men were very scared. 9 Then Abimelech called Abraham, and said to him, "What have you done to us? How have I sinned against you, that you have brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? You have done deeds to me that ought not to be done!" 10 Abimelech said to

Abraham, "What did you see, that you have done this thing?" **11** Abraham said, "Because I thought, 'Surely the fear of God is not in this place. They will kill me for my wife's sake.' **12** Besides, she is indeed my sister, the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife. **13** When God caused me to wander from my father's house, I said to her, 'This is your kindness which you shall show to me. Everywhere that we go, say of me, "He is my brother."'" **14** Abimelech took sheep and cattle, male servants and female servants, and gave them to Abraham, and restored Sarah, his wife, to him. **15** Abimelech said, "Behold, my land is before you. Dwell where it pleases you." **16** To Sarah he said, "Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver. Behold, it is for you a covering of the eyes to all that are with you. In front of all you are vindicated." **17** Abraham prayed to God. So God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his female servants, and they bore children. **18** For the LORD had closed up tight all the wombs of the house of Abimelech, because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

**21** The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had spoken. **2** Sarah conceived, and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. **3** Abraham called his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore to him, Isaac. **4** Abraham circumcised his son, Isaac, when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. **5** Abraham was one hundred years old when his son, Isaac, was born to him. **6** Sarah said, "God has made me laugh. Everyone who hears will laugh with me." **7** She said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? For I have borne him a son in his old age." **8** The child grew and was weaned. Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. **9** Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, mocking. **10** Therefore she said to Abraham, "Cast out this servant and her son! For the son of this servant will not be heir with my son, Isaac." **11** The thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight on account of his son. **12** God said to Abraham, "Do not let it be grievous in your sight because of the boy, and because of your servant. In all that Sarah says to you, listen to her voice. For your offspring will

be named through Isaac. **13** I will also make a nation of the son of the servant, because he is your child." **14** Abraham rose up early in the morning, and took bread and a container of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder; and gave her the child, and sent her away. She departed, and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba. **15** The water in the container was spent, and she put the child under one of the shrubs. **16** She went and sat down opposite him, a good way off, about a bow shot away. For she said, "Do not let me see the death of the child." She sat opposite him, and lifted up her voice, and wept. **17** God heard the voice of the boy. The angel of God called to Hagar out of the sky, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid. For God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. **18** Get up, lift up the boy, and hold him with your hand. For I will make him a great nation." **19** God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went, filled the container with water, and gave the boy a drink. **20** God was with the boy, and he grew. He lived in the wilderness, and as he grew up, he became an archer. **21** He lived in the wilderness of Paran. His mother got a wife for him out of the land of Egypt. **22** At that time, Abimelech and Phicol the captain of his army spoke to Abraham, saying, "God is with you in all that you do. **23** Now, therefore, swear to me here by God that you will not deal falsely with me, nor with my son, nor with my son's son. But according to the kindness that I have done to you, you shall do to me, and to the land in which you have lived as a foreigner." **24** Abraham said, "I will swear." **25** Abraham complained to Abimelech because of a water well, which Abimelech's servants had violently taken away. **26** Abimelech said, "I do not know who has done this thing. You did not tell me, and I did not hear of it until today." **27** Abraham took sheep and cattle, and gave them to Abimelech. Those two made a covenant. **28** Abraham set seven ewe lambs of the flock by themselves. **29** Abimelech said to Abraham, "What do these seven ewe lambs, which you have set by themselves, mean?" **30** He said, "You shall take these seven ewe lambs from my hand, that it may be a witness to me, that I have dug this well." **31** Therefore he called that place Beersheba, because they both swore an oath there. **32** So they made

a covenant at Beersheba. Abimelech rose up with Phicol, the captain of his army, and they returned into the land of the Philistines. **33** Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there he called on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God. **34** Abraham lived as a foreigner in the land of the Philistines many days.

**22** After these things, God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" He said, "Here I am." **2** He said, "Now take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go into the land of Moriah. Offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains which I will tell you of." **3** Abraham rose early in the morning, and saddled his donkey; and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son. He split the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went to the place of which God had told him. **4** On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place far off. **5** Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there. We will worship, and come back to you." **6** Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. He took in his hand the fire and the knife. They both went together. **7** Isaac spoke to Abraham his father, and said, "My father?" He said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Here is the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" **8** Abraham said, "God will provide himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they both went together. **9** They came to the place which God had told him of. Abraham built the altar there, and laid the wood in order, bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar, on the wood. **10** Abraham stretched out his hand, and took the knife to kill his son. **11** The LORD's angel called to him out of the sky, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" He said, "Here I am." **12** He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." **13** Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and saw that behind him was a ram caught in the thicket by his horns. Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering instead of his son. **14** Abraham called the name of that place "The LORD Will Provide". As it is said to this day, "On the LORD's mountain, it will be provided." **15** The LORD's angel

called to Abraham a second time out of the sky, **16** and said, "'I have sworn by myself,' says the LORD, 'because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son, **17** that I will bless you greatly, and I will multiply your offspring greatly like the stars of the heavens, and like the sand which is on the seashore. Your offspring will possess the gate of his enemies. **18** All the nations of the earth will be blessed by your offspring, because you have obeyed my voice.'" **19** So Abraham returned to his young men, and they rose up and went together to Beersheba. Abraham lived at Beersheba. **20** After these things, Abraham was told, "Behold, Milcah, she also has borne children to your brother Nahor: **21** Uz his firstborn, Buz his brother, Kemuel the father of Aram, **22** Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel." **23** Bethuel became the father of Rebekah. These eight Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham's brother. **24** His concubine, whose name was Reumah, also bore Tebah, Gaham, Tahash, and Maacah.

**23** Sarah lived one hundred twenty-seven years. This was the length of Sarah's life. **2** Sarah died in Kiriath Arba (also called Hebron), in the land of Canaan. Abraham came to mourn for Sarah, and to weep for her. **3** Abraham rose up from before his dead and spoke to the children of Heth, saying, **4** "I am a stranger and a foreigner living with you. Give me a possession of a burying-place with you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight." **5** The children of Heth answered Abraham, saying to him, **6** "Hear us, my lord. You are a prince of God among us. Bury your dead in the best of our tombs. None of us will withhold from you his tomb. Bury your dead." **7** Abraham rose up, and bowed himself to the people of the land, to the children of Heth. **8** He talked with them, saying, "If you agree that I should bury my dead out of my sight, hear me, and entreat for me to Ephron the son of Zohar, **9** that he may sell me the cave of Machpelah, which he has, which is in the end of his field. For the full price let him sell it to me among you as a possession for a burial place." **10** Now Ephron was sitting in the middle of the children of Heth. Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the hearing of the children of Heth, even of all who went in at the gate of his city, saying, **11** "No, my lord, hear me. I give you the field, and I give you the cave that

is in it. In the presence of the children of my people I give it to you. Bury your dead.” 12 Abraham bowed himself down before the people of the land. 13 He spoke to Ephron in the audience of the people of the land, saying, “But if you will, please hear me. I will give the price of the field. Take it from me, and I will bury my dead there.” 14 Ephron answered Abraham, saying to him, 15 “My lord, listen to me. What is a piece of land worth four hundred shekels of silver between me and you? Therefore bury your dead.” 16 Abraham listened to Ephron. Abraham weighed to Ephron the silver which he had named in the hearing of the children of Heth, four hundred shekels of silver, according to the current merchants’ standard. 17 So the field of Ephron, which was in Machpelah, which was before Mamre, the field, the cave which was in it, and all the trees that were in the field, that were in all of its borders, were deeded 18 to Abraham for a possession in the presence of the children of Heth, before all who went in at the gate of his city. 19 After this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah before Mamre (that is, Hebron), in the land of Canaan. 20 The field, and the cave that is in it, were deeded to Abraham by the children of Heth as a possession for a burial place.

**24** Abraham was old, and well advanced in age. The LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. 2 Abraham said to his servant, the elder of his house, who ruled over all that he had, “Please put your hand under my thigh. 3 I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you shall not take a wife for my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I live. 4 But you shall go to my country, and to my relatives, and take a wife for my son Isaac.” 5 The servant said to him, “What if the woman is not willing to follow me to this land? Must I bring your son again to the land you came from?” 6 Abraham said to him, “Beware that you do not bring my son there again. 7 The LORD, the God of heaven—who took me from my father’s house, and from the land of my birth, who spoke to me, and who swore to me, saying, ‘I will give this land to your offspring—he will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. 8 If the woman is not willing to follow you, then you shall be clear from this oath to me. Only you shall

not bring my son there again.” 9 The servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and swore to him concerning this matter. 10 The servant took ten of his master’s camels, and departed, having a variety of good things of his master’s with him. He arose, and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor. 11 He made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at the time of evening, the time that women go out to draw water. 12 He said, “LORD, the God of my master Abraham, please give me success today, and show kindness to my master Abraham. 13 Behold, I am standing by the spring of water. The daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. 14 Let it happen, that the young lady to whom I will say, ‘Please let down your pitcher, that I may drink,’ then she says, ‘Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink,’—let her be the one you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I will know that you have shown kindness to my master.” 15 Before he had finished speaking, behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham’s brother, with her pitcher on her shoulder. 16 The young lady was very beautiful to look at, a virgin. No man had known her. She went down to the spring, filled her pitcher, and came up. 17 The servant ran to meet her, and said, “Please give me a drink, a little water from your pitcher.” 18 She said, “Drink, my lord.” She hurried, and let down her pitcher on her hand, and gave him a drink. 19 When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, “I will also draw for your camels, until they have finished drinking.” 20 She hurried, and emptied her pitcher into the trough, and ran again to the well to draw, and drew for all his camels. 21 The man looked steadfastly at her, remaining silent, to know whether the LORD had made his journey prosperous or not. 22 As the camels had done drinking, the man took a golden ring of half a shekel weight, and two bracelets for her hands of ten shekels weight of gold, 23 and said, “Whose daughter are you? Please tell me. Is there room in your father’s house for us to stay?” 24 She said to him, “I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor.” 25 She said moreover to him, “We have both straw and feed enough, and room to lodge in.” 26 The man bowed his head, and worshiped the LORD. 27 He said, “Blessed

be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken his loving kindness and his truth toward my master. As for me, the LORD has led me on the way to the house of my master's relatives." 28 The young lady ran, and told her mother's house about these words. 29 Rebekah had a brother, and his name was Laban. Laban ran out to the man, to the spring. 30 When he saw the ring, and the bracelets on his sister's hands, and when he heard the words of Rebekah his sister, saying, "This is what the man said to me," he came to the man. Behold, he was standing by the camels at the spring. 31 He said, "Come in, you blessed of the LORD. Why do you stand outside? For I have prepared the house, and room for the camels." 32 The man came into the house, and he unloaded the camels. He gave straw and feed for the camels, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him. 33 Food was set before him to eat, but he said, "I will not eat until I have told my message." Laban said, "Speak on." 34 He said, "I am Abraham's servant. 35 The LORD has blessed my master greatly. He has become great. The LORD has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male servants and female servants, and camels and donkeys. 36 Sarah, my master's wife, bore a son to my master when she was old. He has given all that he has to him. 37 My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live, 38 but you shall go to my father's house, and to my relatives, and take a wife for my son.' 39 I asked my master, 'What if the woman will not follow me?' 40 He said to me, 'The LORD, before whom I walk, will send his angel with you, and prosper your way. You shall take a wife for my son from my relatives, and of my father's house. 41 Then you will be clear from my oath, when you come to my relatives. If they do not give her to you, you shall be clear from my oath.' 42 I came today to the spring, and said, 'The LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you do prosper my way which I go— 43 behold, I am standing by this spring of water. Let it happen, that the maiden who comes out to draw, to whom I will say, "Please give me a little water from your pitcher to drink," 44 then she tells me, "Drink, and I will also draw for your camels,"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.' 45 Before I had finished speaking in my heart, behold, Rebekah came out with her pitcher on her shoulder. She went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' 46 She hurried and let down her pitcher from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink.' So I drank, and she also gave the camels a drink. 47 I asked her, and said, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her hands. 48 I bowed my head, and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me in the right way to take my master's brother's daughter for his son. 49 Now if you will deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me. If not, tell me, that I may turn to the right hand, or to the left." 50 Then Laban and Bethuel answered, "The thing proceeds from the LORD. We cannot speak to you bad or good. 51 Behold, Rebekah is before you. Take her, and go, and let her be your master's son's wife, as the LORD has spoken." 52 When Abraham's servant heard their words, he bowed himself down to the earth to the LORD. 53 The servant brought out jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and clothing, and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave precious things to her brother and her mother. 54 They ate and drank, he and the men who were with him, and stayed all night. They rose up in the morning, and he said, "Send me away to my master." 55 Her brother and her mother said, "Let the young lady stay with us a few days, at least ten. After that she will go." 56 He said to them, "Do not hinder me, since the LORD has prospered my way. Send me away that I may go to my master." 57 They said, "We will call the young lady, and ask her." 58 They called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will go." 59 They sent away Rebekah, their sister, with her nurse, Abraham's servant, and his men. 60 They blessed Rebekah, and said to her, "Our sister, may you be the mother of thousands of ten thousands, and let your offspring possess the gate of those who hate them." 61 Rebekah arose with her ladies. They rode on the camels, and followed the man. The servant took Rebekah, and went his way. 62 Isaac came from the way of Beer Lahai Roi,

for he lived in the land of the South. **63** Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the evening. He lifted up his eyes and looked. Behold, there were camels coming. **64** Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she got off the camel. **65** She said to the servant, "Who is the man who is walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." She took her veil, and covered herself. **66** The servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. **67** Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife. He loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

**25** Abraham took another wife, and her name was Keturah. **2** She bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. **3** Jokshan became the father of Sheba, and Dedan. The sons of Dedan were Asshurim, Letushim, and Leummim. **4** The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah. All these were the children of Keturah. **5** Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac, **6** but Abraham gave gifts to the sons of Abraham's concubines. While he still lived, he sent them away from Isaac his son, eastward, to the east country. **7** These are the days of the years of Abraham's life which he lived: one hundred seventy-five years. **8** Abraham gave up his spirit, and died at a good old age, an old man, and full of years, and was gathered to his people. **9** Isaac and Ishmael, his sons, buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron, the son of Zohar the Hittite, which is near Mamre, **10** the field which Abraham purchased from the children of Heth. Abraham was buried there with Sarah, his wife. **11** After the death of Abraham, God blessed Isaac, his son. Isaac lived by Beer Lahai Roi. **12** Now this is the history of the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's servant, bore to Abraham. **13** These are the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, according to the order of their birth: the firstborn of Ishmael, Nebaioth, then Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, **14** Mishma, Dumah, Massa, **15** Hadad, Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah. **16** These are the sons of Ishmael, and these are their names, by their villages, and by their encampments: twelve princes, according to their nations. **17** These are the years of the life of Ishmael: one hundred thirty-seven years. He gave up

his spirit and died, and was gathered to his people. **18** They lived from Havilah to Shur that is before Egypt, as you go toward Assyria. He lived opposite all his relatives. **19** This is the history of the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son. Abraham became the father of Isaac. **20** Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Paddan Aram, the sister of Laban the Syrian, to be his wife. **21** Isaac entreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren. The LORD was entreated by him, and Rebekah his wife conceived. **22** The children struggled together within her. She said, "If it is like this, why do I live?" She went to inquire of the LORD. **23** The LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb. Two peoples will be separated from your body. The one people will be stronger than the other people. The elder will serve the younger." **24** When her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb. **25** The first came out red all over, like a hairy garment. They named him Esau. **26** After that, his brother came out, and his hand had hold on Esau's heel. He was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. **27** The boys grew. Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field. Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. **28** Now Isaac loved Esau, because he ate his venison. Rebekah loved Jacob. **29** Jacob boiled stew. Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. **30** Esau said to Jacob, "Please feed me with some of that red stew, for I am famished." Therefore his name was called Edom. **31** Jacob said, "First, sell me your birthright." **32** Esau said, "Behold, I am about to die. What good is the birthright to me?" **33** Jacob said, "Swear to me first." He swore to him. He sold his birthright to Jacob. **34** Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew. He ate and drank, rose up, and went his way. So Esau despised his birthright.

**26** There was a famine in the land, in addition to the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, to Gerar. **2** The LORD appeared to him, and said, "Do not go down into Egypt. Live in the land I will tell you about. **3** Live in this land, and I will be with you, and will bless you. For I will give to you, and to your offspring, all these lands, and I will establish

the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. 4 I will multiply your offspring as the stars of the sky, and will give all these lands to your offspring. In your offspring all the nations of the earth will be blessed, 5 because Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my requirements, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws." 6 Isaac lived in Gerar. 7 The men of the place asked him about his wife. He said, "She is my sister," for he was afraid to say, "My wife", lest, he thought, "the men of the place might kill me for Rebekah, because she is beautiful to look at." 8 When he had been there a long time, Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out at a window, and saw, and, behold, Isaac was caressing Rebekah, his wife. 9 Abimelech called Isaac, and said, "Behold, surely she is your wife. Why did you say, 'She is my sister'?" Isaac said to him, "Because I said, 'Lest I die because of her.'" 10 Abimelech said, "What is this you have done to us? One of the people might easily have lain with your wife, and you would have brought guilt on us!" 11 Abimelech commanded all the people, saying, "He who touches this man or his wife will surely be put to death." 12 Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year one hundred times what he planted. The LORD blessed him. 13 The man grew great, and grew more and more until he became very great. 14 He had possessions of flocks, possessions of herds, and a great household. The Philistines envied him. 15 Now all the wells which his father's servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father, the Philistines had stopped, and filled with earth. 16 Abimelech said to Isaac, "Go away from us, for you are much mightier than we." 17 Isaac departed from there, encamped in the valley of Gerar, and lived there. 18 Isaac dug again the wells of water, which they had dug in the days of Abraham his father, for the Philistines had stopped them after the death of Abraham. He called their names after the names by which his father had called them. 19 Isaac's servants dug in the valley, and found there a well of flowing water. 20 The herdsmen of Gerar argued with Isaac's herdsmen, saying, "The water is ours." So he called the name of the well Esek, because they contended with him. 21 They dug another well, and they argued over that, also. So he called its name Sitnah. 22 He left that place, and dug another well. They did not argue over that one. So he called it Rehoboth. He said, "For now the LORD has made room for us, and we will be fruitful in the land." 23 He went up from there to Beersheba. 24 The LORD appeared to him the same night, and said, "I am the God of Abraham your father. Do not be afraid, for I am with you, and will bless you, and multiply your offspring for my servant Abraham's sake." 25 He built an altar there, and called on the LORD's name, and pitched his tent there. There Isaac's servants dug a well. 26 Then Abimelech went to him from Gerar with Ahuzzath his friend, and Phicol the captain of his army. 27 Isaac said to them, "Why have you come to me, since you hate me, and have sent me away from you?" 28 They said, "We saw plainly that the LORD was with you. We said, 'Let there now be an oath between us, even between us and you, and let's make a covenant with you, 29 that you will do us no harm, as we have not touched you, and as we have done to you nothing but good, and have sent you away in peace.' You are now the blessed of the LORD." 30 He made them a feast, and they ate and drank. 31 They rose up some time in the morning, and swore an oath to one another. Isaac sent them away, and they departed from him in peace. 32 The same day, Isaac's servants came, and told him concerning the well which they had dug, and said to him, "We have found water." 33 He called it "Shibah". Therefore the name of the city is "Beersheba" to this day. 34 When Esau was forty years old, he took as wife Judith, the daughter of Beerli the Hittite, and Basemath, the daughter of Elon the Hittite. 35 They grieved Isaac's and Rebekah's spirits.

**27** When Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see, he called Esau his elder son, and said to him, "My son?" He said to him, "Here I am." 2 He said, "See now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death. 3 Now therefore, please take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field, and get me venison. 4 Make me savory food, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat, and that my soul may bless you before I die." 5 Rebekah heard when Isaac spoke to Esau his son. Esau went to the field to hunt for venison, and to bring it. 6 Rebekah spoke to Jacob her son, saying, "Behold, I heard your father speak to Esau

your brother, saying, 7 'Bring me venison, and make me savory food, that I may eat, and bless you before the LORD before my death.' 8 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to that which I command you. 9 Go now to the flock and get me two good young goats from there. I will make them savory food for your father, such as he loves. 10 You shall bring it to your father, that he may eat, so that he may bless you before his death." 11 Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "Behold, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man. 12 What if my father touches me? I will seem to him as a deceiver, and I would bring a curse on myself, and not a blessing." 13 His mother said to him, "Let your curse be on me, my son. Only obey my voice, and go get them for me." 14 He went, and got them, and brought them to his mother. His mother made savory food, such as his father loved. 15 Rebekah took the good clothes of Esau, her elder son, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob, her younger son. 16 She put the skins of the young goats on his hands, and on the smooth of his neck. 17 She gave the savory food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob. 18 He came to his father, and said, "My father?" He said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?" 19 Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done what you asked me to do. Please arise, sit and eat of my venison, that your soul may bless me." 20 Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?" He said, "Because the LORD your God gave me success." 21 Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, whether you are really my son Esau or not." 22 Jacob went near to Isaac his father. He felt him, and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." 23 He did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy, like his brother Esau's hands. So he blessed him. 24 He said, "Are you really my son Esau?" He said, "I am." 25 He said, "Bring it near to me, and I will eat of my son's venison, that my soul may bless you." He brought it near to him, and he ate. He brought him wine, and he drank. 26 His father Isaac said to him, "Come near now, and kiss me, my son." 27 He came near, and kissed him. He smelled the smell of his clothing, and blessed him, and said, "Behold, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the LORD has blessed. 28 God give you of the dew of the sky, of the fatness of the earth, and plenty of grain and new wine. 29 Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers. Let your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you. Blessed be everyone who blesses you." 30 As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob had just gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, Esau his brother came in from his hunting. 31 He also made savory food, and brought it to his father. He said to his father, "Let my father arise, and eat of his son's venison, that your soul may bless me." 32 Isaac his father said to him, "Who are you?" He said, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau." 33 Isaac trembled violently, and said, "Who, then, is he who has taken my venison, and brought it to me, and I have eaten of all before you came, and have blessed him? Yes, he will be blessed." 34 When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, "Bless me, even me also, my father." 35 He said, "Your brother came with deceit, and has taken away your blessing." 36 He said, "Is not he rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright. See, now he has taken away my blessing." He said, "Have not you reserved a blessing for me?" 37 Isaac answered Esau, "Behold, I have made him your lord, and all his brothers I have given to him for servants. I have sustained him with grain and new wine. What then will I do for you, my son?" 38 Esau said to his father, "Do you have just one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, my father." Esau lifted up his voice, and wept. 39 Isaac his father answered him, "Behold, your dwelling will be of the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of the sky from above. 40 You will live by your sword, and you will serve your brother. It will happen, when you will break loose, that you will shake his yoke from off your neck." 41 Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him. Esau said in his heart, "The days of mourning for my father are at hand. Then I will kill my brother Jacob." 42 The words of Esau, her elder son, were told to Rebekah. She sent and called Jacob, her younger son, and said to him, "Behold, your brother Esau comforts himself about



you by planning to kill you. **43** Now therefore, my son, obey my voice. Arise, flee to Laban, my brother, in Haran. **44** Stay with him a few days, until your brother's fury turns away— **45** until your brother's anger turns away from you, and he forgets what you have done to him. Then I will send, and get you from there. Why should I be bereaved of you both in one day?" **46** Rebekah said to Isaac, "I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth. If Jacob takes a wife of the daughters of Heth, such as these, of the daughters of the land, what good will my life do me?"

**28** Isaac called Jacob, blessed him, and commanded him, "You shall not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan. **2** Arise, go to Paddan Aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother's father. Take a wife from there from the daughters of Laban, your mother's brother. **3** May God Almighty bless you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, that you may be a company of peoples, **4** and give you the blessing of Abraham, to you and to your offspring with you, that you may inherit the land where you travel, which God gave to Abraham." **5** Isaac sent Jacob away. He went to Paddan Aram to Laban, son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob's and Esau's mother. **6** Now Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Paddan Aram, to take him a wife from there, and that as he blessed him he gave him a command, saying, "You shall not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan;" **7** and that Jacob obeyed his father and his mother, and was gone to Paddan Aram. **8** Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan did not please Isaac, his father. **9** So Esau went to Ishmael, and took, in addition to the wives that he had, Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebaioth, to be his wife. **10** Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran. **11** He came to a certain place, and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. He took one of the stones of the place, and put it under his head, and lay down in that place to sleep. **12** He dreamed and saw a stairway set upon the earth, and its top reached to heaven. Behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. **13** Behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father, and the God of Isaac. I will give the land you lie on to you

and to your offspring. **14** Your offspring will be as the dust of the earth, and you will spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south. In you and in your offspring, all the families of the earth will be blessed. **15** Behold, I am with you, and will keep you, wherever you go, and will bring you again into this land. For I will not leave you until I have done that which I have spoken of to you." **16** Jacob awakened out of his sleep, and he said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." **17** He was afraid, and said, "How awesome this place is! This is none other than God's house, and this is the gate of heaven." **18** Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put under his head, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil on its top. **19** He called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first. **20** Jacob vowed a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and clothing to put on, **21** so that I come again to my father's house in peace, and the LORD will be my God, **22** then this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, will be God's house. Of all that you will give me I will surely give a tenth to you."

**29** Then Jacob went on his journey, and came to the land of the children of the east. **2** He looked, and saw a well in the field, and saw three flocks of sheep lying there by it. For out of that well they watered the flocks. The stone on the well's mouth was large. **3** There all the flocks were gathered. They rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the sheep, and put the stone back on the well's mouth in its place. **4** Jacob said to them, "My relatives, where are you from?" They said, "We are from Haran." **5** He said to them, "Do you know Laban, the son of Nahor?" They said, "We know him." **6** He said to them, "Is it well with him?" They said, "It is well. See, Rachel, his daughter, is coming with the sheep." **7** He said, "Behold, it is still the middle of the day, not time to gather the livestock together. Water the sheep, and go and feed them." **8** They said, "We cannot, until all the flocks are gathered together, and they roll the stone from the well's mouth. Then we will water the sheep." **9** While he was yet speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she kept them. **10** When Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of

Laban, his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban, his mother's brother, Jacob went near, and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother. **11** Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice, and wept. **12** Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's relative, and that he was Rebekah's son. She ran and told her father. **13** When Laban heard the news of Jacob, his sister's son, he ran to meet Jacob, and embraced him, and kissed him, and brought him to his house. Jacob told Laban all these things. **14** Laban said to him, "Surely you are my bone and my flesh." Jacob stayed with him for a month. **15** Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my relative, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what will your wages be?" **16** Laban had two daughters. The name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. **17** Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful in form and attractive. **18** Jacob loved Rachel. He said, "I will serve you seven years for Rachel, your younger daughter." **19** Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you, than that I should give her to another man. Stay with me." **20** Jacob served seven years for Rachel. They seemed to him but a few days, for the love he had for her. **21** Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in to her." **22** Laban gathered together all the men of the place, and made a feast. **23** In the evening, he took Leah his daughter, and brought her to Jacob. He went in to her. **24** Laban gave Zilpah his servant to his daughter Leah for a servant. **25** In the morning, behold, it was Leah! He said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did not I serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" **26** Laban said, "It is not done so in our place, to give the younger before the firstborn. **27** Fulfill the week of this one, and we will give you the other also for the service which you will serve with me for seven more years." **28** Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week. He gave him Rachel his daughter as wife. **29** Laban gave Bilhah, his servant, to his daughter Rachel to be her servant. **30** He went in also to Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him seven more years. **31** The LORD saw that Leah was hated, and he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren. **32** Leah conceived, and bore a son, and she named him Reuben. For she

said, "Because the LORD has looked at my affliction; for now my husband will love me." **33** She conceived again, and bore a son, and said, "Because the LORD has heard that I am hated, he has therefore given me this son also." She named him Simeon. **34** She conceived again, and bore a son. She said, "Now this time my husband will be joined to me, because I have borne him three sons." Therefore his name was called Levi. **35** She conceived again, and bore a son. She said, "This time I will praise the LORD." Therefore she named him Judah. Then she stopped bearing.

**30** When Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister. She said to Jacob, "Give me children, or else I will die." **2** Jacob's anger burned against Rachel, and he said, "Am I in God's place, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?" **3** She said, "Behold, my maid Bilhah. Go in to her, that she may bear on my knees, and I also may obtain children by her." **4** She gave him Bilhah her servant as wife, and Jacob went in to her. **5** Bilhah conceived, and bore Jacob a son. **6** Rachel said, "God has judged me, and has also heard my voice, and has given me a son." Therefore she called his name Dan. **7** Bilhah, Rachel's servant, conceived again, and bore Jacob a second son. **8** Rachel said, "I have wrestled with my sister with mighty wrestlings, and have prevailed." She named him Naphtali. **9** When Leah saw that she had finished bearing, she took Zilpah, her servant, and gave her to Jacob as a wife. **10** Zilpah, Leah's servant, bore Jacob a son. **11** Leah said, "How fortunate!" She named him Gad. **12** Zilpah, Leah's servant, bore Jacob a second son. **13** Leah said, "Happy am I, for the daughters will call me happy." She named him Asher. **14** Reuben went in the days of wheat harvest, and found mandrakes in the field, and brought them to his mother, Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes." **15** Leah said to her, "Is it a small matter that you have taken away my husband? Would you take away my son's mandrakes, also?" Rachel said, "Therefore he will lie with you tonight for your son's mandrakes." **16** Jacob came from the field in the evening, and Leah went out to meet him, and said, "You must come in to me; for I have surely hired you with my son's mandrakes." He lay with her that night. **17** God listened to Leah, and she conceived,

and bore Jacob a fifth son. **18** Leah said, "God has given me my hire, because I gave my servant to my husband." She named him Issachar. **19** Leah conceived again, and bore a sixth son to Jacob. **20** Leah said, "God has endowed me with a good dowry. Now my husband will live with me, because I have borne him six sons." She named him Zebulun. **21** Afterwards, she bore a daughter, and named her Dinah. **22** God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her, and opened her womb. **23** She conceived, bore a son, and said, "God has taken away my reproach." **24** She named him Joseph, saying, "May the LORD add another son to me." **25** When Rachel had borne Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, "Send me away, that I may go to my own place, and to my country. **26** Give me my wives and my children for whom I have served you, and let me go; for you know my service with which I have served you." **27** Laban said to him, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, stay here, for I have divined that the LORD has blessed me for your sake." **28** He said, "Appoint me your wages, and I will give it." **29** Jacob said to him, "You know how I have served you, and how your livestock have fared with me. **30** For it was little which you had before I came, and it has increased to a multitude. The LORD has blessed you wherever I turned. Now when will I provide for my own house also?" **31** Laban said, "What shall I give you?" Jacob said, "You shall not give me anything. If you will do this thing for me, I will again feed your flock and keep it. **32** I will pass through all your flock today, removing from there every speckled and spotted one, and every black one among the sheep, and the spotted and speckled among the goats. This will be my hire. **33** So my righteousness will answer for me hereafter, when you come concerning my hire that is before you. Every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats, and black among the sheep, that might be with me, will be considered stolen." **34** Laban said, "Behold, let it be according to your word." **35** That day, he removed the male goats that were streaked and spotted, and all the female goats that were speckled and spotted, every one that had white in it, and all the black ones among the sheep, and gave them into the hand of his sons. **36** He set three days' journey between himself and Jacob, and Jacob fed the rest

of Laban's flocks. **37** Jacob took to himself rods of fresh poplar, almond, and plane tree, peeled white streaks in them, and made the white appear which was in the rods. **38** He set the rods which he had peeled opposite the flocks in the watering troughs where the flocks came to drink. They conceived when they came to drink. **39** The flocks conceived before the rods, and the flocks produced streaked, speckled, and spotted. **40** Jacob separated the lambs, and set the faces of the flocks toward the streaked and all the black in Laban's flock. He put his own droves apart, and did not put them into Laban's flock. **41** Whenever the stronger of the flock conceived, Jacob laid the rods in front of the eyes of the flock in the watering troughs, that they might conceive among the rods; **42** but when the flock were feeble, he did not put them in. So the feeble were Laban's, and the stronger Jacob's. **43** The man increased exceedingly, and had large flocks, female servants and male servants, and camels and donkeys.

**31** Jacob heard Laban's sons' words, saying, "Jacob has taken away all that was our father's. He has obtained all this wealth from that which was our father's." **2** Jacob saw the expression on Laban's face, and, behold, it was not toward him as before. **3** The LORD said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers, and to your relatives, and I will be with you." **4** Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field to his flock, **5** and said to them, "I see the expression on your father's face, that it is not toward me as before; but the God of my father has been with me. **6** You know that I have served your father with all of my strength. **7** Your father has deceived me, and changed my wages ten times, but God did not allow him to hurt me. **8** If he said, 'The speckled will be your wages,' then all the flock bore speckled. If he said, 'The streaked will be your wages,' then all the flock bore streaked. **9** Thus God has taken away your father's livestock, and given them to me. **10** During mating season, I lifted up my eyes, and saw in a dream, and behold, the male goats which leaped on the flock were streaked, speckled, and grizzled. **11** The angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob,' and I said, 'Here I am.' **12** He said, 'Now lift up your eyes, and behold, all the male goats which leap on the flock are streaked, speckled, and grizzled, for I

have seen all that Laban does to you. 13 I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar, where you vowed a vow to me. Now arise, get out from this land, and return to the land of your birth.” 14 Rachel and Leah answered him, “Is there yet any portion or inheritance for us in our father’s house? 15 Are not we considered as foreigners by him? For he has sold us, and has also used up our money. 16 For all the riches which God has taken away from our father are ours and our children’s. Now then, whatever God has said to you, do.” 17 Then Jacob rose up, and set his sons and his wives on the camels, 18 and he took away all his livestock, and all his possessions which he had gathered, including the livestock which he had gained in Paddan Aram, to go to Isaac his father, to the land of Canaan. 19 Now Laban had gone to shear his sheep; and Rachel stole the teraphim that were her father’s. 20 Jacob deceived Laban the Syrian, in that he did not tell him that he was running away. 21 So he fled with all that he had. He rose up, passed over the River, and set his face toward the mountain of Gilead. 22 Laban was told on the third day that Jacob had fled. 23 He took his relatives with him, and pursued him seven days’ journey. He overtook him in the mountain of Gilead. 24 God came to Laban the Syrian in a dream of the night, and said to him, “Be careful that you do not speak to Jacob either good or bad.” 25 Laban caught up with Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the mountain, and Laban with his relatives encamped in the mountain of Gilead. 26 Laban said to Jacob, “What have you done, that you have deceived me, and carried away my daughters like captives of the sword? 27 Why did you flee secretly, and deceive me, and did not tell me, that I might have sent you away with mirth and with songs, with tambourine and with harp; 28 and did not allow me to kiss my sons and my daughters? Now have you done foolishly. 29 It is in the power of my hand to hurt you, but the God of your father spoke to me last night, saying, ‘Be careful that you do not speak to Jacob either good or bad.’ 30 Now, you want to be gone, because you greatly longed for your father’s house, but why have you stolen my gods?” 31 Jacob answered Laban, “Because I was afraid, for I said, ‘Lest you should take your daughters from me by force.’ 32 Anyone you find your gods with shall not live. Before our relatives, discern what is yours with me, and take it.” For Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them. 33 Laban went into Jacob’s tent, into Leah’s tent, and into the tent of the two female servants; but he did not find them. He went out of Leah’s tent, and entered into Rachel’s tent. 34 Now Rachel had taken the teraphim, put them in the camel’s saddle, and sat on them. Laban felt around all the tent, but did not find them. 35 She said to her father, “Do not let my lord be angry that I cannot rise up before you; for I am having my period.” He searched, but did not find the teraphim. 36 Jacob was angry, and argued with Laban. Jacob answered Laban, “What is my trespass? What is my sin, that you have hotly pursued me? 37 Now that you have felt around in all my stuff, what have you found of all your household stuff? Set it here before my relatives and your relatives, that they may judge between us two. 38 “These twenty years I have been with you. Your ewes and your female goats have not cast their young, and I have not eaten the rams of your flocks. 39 That which was torn of animals, I did not bring to you. I bore its loss. Of my hand you required it, whether stolen by day or stolen by night. 40 This was my situation: in the day the drought consumed me, and the frost by night; and my sleep fled from my eyes. 41 These twenty years I have been in your house. I served you fourteen years for your two daughters, and six years for your flock, and you have changed my wages ten times. 42 Unless the God of my father, the God of Abraham, and the fear of Isaac, had been with me, surely now you would have sent me away empty. God has seen my affliction and the labor of my hands, and rebuked you last night.” 43 Laban answered Jacob, “The daughters are my daughters, the children are my children, the flocks are my flocks, and all that you see is mine! What can I do today to these my daughters, or to their children whom they have borne? 44 Now come, let’s make a covenant, you and I. Let it be for a witness between me and you.” 45 Jacob took a stone, and set it up for a pillar. 46 Jacob said to his relatives, “Gather stones.” They took stones, and made a heap. They ate there by the heap. 47 Laban called it Jegar Sahadutha, but Jacob called it Galeed. 48 Laban said, “This heap is witness between me and you today.”

Therefore it was named Galeed **49** and Mizpah, for he said, "The LORD watch between me and you, when we are absent one from another. **50** If you afflict my daughters, or if you take wives in addition to my daughters, no man is with us; behold, God is witness between me and you." **51** Laban said to Jacob, "See this heap, and see the pillar, which I have set between me and you. **52** May this heap be a witness, and the pillar be a witness, that I will not pass over this heap to you, and that you will not pass over this heap and this pillar to me, for harm. **53** The God of Abraham, and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge between us." Then Jacob swore by the fear of his father, Isaac. **54** Jacob offered a sacrifice in the mountain, and called his relatives to eat bread. They ate bread, and stayed all night in the mountain. **55** Early in the morning, Laban rose up, and kissed his sons and his daughters, and blessed them. Laban departed and returned to his place.

**32** Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him. **2** When he saw them, Jacob said, "This is God's army." He called the name of that place Mahanaim. **3** Jacob sent messengers in front of him to Esau, his brother, to the land of Seir, the field of Edom. **4** He commanded them, saying, "This is what you shall tell my lord, Esau: 'This is what your servant, Jacob, says. I have lived as a foreigner with Laban, and stayed until now. **5** I have cattle, donkeys, flocks, male servants, and female servants. I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find favor in your sight.'" **6** The messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to your brother Esau. He is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him." **7** Then Jacob was greatly afraid and was distressed. He divided the people who were with him, along with the flocks, the herds, and the camels, into two companies. **8** He said, "If Esau comes to the one company, and strikes it, then the company which is left will escape." **9** Jacob said, "God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the LORD, who said to me, 'Return to your country, and to your relatives, and I will do you good,' **10** I am not worthy of the least of all the loving kindnesses, and of all the truth, which you have shown to your servant; for with just my staff I crossed over this Jordan; and now I have become two companies. **11** Please deliver me

from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, lest he come and strike me and the mothers with the children. **12** You said, 'I will surely do you good, and make your offspring as the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted because there are so many.'" **13** He stayed there that night, and took from that which he had with him a present for Esau, his brother: **14** two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, **15** thirty milk camels and their colts, forty cows, ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten foals. **16** He delivered them into the hands of his servants, every herd by itself, and said to his servants, "Pass over before me, and put a space between herd and herd." **17** He commanded the foremost, saying, "When Esau, my brother, meets you, and asks you, saying, 'Whose are you? Where are you going? Whose are these before you?' **18** Then you shall say, 'They are your servant, Jacob's. It is a present sent to my lord, Esau. Behold, he also is behind us.'" **19** He commanded also the second, and the third, and all that followed the herds, saying, "This is how you shall speak to Esau, when you find him. **20** You shall say, 'Not only that, but behold, your servant, Jacob, is behind us.'" For, he said, "I will appease him with the present that goes before me, and afterward I will see his face. Perhaps he will accept me." **21** So the present passed over before him, and he himself stayed that night in the camp. **22** He rose up that night, and took his two wives, and his two servants, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of the Jabbok. **23** He took them, and sent them over the stream, and sent over that which he had. **24** Jacob was left alone, and wrestled with a man there until the breaking of the day. **25** When he saw that he did not prevail against him, the man touched the hollow of his thigh, and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was strained as he wrestled. **26** The man said, "Let me go, for the day breaks." Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." **27** He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob". **28** He said, "Your name will no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have fought with God and with men, and have prevailed." **29** Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." He said, "Why is it that you ask what my name is?" So he blessed him there. **30** Jacob called the name of the place Peniel;

for he said, "I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved." 31 The sun rose on him as he passed over Peniel, and he limped because of his thigh. 32 Therefore the children of Israel do not eat the sinew of the hip, which is on the hollow of the thigh, to this day, because he touched the hollow of Jacob's thigh in the sinew of the hip.

**33** Jacob lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold, Esau was coming, and with him four hundred men. He divided the children between Leah, Rachel, and the two servants. 2 He put the servants and their children in front, Leah and her children after, and Rachel and Joseph at the rear. 3 He himself passed over in front of them, and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother. 4 Esau ran to meet him, embraced him, fell on his neck, kissed him, and they wept. 5 He lifted up his eyes, and saw the women and the children; and said, "Who are these with you?" He said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant." 6 Then the servants came near with their children, and they bowed themselves. 7 Leah also and her children came near, and bowed themselves. After them, Joseph came near with Rachel, and they bowed themselves. 8 Esau said, "What do you mean by all this company which I met?" Jacob said, "To find favor in the sight of my lord." 9 Esau said, "I have enough, my brother; let that which you have be yours." 10 Jacob said, "Please, no, if I have now found favor in your sight, then receive my present at my hand, because I have seen your face, as one sees the face of God, and you were pleased with me. 11 Please take the gift that I brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough." He urged him, and he took it. 12 Esau said, "Let's take our journey, and let's go, and I will go before you." 13 Jacob said to him, "My lord knows that the children are tender, and that the flocks and herds with me have their young, and if they overdrive them one day, all the flocks will die. 14 Please let my lord pass over before his servant, and I will lead on gently, according to the pace of the livestock that are before me and according to the pace of the children, until I come to my lord to Seir." 15 Esau said, "Let me now leave with you some of the people who are with me." He said, "Why? Let me find favor in the

sight of my lord." 16 So Esau returned that day on his way to Seir. 17 Jacob traveled to Succoth, built himself a house, and made shelters for his livestock. Therefore the name of the place is called Succoth. 18 Jacob came in peace to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Paddan Aram; and encamped before the city. 19 He bought the parcel of ground where he had spread his tent, at the hand of the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for one hundred pieces of money. 20 He erected an altar there, and called it El Elohe Israel.

**34** Dinah, the daughter of Leah, whom she bore to Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land. 2 Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her. He took her, lay with her, and humbled her. 3 His soul joined to Dinah, the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the young lady, and spoke kindly to the young lady. 4 Shechem spoke to his father, Hamor, saying, "Get me this young lady as a wife." 5 Now Jacob heard that he had defiled Dinah, his daughter; and his sons were with his livestock in the field. Jacob held his peace until they came. 6 Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to talk with him. 7 The sons of Jacob came in from the field when they heard it. The men were grieved, and they were very angry, because he had done folly in Israel in lying with Jacob's daughter, a thing that ought not to be done. 8 Hamor talked with them, saying, "The soul of my son, Shechem, longs for your daughter. Please give her to him as a wife. 9 Make marriages with us. Give your daughters to us, and take our daughters for yourselves. 10 You shall dwell with us, and the land will be before you. Live and trade in it, and get possessions in it." 11 Shechem said to her father and to her brothers, "Let me find favor in your eyes, and whatever you will tell me I will give. 12 Ask me a great amount for a dowry, and I will give whatever you ask of me, but give me the young lady as a wife." 13 The sons of Jacob answered Shechem and Hamor his father with deceit when they spoke, because he had defiled Dinah their sister, 14 and said to them, "We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one who is uncircumcised; for that is a reproach to us. 15 Only on this condition will we consent to you. If you will be as we are, that every male of you be circumcised, 16 then will we

give our daughters to you; and we will take your daughters to us, and we will dwell with you, and we will become one people. **17** But if you will not listen to us and be circumcised, then we will take our sister, and we will be gone.” **18** Their words pleased Hamor and Shechem, Hamor’s son. **19** The young man did not wait to do this thing, because he had delight in Jacob’s daughter, and he was honored above all the house of his father. **20** Hamor and Shechem, his son, came to the gate of their city, and talked with the men of their city, saying, **21** “These men are peaceful with us. Therefore let them live in the land and trade in it. For behold, the land is large enough for them. Let’s take their daughters to us for wives, and let’s give them our daughters. **22** Only on this condition will the men consent to us to live with us, to become one people, if every male among us is circumcised, as they are circumcised. **23** Will not their livestock and their possessions and all their animals be ours? Only let’s give our consent to them, and they will dwell with us.” **24** All who went out of the gate of his city listened to Hamor, and to Shechem his son; and every male was circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city. **25** On the third day, when they were sore, two of Jacob’s sons, Simeon and Levi, Dinah’s brothers, each took his sword, came upon the unsuspecting city, and killed all the males. **26** They killed Hamor and Shechem, his son, with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah out of Shechem’s house, and went away. **27** Jacob’s sons came on the dead, and plundered the city, because they had defiled their sister. **28** They took their flocks, their herds, their donkeys, that which was in the city, that which was in the field, **29** and all their wealth. They took captive all their little ones and their wives, and took as plunder everything that was in the house. **30** Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, “You have troubled me, to make me odious to the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites. I am few in number. They will gather themselves together against me and strike me, and I will be destroyed, I and my house.” **31** They said, “Should he deal with our sister as with a prostitute?”

**35** God said to Jacob, “Arise, go up to Bethel, and live there. Make there an altar to God, who appeared to you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother.” **2** Then Jacob said to his household, and to all who were with him, “Put away the foreign gods that are among you, purify yourselves, and change your garments. **3** Let’s arise, and go up to Bethel. I will make there an altar to God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me on the way which I went.” **4** They gave to Jacob all the foreign gods which were in their hands, and the rings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem. **5** They traveled, and a terror of God was on the cities that were around them, and they did not pursue the sons of Jacob. **6** So Jacob came to Luz (that is, Bethel), which is in the land of Canaan, he and all the people who were with him. **7** He built an altar there, and called the place El Beth El; because there God was revealed to him, when he fled from the face of his brother. **8** Deborah, Rebekah’s nurse, died, and she was buried below Bethel under the oak; and its name was called Allon Bacuth. **9** God appeared to Jacob again, when he came from Paddan Aram, and blessed him. **10** God said to him, “Your name is Jacob. Your name shall not be Jacob any more, but your name will be Israel.” He named him Israel. **11** God said to him, “I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations will be from you, and kings will come out of your body. **12** The land which I gave to Abraham and Isaac, I will give it to you, and to your offspring after you I will give the land.” **13** God went up from him in the place where he spoke with him. **14** Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he spoke with him, a pillar of stone. He poured out a drink offering on it, and poured oil on it. **15** Jacob called the name of the place where God spoke with him “Bethel”. **16** They traveled from Bethel. There was still some distance to come to Ephrath, and Rachel travailed. She had hard labor. **17** When she was in hard labor, the midwife said to her, “Do not be afraid, for now you will have another son.” **18** As her soul was departing (for she died), she named him Benoni, but his father named him Benjamin. **19** Rachel died, and was buried on the way to Ephrath (also called Bethlehem). **20** Jacob set up a pillar on her grave. The same is the Pillar of Rachel’s grave to this day. **21** Israel traveled, and spread his tent beyond the tower of Eder. **22**

While Israel lived in that land, Reuben went and lay with Bilhah, his father's concubine, and Israel heard of it. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve. **23** The sons of Leah: Reuben (Jacob's firstborn), Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun. **24** The sons of Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin. **25** The sons of Bilhah (Rachel's servant): Dan and Naphtali. **26** The sons of Zilpah (Leah's servant): Gad and Asher. These are the sons of Jacob, who were born to him in Paddan Aram. **27** Jacob came to Isaac his father, to Mamre, to Kiriath Arba (which is Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac lived as foreigners. **28** The days of Isaac were one hundred eighty years. **29** Isaac gave up the spirit and died, and was gathered to his people, old and full of days. Esau and Jacob, his sons, buried him.

**36** Now this is the history of the generations of Esau (that is, Edom). **2** Esau took his wives from the daughters of Canaan: Adah the daughter of Elon, the Hittite; and Oholibamah the daughter of Anah, the daughter of Zibeon, the Hivite; **3** and Basemath, Ishmael's daughter, sister of Nebaioth. **4** Adah bore to Esau Eliphaz. Basemath bore Reuel. **5** Oholibamah bore Jeush, Jalam, and Korah. These are the sons of Esau, who were born to him in the land of Canaan. **6** Esau took his wives, his sons, his daughters, and all the members of his household, with his livestock, all his animals, and all his possessions, which he had gathered in the land of Canaan, and went into a land away from his brother Jacob. **7** For their substance was too great for them to dwell together, and the land of their travels could not bear them because of their livestock. **8** Esau lived in the hill country of Seir. Esau is Edom. **9** This is the history of the generations of Esau the father of the Edomites in the hill country of Seir: **10** these are the names of Esau's sons: Eliphaz, the son of Adah, the wife of Esau; and Reuel, the son of Basemath, the wife of Esau. **11** The sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar, Zepho, and Gatam, and Kenaz. **12** Timna was concubine to Eliphaz, Esau's son; and she bore to Eliphaz Amalek. These are the descendants of Adah, Esau's wife. **13** These are the sons of Reuel: Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah. These were the descendants of Basemath, Esau's wife. **14** These were the sons of Oholibamah, the daughter of Anah, the daughter of Zibeon, Esau's wife: she bore to Esau Jeush, Jalam, and Korah. **15**

These are the chiefs of the sons of Esau: the sons of Eliphaz the firstborn of Esau: chief Teman, chief Omar, chief Zepho, chief Kenaz, **16** chief Korah, chief Gatam, chief Amalek. These are the chiefs who came of Eliphaz in the land of Edom. These are the sons of Adah. **17** These are the sons of Reuel, Esau's son: chief Nahath, chief Zerah, chief Shammah, chief Mizzah. These are the chiefs who came of Reuel in the land of Edom. These are the sons of Basemath, Esau's wife. **18** These are the sons of Oholibamah, Esau's wife: chief Jeush, chief Jalam, chief Korah. These are the chiefs who came of Oholibamah the daughter of Anah, Esau's wife. **19** These are the sons of Esau (that is, Edom), and these are their chiefs. **20** These are the sons of Seir the Horite, the inhabitants of the land: Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, **21** Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan. These are the chiefs who came of the Horites, the children of Seir in the land of Edom. **22** The children of Lotan were Hori and Heman. Lotan's sister was Timna. **23** These are the children of Shobal: Alvan, Manahath, Ebal, Shepho, and Onam. **24** These are the children of Zibeon: Aiah and Anah. This is Anah who found the hot springs in the wilderness, as he fed the donkeys of Zibeon his father. **25** These are the children of Anah: Dishon and Oholibamah, the daughter of Anah. **26** These are the children of Dishon: Hemdan, Eshban, Ithran, and Cheran. **27** These are the children of Ezer: Bilhan, Zaavan, and Akan. **28** These are the children of Dishan: Uz and Aran. **29** These are the chiefs who came of the Horites: chief Lotan, chief Shobal, chief Zibeon, chief Anah, **30** chief Dishon, chief Ezer, and chief Dishan. These are the chiefs who came of the Horites, according to their chiefs in the land of Seir. **31** These are the kings who reigned in the land of Edom, before any king reigned over the children of Israel. **32** Bela, the son of Beor, reigned in Edom. The name of his city was Dinhabah. **33** Bela died, and Jobab, the son of Zerah of Bozrah, reigned in his place. **34** Jobab died, and Husham of the land of the Temanites reigned in his place. **35** Husham died, and Hadad, the son of Bedad, who struck Midian in the field of Moab, reigned in his place. The name of his city was Avith. **36** Hadad died, and Samlah of Masrekah reigned in his place. **37** Samlah died, and Shaul of Rehoboth by the river, reigned in his place.



38 Shaul died, and Baal Hanan the son of Achbor reigned in his place. 39 Baal Hanan the son of Achbor died, and Hadar reigned in his place. The name of his city was Pau. His wife's name was Mehetabel, the daughter of Matred, the daughter of Mezahab. 40 These are the names of the chiefs who came from Esau, according to their families, after their places, and by their names: chief Timna, chief Alvah, chief Jetheth, 41 chief Oholibamah, chief Elah, chief Pinon, 42 chief Kenaz, chief Teman, chief Mibzar, 43 chief Magdiel, and chief Iram. These are the chiefs of Edom, according to their habitations in the land of their possession. This is Esau, the father of the Edomites.

**37** Jacob lived in the land of his father's travels, in the land of Canaan. 2 This is the history of the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brothers. He was a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. Joseph brought an evil report of them to their father. 3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age, and he made him a tunic of many colors. 4 His brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, and they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him. 5 Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it to his brothers, and they hated him all the more. 6 He said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: 7 for behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and behold, your sheaves came around, and bowed down to my sheaf." 8 His brothers asked him, "Will you indeed reign over us? Will you indeed have dominion over us?" They hated him all the more for his dreams and for his words. 9 He dreamed yet another dream, and told it to his brothers, and said, "Behold, I have dreamed yet another dream: and behold, the sun and the moon and eleven stars bowed down to me." 10 He told it to his father and to his brothers. His father rebuked him, and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Will I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves down to the earth before you?" 11 His brothers envied him, but his father kept this saying in mind. 12 His brothers went to feed their father's flock in Shechem. 13 Israel

said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers feeding the flock in Shechem? Come, and I will send you to them." He said to him, "Here I am." 14 He said to him, "Go now, see whether it is well with your brothers, and well with the flock; and bring me word again." So he sent him out of the valley of Hebron, and he came to Shechem. 15 A certain man found him, and behold, he was wandering in the field. The man asked him, "What are you looking for?" 16 He said, "I am looking for my brothers. Tell me, please, where they are feeding the flock." 17 The man said, "They have left here, for I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.'" Joseph went after his brothers, and found them in Dothan. 18 They saw him afar off, and before he came near to them, they conspired against him to kill him. 19 They said to one another, "Behold, this dreamer comes. 20 Come now therefore, and let's kill him, and cast him into one of the pits, and we will say, 'An evil animal has devoured him.' We will see what will become of his dreams." 21 Reuben heard it, and delivered him out of their hand, and said, "Let's not take his life." 22 Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood. Throw him into this pit that is in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him"—that he might deliver him out of their hand, to restore him to his father. 23 When Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the tunic of many colors that was on him; 24 and they took him, and threw him into the pit. The pit was empty. There was no water in it. 25 They sat down to eat bread, and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites was coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing spices and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt. 26 Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? 27 Come, and let's sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not let our hand be on him; for he is our brother, our flesh." His brothers listened to him. 28 Midianites who were merchants passed by, and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. The merchants brought Joseph into Egypt. 29 Reuben returned to the pit, and saw that Joseph was not in the pit; and he tore his clothes. 30 He returned to his brothers, and said, "The child is no more; and I, where will I go?" 31 They took Joseph's tunic, and killed a male goat, and

dipped the tunic in the blood. 32 They took the tunic of many colors, and they brought it to their father, and said, "We have found this. Examine it, now, and see if it is your son's tunic or not." 33 He recognized it, and said, "It is my son's tunic. An evil animal has devoured him. Joseph is without doubt torn in pieces." 34 Jacob tore his clothes, and put sackcloth on his waist, and mourned for his son many days. 35 All his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. He said, "For I will go down to Sheol (Sheol h7585) to my son, mourning." His father wept for him. 36 The Midianites sold him into Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, the captain of the guard.

**38** At that time, Judah went down from his brothers, and visited a certain Adullamite, whose name was Hirah. 2 There, Judah saw the daughter of a certain Canaanite man named Shua. He took her, and went in to her. 3 She conceived, and bore a son; and he named him Er. 4 She conceived again, and bore a son; and she named him Onan. 5 She yet again bore a son, and named him Shelah. He was at Chezib when she bore him. 6 Judah took a wife for Er, his firstborn, and her name was Tamar. 7 Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the LORD's sight. So the LORD killed him. 8 Judah said to Onan, "Go in to your brother's wife, and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her, and raise up offspring for your brother." 9 Onan knew that the offspring would not be his; and when he went in to his brother's wife, he spilled his semen on the ground, lest he should give offspring to his brother. 10 The thing which he did was evil in the LORD's sight, and he killed him also. 11 Then Judah said to Tamar, his daughter-in-law, "Remain a widow in your father's house, until Shelah, my son, is grown up;" for he said, "Lest he also die, like his brothers." Tamar went and lived in her father's house. 12 After many days, Shua's daughter, the wife of Judah, died. Judah was comforted, and went up to his sheep shearers to Timnah, he and his friend Hirah, the Adullamite. 13 Tamar was told, "Behold, your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep." 14 She took off the garments of her widowhood, and covered herself with her veil, and wrapped herself, and sat in the gate of Enaim, which is on the way to Timnah; for she saw that Shelah

was grown up, and she was not given to him as a wife. 15 When Judah saw her, he thought that she was a prostitute, for she had covered her face. 16 He turned to her by the way, and said, "Please come, let me come in to you," for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. She said, "What will you give me, that you may come in to me?" 17 He said, "I will send you a young goat from the flock." She said, "Will you give me a pledge, until you send it?" 18 He said, "What pledge will I give you?" She said, "Your signet and your cord, and your staff that is in your hand." He gave them to her, and came in to her, and she conceived by him. 19 She arose, and went away, and put off her veil from her, and put on the garments of her widowhood. 20 Judah sent the young goat by the hand of his friend, the Adullamite, to receive the pledge from the woman's hand, but he did not find her. 21 Then he asked the men of her place, saying, "Where is the prostitute, that was at Enaim by the road?" They said, "There has been no prostitute here." 22 He returned to Judah, and said, "I have not found her; and also the men of the place said, 'There has been no prostitute here.'" 23 Judah said, "Let her keep it, lest we be shamed. Behold, I sent this young goat, and you have not found her." 24 About three months later, Judah was told, "Tamar, your daughter-in-law, has played the prostitute. Moreover, behold, she is with child by prostitution." Judah said, "Bring her out, and let her be burned." 25 When she was brought out, she sent to her father-in-law, saying, "I am with child by the man who owns these." She also said, "Please discern whose these are—the signet, and the cords, and the staff." 26 Judah acknowledged them, and said, "She is more righteous than I, because I did not give her to Shelah, my son." He knew her again no more. 27 In the time of her travail, behold, twins were in her womb. 28 When she travailed, one put out a hand, and the midwife took and tied a scarlet thread on his hand, saying, "This came out first." 29 As he drew back his hand, behold, his brother came out, and she said, "Why have you made a breach for yourself?" Therefore his name was called Perez. 30 Afterward his brother came out, who had the scarlet thread on his hand, and his name was called Zerah.

**39** Joseph was brought down to Egypt. Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the hand of the Ishmaelites that had brought him down there. **2** The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man. He was in the house of his master the Egyptian. **3** His master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did prosper in his hand. **4** Joseph found favor in his sight. He ministered to him, and Potiphar made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand. **5** From the time that he made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake. The LORD's blessing was on all that he had, in the house and in the field. **6** He left all that he had in Joseph's hand. He did not concern himself with anything, except for the food which he ate. Joseph was well-built and handsome. **7** After these things, his master's wife set her eyes on Joseph; and she said, "Lie with me." **8** But he refused, and said to his master's wife, "Behold, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has put all that he has into my hand. **9** No one is greater in this house than I am, and he has not kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" **10** As she spoke to Joseph day by day, he did not listen to her, to lie by her, or to be with her. **11** About this time, he went into the house to do his work, and there were none of the men of the house inside. **12** She caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me!" He left his garment in her hand, and ran outside. **13** When she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and had run outside, **14** she called to the men of her house, and spoke to them, saying, "Behold, he has brought a Hebrew in to us to mock us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice. **15** When he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, he left his garment by me, and ran outside." **16** She laid up his garment by her, until his master came home. **17** She spoke to him according to these words, saying, "The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought to us, came in to me to mock me, **18** and as I lifted up my voice and cried, he left his garment by me, and ran outside." **19** When his master heard the words of his wife, which

she spoke to him, saying, "This is what your servant did to me," his wrath was kindled. **20** Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were bound, and he was there in custody. **21** But the LORD was with Joseph, and showed kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. **22** The keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever they did there, he was responsible for it. **23** The keeper of the prison did not look after anything that was under his hand, because the LORD was with him; and that which he did, the LORD made it prosper.

**40** After these things, the butler of the king of Egypt and his baker offended their lord, the king of Egypt. **2** Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief cup bearer and the chief baker. **3** He put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, into the prison, the place where Joseph was bound. **4** The captain of the guard assigned them to Joseph, and he took care of them. They stayed in prison many days. **5** They both dreamed a dream, each man his dream, in one night, each man according to the interpretation of his dream, the cup bearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were bound in the prison. **6** Joseph came in to them in the morning, and saw them, and saw that they were sad. **7** He asked Pharaoh's officers who were with him in custody in his master's house, saying, "Why do you look so sad today?" **8** They said to him, "We have dreamed a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it." Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Please tell it to me." **9** The chief cup bearer told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, "In my dream, behold, a vine was in front of me, **10** and in the vine were three branches. It was as though it budded, it blossomed, and its clusters produced ripe grapes. **11** Pharaoh's cup was in my hand; and I took the grapes, and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and I gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand." **12** Joseph said to him, "This is its interpretation: the three branches are three days. **13** Within three more days, Pharaoh will lift up your head, and restore you to your office. You will give Pharaoh's cup into his hand, the way you did when you were his cup bearer. **14** But remember me

when it is well with you. Please show kindness to me, and make mention of me to Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house. **15** For indeed, I was stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews, and here also I have done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon.” **16** When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was good, he said to Joseph, “I also was in my dream, and behold, three baskets of white bread were on my head. **17** In the uppermost basket there were all kinds of baked food for Pharaoh, and the birds ate them out of the basket on my head.” **18** Joseph answered, “This is its interpretation. The three baskets are three days. **19** Within three more days, Pharaoh will lift up your head from off you, and will hang you on a tree; and the birds will eat your flesh from off you.” **20** On the third day, which was Pharaoh’s birthday, he made a feast for all his servants, and he lifted up the head of the chief cup bearer and the head of the chief baker among his servants. **21** He restored the chief cup bearer to his position again, and he gave the cup into Pharaoh’s hand; **22** but he hanged the chief baker, as Joseph had interpreted to them. **23** Yet the chief cup bearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

**41** At the end of two full years, Pharaoh dreamed, and behold, he stood by the river. **2** Behold, seven cattle came up out of the river. They were sleek and fat, and they fed in the marsh grass. **3** Behold, seven other cattle came up after them out of the river, ugly and thin, and stood by the other cattle on the brink of the river. **4** The ugly and thin cattle ate up the seven sleek and fat cattle. So Pharaoh awoke. **5** He slept and dreamed a second time; and behold, seven heads of grain came up on one stalk, healthy and good. **6** Behold, seven heads of grain, thin and blasted with the east wind, sprung up after them. **7** The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven healthy and full ears. Pharaoh awoke, and behold, it was a dream. **8** In the morning, his spirit was troubled, and he sent and called for all of Egypt’s magicians and wise men. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was no one who could interpret them to Pharaoh. **9** Then the chief cup bearer spoke to Pharaoh, saying, “I remember my faults today. **10** Pharaoh was angry with his servants, and put me in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, with the chief baker. **11**

We dreamed a dream in one night, he and I. Each man dreamed according to the interpretation of his dream. **12** There was with us there a young man, a Hebrew, servant to the captain of the guard, and we told him, and he interpreted to us our dreams. He interpreted to each man according to his dream. **13** As he interpreted to us, so it was. He restored me to my office, and he hanged him.” **14** Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon. He shaved himself, changed his clothing, and came in to Pharaoh. **15** Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I have dreamed a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. I have heard it said of you, that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.” **16** Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, “It is not in me. God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace.” **17** Pharaoh spoke to Joseph, “In my dream, behold, I stood on the brink of the river; **18** and behold, seven fat and sleek cattle came up out of the river. They fed in the marsh grass; **19** and behold, seven other cattle came up after them, poor and very ugly and thin, such as I never saw in all the land of Egypt for ugliness. **20** The thin and ugly cattle ate up the first seven fat cattle; **21** and when they had eaten them up, it could not be known that they had eaten them, but they were still ugly, as at the beginning. So I awoke. **22** I saw in my dream, and behold, seven heads of grain came up on one stalk, full and good; **23** and behold, seven heads of grain, withered, thin, and blasted with the east wind, sprung up after them. **24** The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven good heads of grain. I told it to the magicians, but there was no one who could explain it to me.” **25** Joseph said to Pharaoh, “The dream of Pharaoh is one. What God is about to do he has declared to Pharaoh. **26** The seven good cattle are seven years; and the seven good heads of grain are seven years. The dream is one. **27** The seven thin and ugly cattle that came up after them are seven years, and also the seven empty heads of grain blasted with the east wind; they will be seven years of famine. **28** That is the thing which I have spoken to Pharaoh. God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do. **29** Behold, seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt are coming. **30** Seven years of famine will arise after them, and all the plenty will be forgotten in

the land of Egypt. The famine will consume the land, 31 and the plenty will not be known in the land by reason of that famine which follows; for it will be very grievous. 32 The dream was doubled to Pharaoh, because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass. 33 "Now therefore let Pharaoh look for a discreet and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt. 34 Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint overseers over the land, and take up the fifth part of the land of Egypt's produce in the seven plenteous years. 35 Let them gather all the food of these good years that come, and store grain under the hand of Pharaoh for food in the cities, and let them keep it. 36 The food will be to supply the land against the seven years of famine, which will be in the land of Egypt; so that the land will not perish through the famine." 37 The thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants. 38 Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?" 39 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Because God has shown you all of this, there is no one so discreet and wise as you. 40 You shall be over my house. All my people will be ruled according to your word. Only in the throne I will be greater than you." 41 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Behold, I have set you over all the land of Egypt." 42 Pharaoh took off his signet ring from his hand, and put it on Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in robes of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck. 43 He made him ride in the second chariot which he had. They cried before him, "Bow the knee!" He set him over all the land of Egypt. 44 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh. Without you, no man shall lift up his hand or his foot in all the land of Egypt." 45 Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphenath-Paneah. He gave him Asenath, the daughter of Potiphra priest of On as a wife. Joseph went out over the land of Egypt. 46 Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt. 47 In the seven plenteous years the earth produced abundantly. 48 He gathered up all the food of the seven years which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities. He stored food in each city from the fields around that city. 49 Joseph laid up grain as the sand of the sea, very

much, until he stopped counting, for it was without number. 50 To Joseph were born two sons before the year of famine came, whom Asenath, the daughter of Potiphra priest of On, bore to him. 51 Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh, "For", he said, "God has made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house." 52 The name of the second, he called Ephraim: "For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction." 53 The seven years of plenty, that were in the land of Egypt, came to an end. 54 The seven years of famine began to come, just as Joseph had said. There was famine in all lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread. 55 When all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread, and Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph. What he says to you, do." 56 The famine was over all the surface of the earth. Joseph opened all the store houses, and sold to the Egyptians. The famine was severe in the land of Egypt. 57 All countries came into Egypt, to Joseph, to buy grain, because the famine was severe in all the earth.

**42** Now Jacob saw that there was grain in Egypt, and Jacob said to his sons, "Why do you look at one another?" 2 He said, "Behold, I have heard that there is grain in Egypt. Go down there, and buy for us from there, so that we may live, and not die." 3 Joseph's ten brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt. 4 But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with his brothers; for he said, "Lest perhaps harm happen to him." 5 The sons of Israel came to buy among those who came, for the famine was in the land of Canaan. 6 Joseph was the governor over the land. It was he who sold to all the people of the land. Joseph's brothers came, and bowed themselves down to him with their faces to the earth. 7 Joseph saw his brothers, and he recognized them, but acted like a stranger to them, and spoke roughly with them. He said to them, "Where did you come from?" They said, "From the land of Canaan, to buy food." 8 Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him. 9 Joseph remembered the dreams which he dreamed about them, and said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see the nakedness of the land." 10 They said to him, "No, my lord, but your servants have come to buy food. 11 We are all

one man's sons; we are honest men. Your servants are not spies." 12 He said to them, "No, but you have come to see the nakedness of the land!" 13 They said, "We, your servants, are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; and behold, the youngest is today with our father, and one is no more." 14 Joseph said to them, "It is like I told you, saying, 'You are spies!' 15 By this you shall be tested. By the life of Pharaoh, you shall not go out from here, unless your youngest brother comes here. 16 Send one of you, and let him get your brother, and you shall be bound, that your words may be tested, whether there is truth in you, or else by the life of Pharaoh surely you are spies." 17 He put them all together into custody for three days. 18 Joseph said to them the third day, "Do this, and live, for I fear God. 19 If you are honest men, then let one of your brothers be bound in your prison; but you go, carry grain for the famine of your houses. 20 Bring your youngest brother to me; so will your words be verified, and you will not die." They did so. 21 They said to one another, "We are certainly guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he begged us, and we would not listen. Therefore this distress has come upon us." 22 Reuben answered them, saying, "Did not I tell you, saying, 'Do not sin against the child,' and you would not listen? Therefore also, behold, his blood is required." 23 They did not know that Joseph understood them; for there was an interpreter between them. 24 He turned himself away from them, and wept. Then he returned to them, and spoke to them, and took Simeon from among them, and bound him before their eyes. 25 Then Joseph gave a command to fill their bags with grain, and to restore each man's money into his sack, and to give them food for the way. So it was done to them. 26 They loaded their donkeys with their grain, and departed from there. 27 As one of them opened his sack to give his donkey food in the lodging place, he saw his money. Behold, it was in the mouth of his sack. 28 He said to his brothers, "My money is restored! Behold, it is in my sack!" Their hearts failed them, and they turned trembling to one another, saying, "What is this that God has done to us?" 29 They came to Jacob their father, to the land of Canaan, and told him all that had happened to them, saying, 30 "The man,

the lord of the land, spoke roughly with us, and took us for spies of the country. 31 We said to him, 'We are honest men. We are no spies. 32 We are twelve brothers, sons of our father; one is no more, and the youngest is today with our father in the land of Canaan.' 33 The man, the lord of the land, said to us, 'By this I will know that you are honest men: leave one of your brothers with me, and take grain for the famine of your houses, and go your way. 34 Bring your youngest brother to me. Then I will know that you are not spies, but that you are honest men. So I will deliver your brother to you, and you shall trade in the land.'" 35 As they emptied their sacks, behold, each man's bundle of money was in his sack. When they and their father saw their bundles of money, they were afraid. 36 Jacob, their father, said to them, "You have bereaved me of my children! Joseph is no more, Simeon is no more, and you want to take Benjamin away. All these things are against me." 37 Reuben spoke to his father, saying, "Kill my two sons, if I do not bring him to you. Entrust him to my care, and I will bring him to you again." 38 He said, "My son shall not go down with you; for his brother is dead, and he only is left. If harm happens to him along the way in which you go, then you will bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to Sheol (Sheol h7585)."

**43** The famine was severe in the land. 2 When they had eaten up the grain which they had brought out of Egypt, their father said to them, "Go again, buy us a little more food." 3 Judah spoke to him, saying, "The man solemnly warned us, saying, 'You shall not see my face, unless your brother is with you.' 4 If you will send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food; 5 but if you do not send him, we will not go down, for the man said to us, 'You shall not see my face, unless your brother is with you.'" 6 Israel said, "Why did you treat me so badly, telling the man that you had another brother?" 7 They said, "The man asked directly concerning ourselves, and concerning our relatives, saying, 'Is your father still alive? Have you another brother?' We just answered his questions. Is there any way we could know that he would say, 'Bring your brother down?'" 8 Judah said to Israel, his father, "Send the boy with me, and we will get up and go, so that we may live, and not die, both we, and you, and also our little ones. 9 I will be

collateral for him. From my hand will you require him. If I do not bring him to you, and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever; 10 for if we had not delayed, surely we would have returned a second time by now." 11 Their father, Israel, said to them, "If it must be so, then do this: Take from the choice fruits of the land in your bags, and carry down a present for the man, a little balm, a little honey, spices and myrrh, nuts, and almonds; 12 and take double money in your hand, and take back the money that was returned in the mouth of your sacks. Perhaps it was an oversight. 13 Take your brother also, get up, and return to the man. 14 May God Almighty give you mercy before the man, that he may release to you your other brother and Benjamin. If I am bereaved of my children, I am bereaved." 15 The men took that present, and they took double money in their hand, and Benjamin; and got up, went down to Egypt, and stood before Joseph. 16 When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the steward of his house, "Bring the men into the house, and butcher an animal, and prepare; for the men will dine with me at noon." 17 The man did as Joseph commanded, and the man brought the men to Joseph's house. 18 The men were afraid, because they were brought to Joseph's house; and they said, "Because of the money that was returned in our sacks the first time, we are brought in; that he may seek occasion against us, attack us, and seize us as slaves, along with our donkeys." 19 They came near to the steward of Joseph's house, and they spoke to him at the door of the house, 20 and said, "Oh, my lord, we indeed came down the first time to buy food. 21 When we came to the lodging place, we opened our sacks, and behold, each man's money was in the mouth of his sack, our money in full weight. We have brought it back in our hand. 22 We have brought down other money in our hand to buy food. We do not know who put our money in our sacks." 23 He said, "Peace be to you. Do not be afraid. Your God, and the God of your father, has given you treasure in your sacks. I received your money." He brought Simeon out to them. 24 The man brought the men into Joseph's house, and gave them water, and they washed their feet. He gave their donkeys fodder. 25 They prepared the present for Joseph's coming at noon, for they heard that they should eat bread there. 26 When Joseph came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house, and bowed themselves down to the earth before him. 27 He asked them of their welfare, and said, "Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he yet alive?" 28 They said, "Your servant, our father, is well. He is still alive." They bowed down humbly. 29 He lifted up his eyes, and saw Benjamin, his brother, his mother's son, and said, "Is this your youngest brother, of whom you spoke to me?" He said, "God be gracious to you, my son." 30 Joseph hurried, for his heart yearned over his brother; and he sought a place to weep. He entered into his room, and wept there. 31 He washed his face, and came out. He controlled himself, and said, "Serve the meal." 32 They served him by himself, and them by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves, because the Egyptians do not eat with the Hebrews, for that is an abomination to the Egyptians. 33 They sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright, and the youngest according to his youth, and the men marveled with one another. 34 He sent portions to them from before him, but Benjamin's portion was five times as much as any of theirs. They drank, and were merry with him.

**44** He commanded the steward of his house, saying, "Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put each man's money in his sack's mouth. 2 Put my cup, the silver cup, in the sack's mouth of the youngest, with his grain money." He did according to the word that Joseph had spoken. 3 As soon as the morning was light, the men were sent away, they and their donkeys. 4 When they had gone out of the city, and were not yet far off, Joseph said to his steward, "Up, follow after the men. When you overtake them, ask them, 'Why have you rewarded evil for good?' 5 Is not this that from which my lord drinks, and by which he indeed divines? You have done evil in so doing.'" 6 He overtook them, and he spoke these words to them. 7 They said to him, "Why does my lord speak such words as these? Far be it from your servants that they should do such a thing! 8 Behold, the money, which we found in our sacks' mouths, we brought again to you out of the land of Canaan. How then should we steal silver or gold out of your lord's house? 9 With whomever of

your servants it is found, let him die, and we also will be my lord's slaves." 10 He said, "Now also let it be according to your words. He with whom it is found will be my slave; and you will be blameless." 11 Then they hurried, and each man took his sack down to the ground, and each man opened his sack. 12 He searched, beginning with the oldest, and ending at the youngest. The cup was found in Benjamin's sack. 13 Then they tore their clothes, and each man loaded his donkey, and returned to the city. 14 Judah and his brothers came to Joseph's house, and he was still there. They fell on the ground before him. 15 Joseph said to them, "What deed is this that you have done? Do not you know that such a man as I can indeed do divination?" 16 Judah said, "What will we tell my lord? What will we speak? How will we clear ourselves? God has found out the iniquity of your servants. Behold, we are my lord's slaves, both we and he also in whose hand the cup is found." 17 He said, "Far be it from me that I should do so. The man in whose hand the cup is found, he will be my slave; but as for you, go up in peace to your father." 18 Then Judah came near to him, and said, "Oh, my lord, please let your servant speak a word in my lord's ears, and do not let your anger burn against your servant; for you are even as Pharaoh. 19 My lord asked his servants, saying, 'Have you a father, or a brother?' 20 We said to my lord, 'We have a father, an old man, and a child of his old age, a little one; and his brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother; and his father loves him.' 21 You said to your servants, 'Bring him down to me, that I may set my eyes on him.' 22 We said to my lord, 'The boy cannot leave his father, for if he should leave his father, his father would die.' 23 You said to your servants, 'Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you will see my face no more.' 24 When we came up to your servant my father, we told him the words of my lord. 25 Our father said, 'Go again and buy us a little food.' 26 We said, 'We cannot go down. If our youngest brother is with us, then we will go down: for we may not see the man's face, unless our youngest brother is with us.' 27 Your servant, my father, said to us, 'You know that my wife bore me two sons. 28 One went out from me, and I said, "Surely he is torn in pieces;" and I have not seen him since. 29 If you take

this one also from me, and harm happens to him, you will bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to Sheol (Sheol h7585).' 30 Now therefore when I come to your servant my father, and the boy is not with us; since his life is bound up in the boy's life; 31 it will happen, when he sees that the boy is no more, that he will die. Your servants will bring down the gray hairs of your servant, our father, with sorrow to Sheol (Sheol h7585). 32 For your servant became collateral for the boy to my father, saying, 'If I do not bring him to you, then I will bear the blame to my father forever.' 33 Now therefore, please let your servant stay instead of the boy, my lord's slave; and let the boy go up with his brothers. 34 For how will I go up to my father, if the boy is not with me?—lest I see the evil that will come on my father."

**45** Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood before him, and he called out, "Cause everyone to go out from me!" No one else stood with him, while Joseph made himself known to his brothers. 2 He wept aloud. The Egyptians heard, and the house of Pharaoh heard. 3 Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Does my father still live?" His brothers could not answer him; for they were terrified at his presence. 4 Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." They came near. He said, "I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 Now do not be grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6 For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are yet five years, in which there will be no plowing and no harvest. 7 God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to save you alive by a great deliverance. 8 So now it was not you who sent me here, but God, and he has made me a father to Pharaoh, lord of all his house, and ruler over all the land of Egypt. 9 Hurry, and go up 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. Do not wait. 10 You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you will be near to me, you, your children, your children's children, your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. 11 There I will provide for you; for there are yet five years of famine; lest you come to poverty, you, and your household, and all that you have.'" 12



Behold, your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. 13 You shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. You shall hurry and bring my father down here." 14 He fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. 15 He kissed all his brothers, and wept on them. After that his brothers talked with him. 16 The report of it was heard in Pharaoh's house, saying, "Joseph's brothers have come." It pleased Pharaoh well, and his servants. 17 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Tell your brothers, 'Do this: Load your animals, and go, travel to the land of Canaan. 18 Take your father and your households, and come to me, and I will give you the good of the land of Egypt, and you will eat the fat of the land.' 19 Now you are commanded to do this: Take wagons out of the land of Egypt for your little ones, and for your wives, and bring your father, and come. 20 Also, do not concern yourselves about your belongings, for the good of all the land of Egypt is yours." 21 The sons of Israel did so. Joseph gave them wagons, according to the commandment of Pharaoh, and gave them provision for the way. 22 He gave each one of them changes of clothing, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver and five changes of clothing. 23 He sent the following to his father: ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain and bread and provision for his father by the way. 24 So he sent his brothers away, and they departed. He said to them, "See that you do not quarrel on the way." 25 They went up out of Egypt, and came into the land of Canaan, to Jacob their father. 26 They told him, saying, "Joseph is still alive, and he is ruler over all the land of Egypt." His heart fainted, for he did not believe them. 27 They told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said to them. When he saw the wagons which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob, their father, revived. 28 Israel said, "It is enough. Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

**46** Israel traveled with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father, Isaac. 2 God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!" He said, "Here I am." 3 He said, "I am God, the God of your father.

Do not be afraid to go down into Egypt, for there I will make of you a great nation. 4 I will go down with you into Egypt. I will also surely bring you up again. Joseph's hand will close your eyes." 5 Jacob rose up from Beersheba, and the sons of Israel carried Jacob, their father, their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons which Pharaoh had sent to carry him. 6 They took their livestock, and their goods, which they had gotten in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt—Jacob, and all his offspring with him, 7 his sons, and his sons' sons with him, his daughters, and his sons' daughters, and he brought all his offspring with him into Egypt. 8 These are the names of the children of Israel, who came into Egypt, Jacob and his sons: Reuben, Jacob's firstborn. 9 The sons of Reuben: Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi. 10 The sons of Simeon: Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul the son of a Canaanite woman. 11 The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. 12 The sons of Judah: Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez, and Zerah; but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan. The sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul. 13 The sons of Issachar: Tola, Puvah, Job, and Shimron. 14 The sons of Zebulun: Sered, Elon, and Jahleel. 15 These are the sons of Leah, whom she bore to Jacob in Paddan Aram, with his daughter Dinah. All the souls of his sons and his daughters were thirty-three. 16 The sons of Gad: Ziphion, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi, and Areli. 17 The sons of Asher: Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, Beriah, and Serah their sister. The sons of Beriah: Heber and Malchiel. 18 These are the sons of Zilpah, whom Laban gave to Leah, his daughter, and these she bore to Jacob, even sixteen souls. 19 The sons of Rachel, Jacob's wife: Joseph and Benjamin. 20 To Joseph in the land of Egypt were born Manasseh and Ephraim, whom Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, bore to him. 21 The sons of Benjamin: Bela, Becher, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim, and Ard. 22 These are the sons of Rachel, who were born to Jacob: all the souls were fourteen. 23 The son of Dan: Hushim. 24 The sons of Naphtali: Jahzeel, Guni, Jezer, and Shillem. 25 These are the sons of Bilhah, whom Laban gave to Rachel, his daughter, and these she bore to Jacob: all the souls were seven. 26 All the souls who came with Jacob into Egypt, who were his direct offspring, in

addition to Jacob's sons' wives, all the souls were sixty-six. 27 The sons of Joseph, who were born to him in Egypt, were two souls. All the souls of the house of Jacob, who came into Egypt, were seventy. 28 Jacob sent Judah before him to Joseph, to show the way before him to Goshen, and they came into the land of Goshen. 29 Joseph prepared his chariot, and went up to meet Israel, his father, in Goshen. He presented himself to him, and fell on his neck, and wept on his neck a good while. 30 Israel said to Joseph, "Now let me die, since I have seen your face, that you are still alive." 31 Joseph said to his brothers, and to his father's house, "I will go up, and speak with Pharaoh, and will tell him, 'My brothers, and my father's house, who were in the land of Canaan, have come to me. 32 These men are shepherds, for they have been keepers of livestock, and they have brought their flocks, and their herds, and all that they have.' 33 It will happen, when Pharaoh summons you, and will say, 'What is your occupation?' 34 that you shall say, 'Your servants have been keepers of livestock from our youth even until now, both we, and our fathers:' that you may dwell in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians."

**47** Then Joseph went in and told Pharaoh, and said, "My father and my brothers, with their flocks, their herds, and all that they own, have come out of the land of Canaan; and behold, they are in the land of Goshen." 2 From among his brothers he took five men, and presented them to Pharaoh. 3 Pharaoh said to his brothers, "What is your occupation?" They said to Pharaoh, "Your servants are shepherds, both we, and our fathers." 4 They also said to Pharaoh, "We have come to live as foreigners in the land, for there is no pasture for your servants' flocks. For the famine is severe in the land of Canaan. Now therefore, please let your servants dwell in the land of Goshen." 5 Pharaoh spoke to Joseph, saying, "Your father and your brothers have come to you. 6 The land of Egypt is before you. Make your father and your brothers dwell in the best of the land. Let them dwell in the land of Goshen. If you know any able men among them, then put them in charge of my livestock." 7 Joseph brought in Jacob, his father, and set him before Pharaoh; and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.

8 Pharaoh said to Jacob, "How old are you?" 9 Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The years of my pilgrimage are one hundred thirty years. The days of the years of my life have been few and evil. They have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage." 10 Jacob blessed Pharaoh, and went out from the presence of Pharaoh. 11 Joseph placed his father and his brothers, and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded. 12 Joseph provided his father, his brothers, and all of his father's household with bread, according to the sizes of their families. 13 There was no bread in all the land; for the famine was very severe, so that the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan fainted by reason of the famine. 14 Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, for the grain which they bought: and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house. 15 When the money was all spent in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph, and said, "Give us bread, for why should we die in your presence? For our money fails." 16 Joseph said, "Give me your livestock; and I will give you food for your livestock, if your money is gone." 17 They brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them bread in exchange for the horses, and for the flocks, and for the herds, and for the donkeys: and he fed them with bread in exchange for all their livestock for that year. 18 When that year was ended, they came to him the second year, and said to him, "We will not hide from my lord how our money is all spent, and the herds of livestock are my lord's. There is nothing left in the sight of my lord, but our bodies, and our lands. 19 Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for bread, and we and our land will be servants to Pharaoh. Give us seed, that we may live, and not die, and that the land will not be desolate." 20 So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh, for every man of the Egyptians sold his field, because the famine was severe on them, and the land became Pharaoh's. 21 As for the people, he moved them to the cities from one end of the border of Egypt even to the other end of it. 22 Only he did not buy the land of the priests, for the priests

had a portion from Pharaoh, and ate their portion which Pharaoh gave them. That is why they did not sell their land. 23 Then Joseph said to the people, "Behold, I have bought you and your land today for Pharaoh. Behold, here is seed for you, and you shall sow the land. 24 It will happen at the harvests, that you shall give a fifth to Pharaoh, and four parts will be your own, for seed of the field, for your food, for them of your households, and for food for your little ones." 25 They said, "You have saved our lives! Let us find favor in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh's servants." 26 Joseph made it a statute concerning the land of Egypt to this day, that Pharaoh should have the fifth. Only the land of the priests alone did not become Pharaoh's. 27 Israel lived in the land of Egypt, in the land of Goshen; and they got themselves possessions therein, and were fruitful, and multiplied exceedingly. 28 Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years. So the days of Jacob, the years of his life, were one hundred forty-seven years. 29 The time came near that Israel must die, and he called his son Joseph, and said to him, "If now I have found favor in your sight, please put your hand under my thigh, and deal kindly and truly with me. Please do not bury me in Egypt, 30 but when I sleep with my fathers, you shall carry me out of Egypt, and bury me in their burying place." Joseph said, "I will do as you have said." 31 Israel said, "Swear to me," and he swore to him. Then Israel bowed himself on the bed's head.

**48** After these things, someone said to Joseph, "Behold, your father is sick." He took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. 2 Someone told Jacob, and said, "Behold, your son Joseph comes to you," and Israel strengthened himself, and sat on the bed. 3 Jacob said to Joseph, "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and blessed me, 4 and said to me, 'Behold, I will make you fruitful, and multiply you, and I will make of you a company of peoples, and will give this land to your offspring after you for an everlasting possession.' 5 Now your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you into Egypt, are mine; Ephraim and Manasseh, even as Reuben and Simeon, will be mine. 6 Your offspring, whom you become the father of after them, will be yours. They will be called

after the name of their brothers in their inheritance. 7 As for me, when I came from Paddan, Rachel died beside me in the land of Canaan on the way, when there was still some distance to come to Ephrath, and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath (also called Bethlehem)." 8 Israel saw Joseph's sons, and said, "Who are these?" 9 Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons, whom God has given me here." He said, "Please bring them to me, and I will bless them." 10 Now the eyes of Israel were dim for age, so that he could not see well. Joseph brought them near to him; and he kissed them, and embraced them. 11 Israel said to Joseph, "I did not think I would see your face, and behold, God has let me see your offspring also." 12 Joseph brought them out from between his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth. 13 Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near to him. 14 Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it on Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh's head, guiding his hands knowingly, for Manasseh was the firstborn. 15 He blessed Joseph, and said, "The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has fed me all my life long to this day, 16 the angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads, and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac. Let them grow into a multitude upon the earth." 17 When Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him. He held up his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. 18 Joseph said to his father, "Not so, my father, for this is the firstborn. Put your right hand on his head." 19 His father refused, and said, "I know, my son, I know. He also will become a people, and he also will be great. However, his younger brother will be greater than he, and his offspring will become a multitude of nations." 20 He blessed them that day, saying, "Israel will bless in your name, saying, 'God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh'" He set Ephraim before Manasseh. 21 Israel said to Joseph, "Behold, I am dying, but God will be with you, and bring you again to the land of your fathers. 22 Moreover I have given to you one portion above your brothers, which I took

out of the hand of the Amorite with my sword and with my bow."

**49** Jacob called to his sons, and said: "Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which will happen to you in the days to come. **2** Assemble yourselves, and hear, you sons of Jacob. Listen to Israel, your father. **3** "Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, excelling in dignity, and excelling in power. **4** Boiling over like water, you shall not excel, because you went up to your father's bed, then defiled it. He went up to my couch. **5** "Simeon and Levi are brothers. Their swords are weapons of violence. **6** My soul, do not come into their council. My glory, do not be united to their assembly; for in their anger they killed men. In their self-will they hamstrung cattle. **7** Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel. I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel. **8** "Judah, your brothers will praise you. Your hand will be on the neck of your enemies. Your father's sons will bow down before you. **9** Judah is a lion's cub. From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down, he crouched as a lion, as a lioness. Who will rouse him up? **10** The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs. The obedience of the peoples will be to him. **11** Binding his foal to the vine, his donkey's colt to the choice vine, he has washed his garments in wine, his robes in the blood of grapes. **12** His eyes will be red with wine, his teeth white with milk. **13** "Zebulun will dwell at the haven of the sea. He will be for a haven of ships. His border will be on Sidon. **14** "Issachar is a strong donkey, lying down between the saddlebags. **15** He saw a resting place, that it was good, the land, that it was pleasant. He bows his shoulder to the burden, and becomes a servant doing forced labor. **16** "Dan will judge his people, as one of the tribes of Israel. **17** Dan will be a serpent on the trail, an adder in the path, that bites the horse's heels, so that his rider falls backward. **18** I have waited for your salvation, LORD. **19** "A troop will press on Gad, but he will press on their heel. **20** "Asher's food will be rich. He will produce royal dainties. **21** "Naphtali is a doe set free, who bears beautiful fawns. **22** "Joseph is a fruitful vine, a fruitful vine by a spring. His branches run over

the wall. **23** The archers have severely grieved him, shot at him, and persecuted him: **24** But his bow remained strong. The arms of his hands were made strong, by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob, (from there is the shepherd, the stone of Israel), **25** even by the God of your father, who will help you, by the Almighty, who will bless you, with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lies below, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb. **26** The blessings of your father have prevailed above the blessings of my ancestors, above the boundaries of the ancient hills. They will be on the head of Joseph, on the crown of the head of him who is separated from his brothers. **27** "Benjamin is a ravenous wolf. In the morning he will devour the prey. At evening he will divide the plunder." **28** All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father spoke to them, and blessed them. He blessed everyone according to his own blessing. **29** He instructed them, and said to them, "I am to be gathered to my people. Bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, **30** in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite as a burial place. **31** There they buried Abraham and Sarah, his wife. There they buried Isaac and Rebekah, his wife, and there I buried Leah: **32** the field and the cave that is therein, which was purchased from the children of Heth." **33** When Jacob finished charging his sons, he gathered up his feet into the bed, breathed his last breath, and was gathered to his people.

**50** Joseph fell on his father's face, wept on him, and kissed him. **2** Joseph commanded his servants, the physicians, to embalm his father; and the physicians embalmed Israel. **3** Forty days were used for him, for that is how many days it takes to embalm. The Egyptians wept for Israel for seventy days. **4** When the days of weeping for him were past, Joseph spoke to Pharaoh's staff, saying, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, please speak in the ears of Pharaoh, saying, **5** 'My father made me swear, saying, "Behold, I am dying. Bury me in my grave which I have dug for myself in the land of Canaan." Now therefore, please let me go up and bury my

father, and I will come again.” 6 Pharaoh said, “Go up, and bury your father, just like he made you swear.” 7 Joseph went up to bury his father; and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his house, all the elders of the land of Egypt, 8 all the house of Joseph, his brothers, and his father’s herds, they left in the land of Goshen. 9 Both chariots and horsemen went up with him. It was a very great company. 10 They came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, and there they lamented with a very great and severe lamentation. He mourned for his father seven days. 11 When the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning in the floor of Atad, they said, “This is a grievous mourning by the Egyptians.” Therefore its name was called Abel Mizraim, which is beyond the Jordan. 12 His sons did to him just as he commanded them, 13 for his sons carried him into the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, which Abraham bought with the field, as a possession for a burial site, from Ephron the Hittite, near Mamre. 14 Joseph returned into Egypt—he, and his brothers, and all that went up with him to bury his father, after he had buried his father. 15 When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “It may be that Joseph will hate us, and will fully pay us back for all the evil which we did to him.” 16 They sent a message to Joseph, saying, “Your father commanded before he died, saying, 17 ‘You shall tell Joseph, “Now please forgive the disobedience of your brothers, and their sin, because they did evil to you.” Now, please forgive the disobedience of the servants of the God of your father.’” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. 18 His brothers also went and fell down before his face; and they said, “Behold, we are your servants.” 19 Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? 20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to save many people alive, as is happening today. 21 Now therefore do not be afraid. I will provide for you and your little ones.” He comforted them, and spoke kindly to them. 22 Joseph lived in Egypt, he, and his father’s house. Joseph lived one hundred ten years. 23 Joseph saw Ephraim’s children to the third generation. The children also of Machir, the son of

# Exodus

**1** Now these are the names of the sons of Israel, who came into Egypt (every man and his household came with Jacob): **2** Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, **3** Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, **4** Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. **5** All the souls who came out of Jacob's body were seventy souls, and Joseph was in Egypt already. **6** Joseph died, as did all his brothers, and all that generation. **7** The children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them. **8** Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. **9** He said to his people, "Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we. **10** Come, let's deal wisely with them, lest they multiply, and it happen that when any war breaks out, they also join themselves to our enemies and fight against us, and escape out of the land." **11** Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens. They built storage cities for Pharaoh: Pithom and Raamses. **12** But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and the more they spread out. They started to dread the children of Israel. **13** The Egyptians ruthlessly made the children of Israel serve, **14** and they made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and in brick, and in all kinds of service in the field, all their service, in which they ruthlessly made them serve. **15** The king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of the one was Shiphrah, and the name of the other Puah, **16** and he said, "When you perform the duty of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birth stool, if it is a son, then you shall kill him; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live." **17** But the midwives feared God, and did not do what the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the baby boys alive. **18** The king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said to them, "Why have you done this thing and saved the boys alive?" **19** The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." **20** God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied, and grew very mighty. **21** Because the midwives feared

God, he gave them families. **22** Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, "You shall cast every son who is born into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive."

**2** A man of the house of Levi went and took a daughter of Levi as his wife. **2** The woman conceived and bore a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months. **3** When she could no longer hide him, she took a papyrus basket for him, and coated it with tar and with pitch. She put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the river's bank. **4** His sister stood far off, to see what would be done to him. **5** Pharaoh's daughter came down to bathe at the river. Her maidens walked along by the riverside. She saw the basket among the reeds, and sent her servant to get it. **6** She opened it, and saw the child, and behold, the baby cried. She had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." **7** Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Should I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?" **8** Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." The young woman went and called the child's mother. **9** Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away, and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." The woman took the child, and nursed it. **10** The child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, and said, "Because I drew him out of the water." **11** In those days, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his brothers and saw their burdens. He saw an Egyptian striking a Hebrew, one of his brothers. **12** He looked this way and that way, and when he saw that there was no one, he killed the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand. **13** He went out the second day, and behold, two men of the Hebrews were fighting with each other. He said to him who did the wrong, "Why do you strike your fellow?" **14** He said, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you plan to kill me, as you killed the Egyptian?" Moses was afraid, and said, "Surely this thing is known." **15** Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and lived in the land of Midian, and he sat down by a well. **16** Now the priest

of Midian had seven daughters. They came and drew water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. 17 The shepherds came and drove them away; but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock. 18 When they came to Reuel, their father, he said, "How is it that you have returned so early today?" 19 They said, "An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds, and moreover he drew water for us, and watered the flock." 20 He said to his daughters, "Where is he? Why is it that you have left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread." 21 Moses was content to dwell with the man. He gave Moses Zipporah, his daughter. 22 She bore a son, and he named him Gershom, for he said, "I have lived as a foreigner in a foreign land." 23 In the course of those many days, the king of Egypt died, and the children of Israel sighed because of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. 24 God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. 25 God saw the children of Israel, and God understood.

**3** Now Moses was keeping the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the back of the wilderness, and came to God's mountain, to Horeb. 2 The LORD's angel appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the middle of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. 3 Moses said, "I will go now, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." 4 When the LORD saw that he came over to see, God called to him out of the middle of the bush, and said, "Moses! Moses!" He said, "Here I am." 5 He said, "Do not come close. Take off your sandals, for the place you are standing on is holy ground." 6 Moreover he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God. 7 The LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. 8 I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey; to the place of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the

Hivite, and the Jebusite. 9 Now, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to me. Moreover I have seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. 10 Come now therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh, that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." 11 Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" 12 He said, "Certainly I will be with you. This will be the token to you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain." 13 Moses said to God, "Behold, when I come to the children of Israel, and tell 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," and he said, "You shall tell the children of Israel this: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" 15 God said moreover to Moses, "You shall tell the children of Israel this, '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 my memorial to all generations. 16 Go and gather the elders of Israel together, and tell them, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, 'I have surely visited you, and seen that which is done to you in Egypt. 17 I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite, to a land flowing with milk and honey.'" 18 They will listen to your voice. You shall come, you and the elders of Israel, to the king of Egypt, and you shall tell him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Now please let us go three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD, our God.' 19 I know that the king of Egypt will not give you permission to go, no, not by a mighty hand. 20 I will reach out my hand and strike Egypt with all my wonders which I will do among them, and after that he will let you go. 21 I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, and it will happen that when you go, you shall not go empty-handed. 22 But every woman shall ask of her neighbor, and of her who visits her house, jewels of silver, jewels of gold,

and clothing. You shall put them on your sons, and on your daughters. You shall plunder the Egyptians.”

**4** Moses answered, “But, behold, they will not believe me, nor listen to my voice; for they will say, ‘The LORD has not appeared to you.’” **2** The LORD said to him, “What is that in your hand?” He said, “A rod.” **3** He said, “Throw it on the ground.” He threw it on the ground, and it became a snake; and Moses ran away from it. **4** The LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand, and take it by the tail.” He stretched out his hand, and took hold of it, and it became a rod in his hand. **5** “This is so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.” **6** The LORD said furthermore to him, “Now put your hand inside your cloak.” He put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous, as white as snow. **7** He said, “Put your hand inside your cloak again.” He put his hand inside his cloak again, and when he took it out of his cloak, behold, it had turned again as his other flesh. **8** “It will happen, if they will not believe you or listen to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign. **9** It will happen, if they will not believe even these two signs or listen to your voice, that you shall take of the water of the river, and pour it on the dry land. The water which you take out of the river will become blood on the dry land.” **10** Moses said to the LORD, “O Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before now, nor since you have spoken to your servant; for I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.” **11** The LORD said to him, “Who made man’s mouth? Or who makes one mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is not it I, the LORD? **12** Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth, and teach you what you shall speak.” **13** Moses said, “Oh, Lord, please send someone else.” **14** The LORD’s anger burned against Moses, and he said, “What about Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. Also, behold, he is coming out to meet you. When he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. **15** You shall speak to him, and put the words in his mouth. I will be with your mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what you shall do. **16** He will be your spokesman to the people. It will happen that he will be to you a mouth, and you will be to him as God. **17** You shall

take this rod in your hand, with which you shall do the signs.” **18** Moses went and returned to Jethro his father-in-law, and said to him, “Please let me go and return to my brothers who are in Egypt, and see whether they are still alive.” Jethro said to Moses, “Go in peace.” **19** The LORD said to Moses in Midian, “Go, return into Egypt; for all the men who sought your life are dead.” **20** Moses took his wife and his sons, and set them on a donkey, and he returned to the land of Egypt. Moses took God’s rod in his hand. **21** The LORD said to Moses, “When you go back into Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all the wonders which I have put in your hand, but I will harden his heart and he will not let the people go. **22** You shall tell Pharaoh, ‘The LORD says, Israel is my son, my firstborn, **23** and I have said to you, ‘Let my son go, that he may serve me;’ and you have refused to let him go. Behold, I will kill your firstborn son.” **24** On the way at a lodging place, the LORD met Moses and wanted to kill him. **25** Then Zipporah took a flint, and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast it at his feet; and she said, “Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me.” **26** So he let him alone. Then she said, “You are a bridegroom of blood,” because of the circumcision. **27** The LORD said to Aaron, “Go into the wilderness to meet Moses.” He went, and met him on God’s mountain, and kissed him. **28** Moses told Aaron all the LORD’s words with which he had sent him, and all the signs with which he had instructed him. **29** Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel. **30** Aaron spoke all the words which the LORD had spoken to Moses, and did the signs in the sight of the people. **31** The people believed, and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had seen their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshiped.

**5** Afterward Moses and Aaron came, and said to Pharaoh, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says, ‘Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.’” **2** Pharaoh said, “Who is the LORD, that I should listen to his voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and moreover I will not let Israel go.” **3** They said, “The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please let us go three



days' journey into the wilderness, and sacrifice to the LORD, our God, lest he fall on us with pestilence, or with the sword." 4 The king of Egypt said to them, "Why do you, Moses and Aaron, take the people from their work? Get back to your burdens!" 5 Pharaoh said, "Behold, the people of the land are now many, and you make them rest from their burdens." 6 The same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their officers, saying, 7 "You shall no longer give the people straw to make brick, as before. Let them go and gather straw for themselves. 8 You shall require from them the number of the bricks which they made before. You shall not diminish anything of it, for they are idle. Therefore they cry, saying, 'Let's go and sacrifice to our God.' 9 Let heavier work be laid on the men, that they may labor in it. Do not let them pay any attention to lying words." 10 The taskmasters of the people went out with their officers, and they spoke to the people, saying, "This is what Pharaoh says: 'I will not give you straw. 11 Go yourselves, get straw where you can find it, for nothing of your work shall be diminished.'" 12 So the people were scattered abroad throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble for straw. 13 The taskmasters were urgent saying, "Fulfill your work quota daily, as when there was straw!" 14 The officers of the children of Israel, whom Pharaoh's taskmasters had set over them, were beaten, and were asked, "Why have not you fulfilled your quota both yesterday and today, in making brick as before?" 15 Then the officers of the children of Israel came and cried to Pharaoh, saying, "Why do you deal this way with your servants? 16 No straw is given to your servants, and they tell us, 'Make brick!' and behold, your servants are beaten; but the fault is in your own people." 17 But Pharaoh said, "You are idle! You are idle! Therefore you say, 'Let's go and sacrifice to the LORD.' 18 Go therefore now, and work; for no straw shall be given to you; yet you shall deliver the same number of bricks!" 19 The officers of the children of Israel saw that they were in trouble when it was said, "You shall not diminish anything from your daily quota of bricks!" 20 They met Moses and Aaron, who stood along the way, as they came out from Pharaoh. 21 They said to them, "May the LORD look at you and judge, because you have made us a stench to be abhorred in the

eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to kill us!" 22 Moses returned to the LORD, and said, "Lord, why have you brought trouble on this people? Why is it that you have sent me? 23 For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble on this people. You have not rescued your people at all!"

**6** The LORD said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh, for by a strong hand he shall let them go, and by a strong hand he shall drive them out of his land." 2 God spoke to Moses, and said to him, "I am the LORD. 3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty; but by my name the LORD I was not known to them. 4 I have also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their travels, in which they lived as aliens. 5 Moreover I have heard the groaning of the children of Israel, whom the Egyptians keep in bondage, and I have remembered my covenant. 6 Therefore tell the children of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm, and with great judgments. 7 I will take you to myself for a people. I will be your God; and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. 8 I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it to you for a heritage: I am the LORD.'" 9 Moses spoke so to the children of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses for anguish of spirit, and for cruel bondage. 10 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 11 "Go in, speak to Pharaoh king of Egypt, that he let the children of Israel go out of his land." 12 Moses spoke before the LORD, saying, "Behold, the children of Israel have not listened to me. How then shall Pharaoh listen to me, when I have uncircumcised lips?" 13 The LORD spoke to Moses and to Aaron, and gave them a command to the children of Israel, and to Pharaoh king of Egypt, to bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt. 14 These are the heads of their fathers' houses. The sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel: Hanoch, and Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi; these are the families of Reuben. 15 The sons of Simeon: Jemuel, and Jamin, and Ohad, and

Jachin, and Zohar, and Shaul the son of a Canaanite woman; these are the families of Simeon. 16 These are the names of the sons of Levi according to their generations: Gershon, and Kohath, and Merari; and the years of the life of Levi were one hundred thirty-seven years. 17 The sons of Gershon: Libni and Shimei, according to their families. 18 The sons of Kohath: Amram, and Izhar, and Hebron, and Uzziel; and the years of the life of Kohath were one hundred thirty-three years. 19 The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi. These are the families of the Levites according to their generations. 20 Amram took Jochebed his father's sister to himself as wife; and she bore him Aaron and Moses. The years of the life of Amram were one hundred thirty-seven years. 21 The sons of Izhar: Korah, and Nepheg, and Zichri. 22 The sons of Uzziel: Mishael, Elzaphan, and Sithri. 23 Aaron took Elisheba, the daughter of Amminadab, the sister of Nahshon, as his wife; and she bore him Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. 24 The sons of Korah: Assir, Elkanah, and Abiasaph; these are the families of the Korahites. 25 Eleazar Aaron's son took one of the daughters of Putiel as his wife; and she bore him Phinehas. These are the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites according to their families. 26 These are that Aaron and Moses to whom the LORD said, "Bring out the children of Israel from the land of Egypt according to their armies." 27 These are those who spoke to Pharaoh king of Egypt, to bring out the children of Israel from Egypt. These are that Moses and Aaron. 28 On the day when the LORD spoke to Moses in the land of Egypt, 29 The LORD said to Moses, "I am the LORD. Tell Pharaoh king of Egypt all that I tell you." 30 Moses said before the LORD, "Behold, I am of uncircumcised lips, and how shall Pharaoh listen to me?"

**7** The LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I have made you as God to Pharaoh; and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet. 2 You shall speak all that I command you; and Aaron your brother shall speak to Pharaoh, that he let the children of Israel go out of his land. 3 I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt. 4 But Pharaoh will not listen to you, so I will lay my hand on Egypt, and bring out my armies, my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great

judgments. 5 The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD when I stretch out my hand on Egypt, and bring the children of Israel out from among them." 6 Moses and Aaron did so. As the LORD commanded them, so they did. 7 Moses was eighty years old, and Aaron eighty-three years old, when they spoke to Pharaoh. 8 The LORD spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying, 9 "When Pharaoh speaks to you, saying, 'Perform a miracle!' then you shall tell Aaron, 'Take your rod, and cast it down before Pharaoh, and it will become a serpent.'" 10 Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh, and they did so, as the LORD had commanded. Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it became a serpent. 11 Then Pharaoh also called for the wise men and the sorcerers. They also, the magicians of Egypt, did the same thing with their enchantments. 12 For they each cast down their rods, and they became serpents; but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods. 13 Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had spoken. 14 The LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart is stubborn. He refuses to let the people go. 15 Go to Pharaoh in the morning. Behold, he is going out to the water. You shall stand by the river's bank to meet him. You shall take the rod which was turned to a serpent in your hand. 16 You shall tell him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to you, saying, "Let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness. Behold, until now you have not listened." 17 The LORD says, "In this you shall know that I am the LORD. Behold: I will strike with the rod that is in my hand on the waters which are in the river, and they shall be turned to blood. 18 The fish that are in the river will die and the river will become foul. The Egyptians will loathe to drink water from the river.'" 19 The LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Take your rod, and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their rivers, over their streams, and over their pools, and over all their ponds of water, that they may become blood. There will be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone.'" 20 Moses and Aaron did so, as the LORD commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and struck the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that were in

the river were turned to blood. 21 The fish that were in the river died. The river became foul. The Egyptians could not drink water from the river. The blood was throughout all the land of Egypt. 22 The magicians of Egypt did the same thing with their enchantments. So Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had spoken. 23 Pharaoh turned and went into his house, and he did not even take this to heart. 24 All the Egyptians dug around the river for water to drink; for they could not drink the river water. 25 Seven days were fulfilled, after the LORD had struck the river.

**8** The LORD spoke to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh, and tell him, 'This is what the LORD says, "Let my people go, that they may serve me. 2 If you refuse to let them go, behold, I will plague all your borders with frogs. 3 The river will swarm with frogs, which will go up and come into your house, and into your bedroom, and on your bed, and into the house of your servants, and on your people, and into your ovens, and into your kneading troughs. 4 The frogs shall come up both on you, and on your people, and on all your servants.'"" 5 The LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Stretch out your hand with your rod over the rivers, over the streams, and over the pools, and cause frogs to come up on the land of Egypt.'" 6 Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt; and the frogs came up, and covered the land of Egypt. 7 The magicians did the same thing with their enchantments, and brought up frogs on the land of Egypt. 8 Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, "Entreat the LORD, that he take away the frogs from me and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may sacrifice to the LORD." 9 Moses said to Pharaoh, "I give you the honor of setting the time that I should pray for you, and for your servants, and for your people, that the frogs be destroyed from you and your houses, and remain in the river only." 10 Pharaoh said, "Tomorrow." Moses said, "Let it be according to your word, that you may know that there is no one like the LORD our God. 11 The frogs shall depart from you, and from your houses, and from your servants, and from your people. They shall remain in the river only." 12 Moses and Aaron went out from Pharaoh, and Moses cried to the LORD concerning the frogs which he had

brought on Pharaoh. 13 The LORD did according to the word of Moses, and the frogs died out of the houses, out of the courts, and out of the fields. 14 They gathered them together in heaps, and the land stank. 15 But when Pharaoh saw that there was a respite, he hardened his heart, and did not listen to them, as the LORD had spoken. 16 The LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Stretch out your rod, and strike the dust of the earth, that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt.'" 17 They did so; and Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod, and struck the dust of the earth, and there were lice on man, and on animal; all the dust of the earth became lice throughout all the land of Egypt. 18 The magicians tried with their enchantments to produce lice, but they could not. There were lice on man, and on animal. 19 Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is God's finger;" but Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had spoken. 20 The LORD said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh; behold, he comes out to the water; and tell him, 'This is what the LORD says, "Let my people go, that they may serve me. 21 Else, if you will not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you, and on your servants, and on your people, and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground they are on. 22 I will set apart in that day the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there, to the end you may know that I am the LORD on the earth. 23 I will put a division between my people and your people. This sign shall happen by tomorrow.'"" 24 The LORD did so; and there came grievous swarms of flies into the house of Pharaoh, and into his servants' houses. In all the land of Egypt the land was corrupted by reason of the swarms of flies. 25 Pharaoh called for Moses and for Aaron, and said, "Go, sacrifice to your God in the land!" 26 Moses said, "It is not appropriate to do so; for we shall sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians to the LORD our God. Behold, if we sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians before their eyes, will not they stone us? 27 We will go three days' journey into the wilderness, and sacrifice to the LORD our God, as he shall command us." 28 Pharaoh said, "I will let you go, that you may sacrifice to the LORD

your God in the wilderness, only you shall not go very far away. Pray for me.” 29 Moses said, “Behold, I am going out from you. I will pray to the LORD that the swarms of flies may depart from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people, tomorrow; only do not let Pharaoh deal deceitfully any more in not letting the people go to sacrifice to the LORD.” 30 Moses went out from Pharaoh, and prayed to the LORD. 31 The LORD did according to the word of Moses, and he removed the swarms of flies from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people. There remained not one. 32 Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also, and he did not let the people go.

**9** Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go in to Pharaoh, and tell him, ‘This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: “Let my people go, that they may serve me. 2 For if you refuse to let them go, and hold them still, 3 behold, the LORD’s hand is on your livestock which are in the field, on the horses, on the donkeys, on the camels, on the herds, and on the flocks with a very grievous pestilence. 4 The LORD will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt; and nothing shall die of all that belongs to the children of Israel.”’” 5 The LORD appointed a set time, saying, “Tomorrow the LORD shall do this thing in the land.” 6 The LORD did that thing on the next day; and all the livestock of Egypt died, but of the livestock of the children of Israel, not one died. 7 Pharaoh sent, and, behold, there was not so much as one of the livestock of the Israelites dead. But the heart of Pharaoh was stubborn, and he did not let the people go. 8 The LORD said to Moses and to Aaron, “Take handfuls of ashes of the furnace, and let Moses sprinkle it toward the sky in the sight of Pharaoh. 9 It shall become small dust over all the land of Egypt, and shall be boils and blisters breaking out on man and on animal, throughout all the land of Egypt.” 10 They took ashes of the furnace, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses sprinkled it up toward the sky; and it became boils and blisters breaking out on man and on animal. 11 The magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils; for the boils were on the magicians and on all the Egyptians. 12 The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had spoken to

Moses. 13 The LORD said to Moses, “Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh, and tell him, ‘This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: “Let my people go, that they may serve me. 14 For this time I will send all my plagues against your heart, against your officials, and against your people; that you may know that there is no one like me in all the earth. 15 For now I would have stretched out my hand, and struck you and your people with pestilence, and you would have been cut off from the earth; 16 but indeed for this cause I have made you stand: to show you my power, and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth, 17 because you still exalt yourself against my people, that you will not let them go. 18 Behold, tomorrow about this time I will cause it to rain a very grievous hail, such as has not been in Egypt since the day it was founded even until now. 19 Now therefore command that all of your livestock and all that you have in the field be brought into shelter. The hail will come down on every man and animal that is found in the field, and is not brought home, and they will die.”’” 20 Those who feared the LORD’s word among the servants of Pharaoh made their servants and their livestock flee into the houses. 21 Whoever did not respect the LORD’s word left his servants and his livestock in the field. 22 The LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward the sky, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt, on man, and on animal, and on every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt.” 23 Moses stretched out his rod toward the heavens, and the LORD sent thunder and hail; and lightning flashed down to the earth. The LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt. 24 So there was very severe hail, and lightning mixed with the hail, such as had not been in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. 25 The hail struck throughout all the land of Egypt all that was in the field, both man and animal; and the hail struck every herb of the field, and broke every tree of the field. 26 Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, there was no hail. 27 Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron, and said to them, “I have sinned this time. The LORD is righteous, and I and my people are wicked. 28 Pray to the LORD; for there has been enough of mighty thunderings and hail. I will let you go, and you shall

stay no longer.” 29 Moses said to him, “As soon as I have gone out of the city, I will spread out my hands to the LORD. The thunders shall cease, and there will not be any more hail; that you may know that the earth is the LORD’s. 30 But as for you and your servants, I know that you do not yet fear the LORD God.” 31 The flax and the barley were struck, for the barley had ripened and the flax was blooming. 32 But the wheat and the spelt were not struck, for they had not grown up. 33 Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh, and spread out his hands to the LORD; and the thunders and hail ceased, and the rain was not poured on the earth. 34 When Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunders had ceased, he sinned yet more, and hardened his heart, he and his servants. 35 The heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the children of Israel go, just as the LORD had spoken through Moses.

**10** The LORD said to Moses, “Go in to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that I may show these my signs among them; 2 and that you may tell in the hearing of your son, and of your son’s son, what things I have done to Egypt, and my signs which I have done among them; that you may know that I am the LORD.” 3 Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh, and said to 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, that they may serve me. 4 Or else, if you refuse to let my people go, behold, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your country, 5 and they shall cover the surface of the earth, so that one will not be able to see the earth. They shall eat the residue of that which has escaped, which remains to you from the hail, and shall eat every tree which grows for you out of the field. 6 Your houses shall be filled, and the houses of all your servants, and the houses of all the Egyptians, as neither your fathers nor your fathers’ fathers have seen, since the day that they were on the earth to this day.’” He turned, and went out from Pharaoh. 7 Pharaoh’s servants said to him, “How long will this man be a snare to us? Let the men go, that they may serve the LORD, their God. Do not you yet know that Egypt is destroyed?” 8 Moses and Aaron were brought again to Pharaoh, and he said to

them, “Go, serve the LORD your God; but who are those who will go?” 9 Moses said, “We will go with our young and with our old. We will go with our sons and with our daughters, with our flocks and with our herds; for we must hold a feast to the LORD.” 10 He said to them, “The LORD be with you if I let you go with your little ones! See, evil is clearly before your faces. 11 Not so! Go now you who are men, and serve the LORD; for that is what you desire!” Then they were driven out from Pharaoh’s presence. 12 The LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, that they may come up on the land of Egypt, and eat every herb of the land, even all that the hail has left.” 13 Moses stretched out his rod over the land of Egypt, and the LORD brought an east wind on the land all that day, and all night; and when it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts. 14 The locusts went up over all the land of Egypt, and rested in all the borders of Egypt. They were very grievous. Before them there were no such locusts as they, nor will there ever be again. 15 For they covered the surface of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened, and they ate every herb of the land, and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left. There remained nothing green, either tree or herb of the field, through all the land of Egypt. 16 Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste, and he said, “I have sinned against the LORD your God, and against you. 17 Now therefore please forgive my sin again, and pray to the LORD your God, that he may also take away from me this death.” 18 Moses went out from Pharaoh, and prayed to the LORD. 19 The LORD sent an exceedingly strong west wind, which took up the locusts, and drove them into the Red Sea. There remained not one locust in all the borders of Egypt. 20 But the LORD hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go. 21 The LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward the sky, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt.” 22 Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky, and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt for three days. 23 They did not see one another, and nobody rose from his place for three days; but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings. 24 Pharaoh called to Moses, and said, “Go, serve the LORD. Only let

your flocks and your herds stay behind. Let your little ones also go with you.” 25 Moses said, “You must also give into our hand sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God. 26 Our livestock also shall go with us. Not a hoof shall be left behind, for of it we must take to serve the LORD our God; and we do not know with what we must serve the LORD, until we come there.” 27 But the LORD hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he would not let them go. 28 Pharaoh said to him, “Get away from me! Be careful to see my face no more; for in the day you see my face you shall die!” 29 Moses said, “You have spoken well. I will see your face again no more.”

**11** The LORD said to Moses, “I will bring yet one more plague on Pharaoh, and on Egypt; afterwards he will let you go. When he lets you go, he will surely thrust you out altogether. 2 Speak now in the ears of the people, and let every man ask of his neighbor, and every woman of her neighbor, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold.” 3 The LORD gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover, the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh’s servants, and in the sight of the people. 4 Moses said, “This is what the LORD says: ‘About midnight I will go out into the middle of Egypt, 5 and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the female servant who is behind the mill, and all the firstborn of livestock. 6 There will be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there has not been, nor will be any more. 7 But against any of the children of Israel a dog will not even bark or move its tongue, against man or animal, that you may know that the LORD makes a distinction between the Egyptians and Israel. 8 All these servants of yours will come down to me, and bow down themselves to me, saying, “Get out, with all the people who follow you;” and after that I will go out.” He went out from Pharaoh in hot anger. 9 The LORD said to Moses, “Pharaoh will not listen to you, 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 Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go out of his land.

**12** The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, 2 “This month shall be to you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year to you. 3 Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, ‘On the tenth day of this month, they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to their fathers’ houses, a lamb for a household; 4 and if the household is too little for a lamb, then he and his neighbor next to his house shall take one according to the number of the souls. You shall make your count for the lamb according to what everyone can eat. 5 Your lamb shall be without defect, a male a year old. You shall take it from the sheep or from the goats. 6 You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month; and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at evening. 7 They shall take some of the blood, and put it on the two door posts and on the lintel, on the houses in which they shall eat it. 8 They shall eat the meat in that night, roasted with fire, with unleavened bread. They shall eat it with bitter herbs. 9 Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted with fire; with its head, its legs and its inner parts. 10 You shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; but that which remains of it until the morning you shall burn with fire. 11 This is how you shall eat it: with your belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD’s Passover. 12 For I will go through the land of Egypt in that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and animal. I will execute judgments against all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. 13 The blood shall be to you for a token on the houses where you are. When I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. 14 This day shall be a memorial for you. You shall keep it as a feast to the LORD. You shall keep it as a feast throughout your generations by an ordinance forever. 15 “Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread; even the first day you shall put away yeast out of your houses, for whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel. 16 In the first day there shall be to you a holy convocation, and in the seventh day a holy convocation; no kind of work shall be done in them, except that which every

man must eat, only that may be done by you. 17 You shall observe the feast of unleavened bread; for in this same day I have brought your armies out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations by an ordinance forever. 18 In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty first day of the month at evening. 19 There shall be no yeast found in your houses for seven days, for whoever eats that which is leavened, that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a foreigner, or one who is born in the land. 20 You shall eat nothing leavened. In all your habitations you shall eat unleavened bread." 21 Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said to them, "Draw out, and take lambs according to your families, and kill the Passover. 22 You shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two door posts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning. 23 For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when he sees the blood on the lintel, and on the two door posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not allow the destroyer to come in to your houses to strike you. 24 You shall observe this thing for an ordinance to you and to your sons forever. 25 It shall happen when you have come to the land which the LORD will give you, as he has promised, that you shall keep this service. 26 It will happen, when your children ask you, 'What do you mean by this service?' 27 that you shall say, 'It is the sacrifice of the LORD's Passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians, and spared our houses.'" The people bowed their heads and worshiped. 28 The children of Israel went and did so; as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did. 29 At midnight, the LORD struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock. 30 Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not one dead. 31 He called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, "Rise up, get out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as you have said! 32 Take both your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone; and bless me also!" 33 The Egyptians were urgent with the people, to send them out of the land in haste, for they said, "We are all dead men." 34 The people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading troughs being bound up in their clothes on their shoulders. 35 The children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they asked of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and clothing. 36 The LORD gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. They plundered the Egyptians. 37 The children of Israel traveled from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot who were men, in addition to children. 38 A mixed multitude went up also with them, with flocks, herds, and even very much livestock. 39 They baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they brought out of Egypt; for it was not leavened, because they were thrust out of Egypt, and could not wait, and they had not prepared any food for themselves. 40 Now the time that the children of Israel lived in Egypt was four hundred thirty years. 41 At the end of four hundred thirty years, to the day, all of the LORD's armies went out from the land of Egypt. 42 It is a night to be much observed to the LORD for bringing them out from the land of Egypt. This is that night of the LORD, to be much observed by all the children of Israel throughout their generations. 43 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "This is the ordinance of the Passover. No foreigner shall eat of it, 44 but every man's servant who is bought for money, when you have circumcised him, then shall he eat of it. 45 A foreigner and a hired servant shall not eat of it. 46 It must be eaten in one house. You shall not carry any of the meat outside of the house. Do not break any of its bones. 47 All the congregation of Israel shall keep it. 48 When a stranger lives as a foreigner with you, and would like to keep the Passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it. He shall be as one who is born in the land; but no uncircumcised person shall eat of it. 49 One law shall be to him who is born at home, and to the stranger who lives as a foreigner among

you.” 50 All the children of Israel did so. As the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did. 51 That same day, the LORD brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their armies.

**13** The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “Sanctify to me all the firstborn, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of animal. It is mine.” 3 Moses said to the people, “Remember this day, in which you came out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten. 4 Today you go out in the month Abib. 5 It shall be, when the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanite, and the Hittite, and the Amorite, and the Hivite, and the Jebusite, which he swore to your fathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, that you shall keep this service in this month. 6 Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and in the seventh day shall be a feast to the LORD. 7 Unleavened bread shall be eaten throughout the seven days; and no leavened bread shall be seen with you. No yeast shall be seen with you, within all your borders. 8 You shall tell your son in that day, saying, ‘It is because of that which the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.’ 9 It shall be for a sign to you on your hand, and for a memorial between your eyes, that the LORD’s law may be in your mouth; for with a strong hand the LORD has brought you out of Egypt. 10 You shall therefore keep this ordinance in its season from year to year. 11 “It shall be, when the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanite, as he swore to you and to your fathers, and will give it to you, 12 that you shall set apart to the LORD all that opens the womb, and every firstborn that comes from an animal which you have. The males shall be the LORD’s. 13 Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb; and if you will not redeem it, then you shall break its neck; and you shall redeem all the firstborn of man among your sons. 14 It shall be, when your son asks you in time to come, saying, ‘What is this?’ that you shall tell him, ‘By strength of hand the LORD brought us out from Egypt, from the house of bondage. 15 When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both

the firstborn of man, and the firstborn of livestock. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all that opens the womb, being males; but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’ 16 It shall be for a sign on your hand, and for symbols between your eyes; for by strength of hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt.” 17 When Pharaoh had let the people go, God did not lead them by the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, “Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and they return to Egypt”; 18 but God led the people around by the way of the wilderness by the Red Sea; and the children of Israel went up armed out of the land of Egypt. 19 Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had made the children of Israel swear, saying, “God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones away from here with you.” 20 They took their journey from Succoth, and encamped in Etham, in the edge of the wilderness. 21 The LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud, to lead them on their way, and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light, that they might go by day and by night: 22 the pillar of cloud by day, and the pillar of fire by night, did not depart from before the people.

**14** The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “Speak to the children of Israel, that they turn back and encamp before Pihahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, before Baal Zephon. You shall encamp opposite it by the sea. 3 Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, ‘They are entangled in the land. The wilderness has shut them in.’ 4 I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will follow after them; and I will get honor over Pharaoh, and over all his armies; and the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD.” They did so. 5 The king of Egypt was told that the people had fled; and the heart of Pharaoh and of his servants was changed toward the people, and they said, “What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?” 6 He prepared his chariot, and took his army with him; 7 and he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, with captains over all of them. 8 The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the children of Israel; for the children of Israel went out with a high hand. 9 The Egyptians pursued them. All the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen, and



his army overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pihahiroth, before Baal Zephon. 10 When Pharaoh came near, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them; and they were very afraid. The children of Israel cried out to the LORD. 11 They said to Moses, "Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you treated us this way, to bring us out of Egypt? 12 Is not this the word that we spoke to you in Egypt, saying, 'Leave us alone, 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 Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today; for you will never again see the Egyptians whom you have seen today. 14 The LORD will fight for you, and you shall be still." 15 The LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Speak to the children of Israel, that they go forward. 16 Lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. Then the children of Israel shall go into the middle of the sea on dry ground. 17 Behold, I myself will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they will go in after them. I will get myself honor over Pharaoh, and over all his armies, over his chariots, and over his horsemen. 18 The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD when I have gotten myself honor over Pharaoh, over his chariots, and over his horsemen." 19 The angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from before them, and stood behind them. 20 It came between the camp of Egypt and the camp of Israel. There was the cloud and the darkness, yet it gave light by night. One did not come near the other all night. 21 Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. 22 The children of Israel went into the middle of the sea on the dry ground; and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. 23 The Egyptians pursued, and went in after them into the middle of the sea: all of Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. 24 In the morning watch, the LORD looked out on the Egyptian army through the pillar of fire and of cloud, and confused the Egyptian army. 25 He took off their chariot wheels, and they drove them heavily; so that the Egyptians said, "Let's flee from the face of Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians!" 26 The LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come again on the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen." 27 Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it. The LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the middle of the sea. 28 The waters returned, and covered the chariots and the horsemen, even all Pharaoh's army that went in after them into the sea. There remained not so much as one of them. 29 But the children of Israel walked on dry land in the middle of the sea, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. 30 Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. 31 Israel saw the great work which the LORD did to the Egyptians, and the people feared the LORD; and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

**15** Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and said, "I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously. He has thrown the horse and his rider into the sea. 2 The LORD is my strength and song. He has become my salvation. This is my God, and I will praise him; my father's God, and I will exalt him. 3 The LORD is a man of war. The LORD is his name. 4 He has cast Pharaoh's chariots and his army into the sea. His chosen captains are sunk in the Red Sea. 5 The deeps cover them. They went down into the depths like a stone. 6 Your right hand, LORD, is glorious in power. Your right hand, LORD, dashes the enemy in pieces. 7 In the greatness of your excellency, you overthrow those who rise up against you. You send out your wrath. It consumes them as stubble. 8 With the blast of your nostrils, the waters were piled up. The floods stood upright as a heap. The deeps were congealed in the heart of the sea. 9 The enemy said, 'I will pursue. I will overtake. I will divide the plunder. My desire will be satisfied on them. I will draw my sword. My hand will destroy them.' 10 You blew with

your wind. The sea covered them. They sank like lead in the mighty waters. **11** Who is like you, LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? **12** You stretched out your right hand. The earth swallowed them. **13** "You, in your loving kindness, have led the people that you have redeemed. You have guided them in your strength to your holy habitation. **14** The peoples have heard. They tremble. Pangs have taken hold of the inhabitants of Philistia. **15** Then the chiefs of Edom were dismayed. Trembling takes hold of the mighty men of Moab. All the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away. **16** Terror and dread falls on them. By the greatness of your arm they are as still as a stone, until your people pass over, LORD, until the people you have purchased pass over. **17** You will bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of your inheritance, the place, LORD, which you have made for yourself to dwell in: the sanctuary, Lord, which your hands have established. **18** The LORD will reign forever and ever." **19** For the horses of Pharaoh went in with his chariots and with his horsemen into the sea, and the LORD brought back the waters of the sea on them; but the children of Israel walked on dry land in the middle of the sea. **20** Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dances. **21** Miriam answered them, "Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously. He has thrown the horse and his rider into the sea." **22** Moses led Israel onward from the Red Sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water. **23** When they came to Marah, they could not drink from the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore its name was called Marah. **24** The people murmured against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" **25** Then he cried to the LORD. The LORD showed him a tree, and he threw it into the waters, and the waters were made sweet. There he made a statute and an ordinance for them, and there he tested them. **26** He said, "If you will diligently listen to the LORD your God's voice, and will do that which is right in his eyes, and will pay attention to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I am

the LORD who heals you." **27** They came to Elim, where there were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees. They encamped there by the waters.

**16** They took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt. **2** The whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron in the wilderness; **3** and the children of Israel said to them, "We wish that we had died by the LORD's hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots, when we ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." **4** Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from the sky for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. **5** It shall come to pass on the sixth day, that they shall prepare that which they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily." **6** Moses and Aaron said to all the children of Israel, "At evening, you shall know that the LORD has brought you out from the land of Egypt. **7** In the morning, you shall see the LORD's glory; because he hears your murmurings against the LORD. Who are we, that you murmur against us?" **8** Moses said, "Now the LORD will give you meat to eat in the evening, and in the morning bread to satisfy you, because the LORD hears your murmurings which you murmur against him. And who are we? Your murmurings are not against us, but against the LORD." **9** Moses said to Aaron, "Tell all the congregation of the children of Israel, 'Come close to the LORD, for he has heard your murmurings.'" **10** As Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the children of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the LORD's glory appeared in the cloud. **11** The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, **12** "I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel. Speak to them, saying, 'At evening you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.'" **13** In the evening, quail came up and covered the camp; and in the morning the dew lay around the camp. **14** When the dew that lay had gone, behold, on the

surface of the wilderness was a small round thing, small as the frost on the ground. **15** When the children of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread which the LORD has given you to eat. **16** This is the thing which the LORD has commanded: 'Gather of it everyone according to his eating; an omer a head, according to the number of your persons, you shall take it, every man for those who are in his tent.'" **17** The children of Israel did so, and some gathered more, some less. **18** When they measured it with an omer, he who gathered much had nothing over, and he who gathered little had no lack. They each gathered according to his eating. **19** Moses said to them, "Let no one leave of it until the morning." **20** Notwithstanding they did not listen to Moses, but some of them left of it until the morning, so it bred worms and became foul; and Moses was angry with them. **21** They gathered it morning by morning, everyone according to his eating. When the sun grew hot, it melted. **22** On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for each one; and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. **23** He said to them, "This is that which the LORD has spoken, 'Tomorrow is a solemn rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD. Bake that which you want to bake, and boil that which you want to boil; and all that remains over lay up for yourselves to be kept until the morning.'" **24** They laid it up until the morning, as Moses ordered, and it did not become foul, and there were no worms in it. **25** Moses said, "Eat that today, for today is a Sabbath to the LORD. Today you shall not find it in the field. **26** Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day is the Sabbath. In it there shall be none." **27** On the seventh day, some of the people went out to gather, and they found none. **28** The LORD said to Moses, "How long do you refuse to keep my commandments and my laws? **29** Behold, because the LORD has given you the Sabbath, therefore he gives you on the sixth day the bread of two days. Everyone stay in his place. Let no one go out of his place on the seventh day." **30** So the people rested on the seventh day. **31** The house of Israel called its name "Manna", and it was like coriander seed, white; and its taste was like wafers with honey. **32** Moses said, "This is the thing which

the LORD has commanded, 'Let an omer-full of it be kept throughout your generations, that they may see the bread with which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.'" **33** Moses said to Aaron, "Take a pot, and put an omer-full of manna in it, and lay it up before the LORD, to be kept throughout your generations." **34** As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept. **35** The children of Israel ate the manna forty years, until they came to an inhabited land. They ate the manna until they came to the borders of the land of Canaan. **36** Now an omer is one tenth of an ephah.

**17** All the congregation of the children of Israel traveled from the wilderness of Sin, starting according to the LORD's commandment, and encamped in Rephidim; but there was no water for the people to drink. **2** Therefore the people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" **3** The people were thirsty for water there; so the people murmured against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us, our children, and our livestock with thirst?" **4** Moses cried to the LORD, saying, "What shall I do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me." **5** The LORD said to Moses, "Walk on before the people, and take the elders of Israel with you, and take the rod in your hand with which you struck the Nile, and go. **6** Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb. You shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink." Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. **7** He called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because the children of Israel quarreled, and because they tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us, or not?" **8** Then Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim. **9** Moses said to Joshua, "Choose men for us, and go out to fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with God's rod in my hand." **10** So Joshua did as Moses had told him, and fought with Amalek; and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. **11** When Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed. When he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. **12** But Moses' hands were heavy;

so they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side. His hands were steady until sunset. **13** Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. **14** The LORD said to Moses, "Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under the sky." **15** Moses built an altar, and called its name "The LORD our Banner". **16** He said, "The LORD has sworn: 'The LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.'"

**18** Now Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses' father-in-law, heard of all that God had done for Moses and for Israel his people, how the LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt. **2** Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, received Zipporah, Moses' wife, after he had sent her away, **3** and her two sons. The name of one son was Gershom, for Moses said, "I have lived as a foreigner in a foreign land". **4** The name of the other was Eliezer, for he said, "My father's God was my help and delivered me from Pharaoh's sword." **5** Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, came with Moses' sons and his wife to Moses into the wilderness where he was encamped, at the Mountain of God. **6** He said to Moses, "I, your father-in-law Jethro, have come to you with your wife, and her two sons with her." **7** Moses went out to meet his father-in-law, and bowed and kissed him. They asked each other of their welfare, and they came into the tent. **8** Moses told his father-in-law all that the LORD had done to Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel's sake, all the hardships that had come on them on the way, and how the LORD delivered them. **9** Jethro rejoiced for all the goodness which the LORD had done to Israel, in that he had delivered them out of the hand of the Egyptians. **10** Jethro said, "Blessed be the LORD, who has delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of Pharaoh; who has delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. **11** Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods because of the way that they treated people arrogantly." **12** Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took a burnt offering and sacrifices for God. Aaron came with all the elders of Israel, to eat bread with Moses' father-in-law before God. **13** On the next day, Moses sat to judge the people, and the people

stood around Moses from the morning to the evening. **14** When Moses' father-in-law saw all that he did to the people, he said, "What is this thing that you do for the people? Why do you sit alone, and all the people stand around you from morning to evening?" **15** Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God. **16** When they have a matter, they come to me, and I judge between a man and his neighbor, and I make them know the statutes of God, and his laws." **17** Moses' father-in-law said to him, "The thing that you do is not good. **18** You will surely wear away, both you, and this people that is with you; for the thing is too heavy for you. You are not able to perform it yourself alone. **19** Listen now to my voice. I will give you counsel, and God be with you. You represent the people before God, and bring the causes to God. **20** You shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and shall show them the way in which they must walk, and the work that they must do. **21** Moreover you shall provide out of all the people able men which fear God: men of truth, hating unjust gain; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. **22** Let them judge the people at all times. It shall be that every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they shall judge themselves. So shall it be easier for you, and they shall share the load with you. **23** If you will do this thing, and God commands you so, then you will be able to endure, and all these people also will go to their place in peace." **24** So Moses listened to the voice of his father-in-law, and did all that he had said. **25** Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people, rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. **26** They judged the people at all times. They brought the hard cases to Moses, but every small matter they judged themselves. **27** Moses let his father-in-law depart, and he went his way into his own land.

**19** In the third month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that same day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. **2** When they had departed from Rephidim, and had come to the wilderness of Sinai, they encamped in the wilderness; and there Israel encamped before the mountain. **3** Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him

out of the mountain, saying, "This is what you shall tell the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: 4 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to myself. 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, then you shall be my own possession from among all peoples; for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel." 7 Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and set before them all these words which the LORD commanded him. 8 All the people answered together, and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD. 9 The LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I come to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you forever." Moses told the words of the people to the LORD. 10 The LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people, and sanctify them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments, 11 and be ready for the third day; for on the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people on Mount Sinai. 12 You shall set bounds to the people all around, saying, 'Be careful that you do not go up onto the mountain, or touch its border. Whoever touches the mountain shall be surely put to death. 13 No hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot through; whether it is animal or man, he shall not live.' When the trumpet sounds long, they shall come up to the mountain." 14 Moses went down from the mountain to the people, and sanctified the people; and they washed their clothes. 15 He said to the people, "Be ready by the third day. Do not have sexual relations with a woman." 16 On the third day, when it was morning, there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain, and the sound of an exceedingly loud trumpet; and all the people who were in the camp trembled. 17 Moses led the people out of the camp to meet God; and they stood at the lower part of the mountain. 18 All of Mount Sinai smoked, because the LORD descended on it in fire; and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. 19 When the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder,

Moses spoke, and God answered him by a voice. 20 The LORD came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain. The LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up. 21 The LORD said to Moses, "Go down, warn the people, lest they break through to the LORD to gaze, and many of them perish. 22 Let the priests also, who come near to the LORD, sanctify themselves, lest the LORD break out on them." 23 Moses said to the LORD, "The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai, for you warned us, saying, 'Set bounds around the mountain, and sanctify it.'" 24 The LORD said to him, "Go down! You shall bring Aaron up with you, but do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the LORD, lest he break out against them." 25 So Moses went down to the people, and told them.

**20** God spoke all these words, saying, 2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 "You shall have no other gods before me. 4 "You shall not make for yourselves an idol, nor any image of anything that is in the heavens above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: 5 you shall not bow yourself down to them, nor serve them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and on the fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 and showing loving kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. 7 "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who misuses his name. 8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 You shall labor six days, and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. You shall not do any work in it, you, nor your son, nor your daughter, your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your livestock, nor your stranger who is within your gates; 11 for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and made it holy. 12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the LORD your God gives you. 13 "You shall not murder. 14 "You shall not commit adultery. 15 "You shall not steal. 16 "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's." 18 All the people perceived the thunderings, the lightnings, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking. When the people saw it, they trembled, and stayed at a distance. 19 They said to Moses, "Speak with us yourself, and we will listen; but do not let God speak with us, lest we die." 20 Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, for God has come to test you, and that his fear may be before you, that you will not sin." 21 The people stayed at a distance, and Moses came near to the thick darkness where God was. 22 The LORD said to Moses, "This is what you shall tell the children of Israel: 'You yourselves have seen that I have talked with you from heaven. 23 You shall most certainly not make gods of silver or gods of gold for yourselves to be alongside me. 24 You shall make an altar of earth for me, and shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your cattle. In every place where I record my name I will come to you and I will bless you. 25 If you make me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of cut stones; for if you lift up your tool on it, you have polluted it. 26 You shall not go up by steps to my altar, that your nakedness may not be exposed to it.'

**21** "Now these are the ordinances which you shall set before them: 2 "If you buy a Hebrew servant, he shall serve six years, and in the seventh he shall go out free without paying anything. 3 If he comes in by himself, he shall go out by himself. If he is married, then his wife shall go out with him. 4 If his master gives him a wife and she bears him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself. 5 But if the servant shall plainly say, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children. I will not go out free;' 6 then his master shall bring him to God, and shall bring him to the door or to the doorpost, and his master shall bore his ear through with an awl, and he shall serve him forever. 7 "If a man sells his daughter to be a female servant, she shall not go out as the male servants do. 8 If she does not please her master, who has married her to himself, then he shall let her be redeemed. He shall have no right to sell her to

a foreign people, since he has dealt deceitfully with her. 9 If he marries her to his son, he shall deal with her as a daughter. 10 If he takes another wife to himself, he shall not diminish her food, her clothing, and her marital rights. 11 If he does not do these three things for her, she may go free without paying any money. 12 "One who strikes a man so that he dies shall surely be put to death, 13 but not if it is unintentional, but God allows it to happen; then I will appoint you a place where he shall flee. 14 If a man schemes and comes presumptuously on his neighbor to kill him, you shall take him from my altar, that he may die. 15 "Anyone who attacks his father or his mother shall be surely put to death. 16 "Anyone who kidnaps someone and sells him, or if he is found in his hand, he shall surely be put to death. 17 "Anyone who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death. 18 "If men quarrel and one strikes the other with a stone, or with his fist, and he does not die, but is confined to bed; 19 if he rises again and walks around with his staff, then he who struck him shall be cleared; only he shall pay for the loss of his time, and shall provide for his healing until he is thoroughly healed. 20 "If a man strikes his servant or his maid with a rod, and he dies under his hand, the man shall surely be punished. 21 Notwithstanding, if his servant gets up after a day or two, he shall not be punished, for the servant is his property. 22 "If men fight and hurt a pregnant woman so that she gives birth prematurely, and yet no harm follows, he shall be surely fined as much as the woman's husband demands and the judges allow. 23 But if any harm follows, then you must take life for life, 24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 burning for burning, wound for wound, and bruise for bruise. 26 "If a man strikes his servant's eye, or his maid's eye, and destroys it, he shall let him go free for his eye's sake. 27 If he strikes out his male servant's tooth, or his female servant's tooth, he shall let the servant go free for his tooth's sake. 28 "If a bull gores a man or a woman to death, the bull shall surely be stoned, and its meat shall not be eaten; but the owner of the bull shall not be held responsible. 29 But if the bull had a habit of goring in the past, and this has been testified to its owner, and he has not kept it in, but it has killed a man or a woman, the bull shall be

stoned, and its owner shall also be put to death. 30 If a ransom is imposed on him, then he shall give for the redemption of his life whatever is imposed. 31 Whether it has gored a son or has gored a daughter, according to this judgment it shall be done to him. 32 If the bull gores a male servant or a female servant, thirty shekels of silver shall be given to their master, and the ox shall be stoned. 33 "If a man opens a pit, or if a man digs a pit and does not cover it, and a bull or a donkey falls into it, 34 the owner of the pit shall make it good. He shall give money to its owner, and the dead animal shall be his. 35 "If one man's bull injures another's, so that it dies, then they shall sell the live bull, and divide its price; and they shall also divide the dead animal. 36 Or if it is known that the bull was in the habit of goring in the past, and its owner has not kept it in, he shall surely pay bull for bull, and the dead animal shall be his own.

**22** "If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and kills it or sells it, he shall pay five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep. 2 If the thief is found breaking in, and is struck so that he dies, there shall be no guilt of bloodshed for him. 3 If the sun has risen on him, he is guilty of bloodshed. He shall make restitution. If he has nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft. 4 If the stolen property is found in his hand alive, whether it is ox, donkey, or sheep, he shall pay double. 5 "If a man causes a field or vineyard to be eaten by letting his animal loose, and it grazes in another man's field, he shall make restitution from the best of his own field, and from the best of his own vineyard. 6 "If fire breaks out, and catches in thorns so that the shocks of grain, or the standing grain, or the field are consumed; he who kindled the fire shall surely make restitution. 7 "If a man delivers to his neighbor money or stuff to keep, and it is stolen out of the man's house, if the thief is found, he shall pay double. 8 If the thief is not found, then the master of the house shall come near to God, to find out whether or not he has put his hand on his neighbor's goods. 9 For every matter of trespass, whether it is for ox, for donkey, for sheep, for clothing, or for any kind of lost thing, about which one says, 'This is mine,' the cause of both parties shall come before God. He whom God condemns shall pay double to his neighbor. 10 "If a man delivers to his neighbor a donkey, an ox, a sheep, or any animal to keep, and it dies or is injured, or driven away, no man seeing it; 11 the oath of the LORD shall be between them both, he has not put his hand on his neighbor's goods; and its owner shall accept it, and he shall not make restitution. 12 But if it is stolen from him, the one who stole shall make restitution to its owner. 13 If it is torn in pieces, let him bring it for evidence. He shall not make good that which was torn. 14 "If a man borrows anything of his neighbor's, and it is injured, or dies, its owner not being with it, he shall surely make restitution. 15 If its owner is with it, he shall not make it good. If it is a leased thing, it came for its lease. 16 "If a man entices a virgin who is not pledged to be married, and lies with her, he shall surely pay a dowry for her to be his wife. 17 If her father utterly refuses to give her to him, he shall pay money according to the dowry of virgins. 18 "You shall not allow a sorceress to live. 19 "Whoever has sex with an animal shall surely be put to death. 20 "He who sacrifices to any god, except to the LORD only, shall be utterly destroyed. 21 "You shall not wrong an alien or oppress him, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. 22 "You shall not take advantage of any widow or fatherless child. 23 If you take advantage of them at all, and they cry at all to me, I will surely hear their cry; 24 and my wrath will grow hot, and I will kill you with the sword; and your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless. 25 "If you lend money to any of my people with you who is poor, you shall not be to him as a creditor. You shall not charge him interest. 26 If you take your neighbor's garment as collateral, you shall restore it to him before the sun goes down, 27 for that is his only covering, it is his garment for his skin. What would he sleep in? It will happen, when he cries to me, that I will hear, for I am gracious. 28 "You shall not blaspheme God, nor curse a ruler of your people. 29 "You shall not delay to offer from your harvest and from the outflow of your presses. "You shall give the firstborn of your sons to me. 30 You shall do likewise with your cattle and with your sheep. It shall be with its mother seven days, then on the eighth day you shall give it to me. 31 "You shall be holy men to me, therefore you shall not eat any meat that is torn by animals in the field. You shall cast it to the dogs.

**23** "You shall not spread a false report. Do not join your hand with the wicked to be a malicious witness. 2 "You shall not follow a crowd to do evil. You shall not testify in court to side with a multitude to pervert justice. 3 You shall not favor a poor man in his cause. 4 "If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, you shall surely bring it back to him again. 5 If you see the donkey of him who hates you fallen down under his burden, do not leave him. You shall surely help him with it. 6 "You shall not deny justice to your poor people in their lawsuits. 7 "Keep far from a false charge, and do not kill the innocent and righteous; for I will not justify the wicked. 8 "You shall take no bribe, for a bribe blinds those who have sight and perverts the words of the righteous. 9 "You shall not oppress an alien, for you know the heart of an alien, since you were aliens in the land of Egypt. 10 "For six years you shall sow your land, and shall gather in its increase, 11 but the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, that the poor of your people may eat; and what they leave the animal of the field shall eat. In the same way, you shall deal with your vineyard and with your olive grove. 12 "Six days you shall do your work, and on the seventh day you shall rest, that your ox and your donkey may have rest, and the son of your servant, and the alien may be refreshed. 13 "Be careful to do all things that I have said to you; and do not invoke the name of other gods or even let them be heard out of your mouth. 14 "You shall observe a feast to me three times a year. 15 You shall observe the feast of unleavened bread. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the month Abib (for in it you came out of Egypt), and no one shall appear before me empty. 16 And the feast of harvest, the first fruits of your labors, which you sow in the field; and the feast of ingathering, at the end of the year, when you gather in your labors out of the field. 17 Three times in the year all your males shall appear before the Lord GOD. 18 "You shall not offer the blood of my sacrifice with leavened bread. The fat of my feast shall not remain all night until the morning. 19 You shall bring the first of the first fruits of your ground into the house of the LORD your God. "You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk. 20 "Behold, I send an angel before you, to keep you by

the way, and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. 21 Pay attention to him, and listen to his voice. Do not provoke him, for he will not pardon your disobedience, for my name is in him. 22 But if you indeed listen to his voice, and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies, and an adversary to your adversaries. 23 For my angel shall go before you, and bring you in to the Amorite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Canaanite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite; and I will cut them off. 24 You shall not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor follow their practices, but you shall utterly overthrow them and demolish their pillars. 25 You shall serve the LORD your God, and he will bless your bread and your water, and I will take sickness away from among you. 26 No one will miscarry or be barren in your land. I will fulfill the number of your days. 27 I will send my terror before you, and will confuse all the people to whom you come, and I will make all your enemies turn their backs to you. 28 I will send the hornet before you, which will drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before you. 29 I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate, and the animals of the field multiply against you. 30 Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased and inherit the land. 31 I will set your border from the Red Sea even to the sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the River; for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you shall drive them out before you. 32 You shall make no covenant with them, nor with their gods. 33 They shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against me, for if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you."

**24** He said to Moses, "Come up to the LORD, you, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel; and worship from a distance. 2 Moses alone shall come near to the LORD, but they shall not come near. The people shall not go up with him." 3 Moses came and told the people all the LORD's words, and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice, and said, "All the words which the LORD has spoken will we do." 4 Moses wrote all the LORD's words, then rose up early in the morning and built an altar at the base of the mountain, with twelve pillars for the twelve



tribes of Israel. 5 He sent young men of the children of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of cattle to the LORD. 6 Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. 7 He took the book of the covenant and read it in the hearing of the people, and they said, "We will do all that the LORD has said, and be obedient." 8 Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, "Look, this is the blood of the covenant, which the LORD has made with you concerning all these words." 9 Then Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up. 10 They saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was like a paved work of sapphire stone, like the skies for clearness. 11 He did not lay his hand on the nobles of the children of Israel. They saw God, and ate and drank. 12 The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and stay here, and I will give you the stone tablets with the law and the commands that I have written, that you may teach them." 13 Moses rose up with Joshua, his servant, and Moses went up onto God's Mountain. 14 He said to the elders, "Wait here for us, until we come again to you. Behold, Aaron and Hur are with you. Whoever is involved in a dispute can go to them." 15 Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. 16 The LORD's glory settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. The seventh day he called to Moses out of the middle of the cloud. 17 The appearance of the LORD's glory was like devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. 18 Moses entered into the middle of the cloud, and went up on the mountain; and Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

**25** The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Speak to the children of Israel, that they take an offering for me. From everyone whose heart makes him willing you shall take my offering. 3 This is the offering which you shall take from them: gold, silver, bronze, 4 blue, purple, scarlet, fine linen, goats' hair, 5 rams' skins dyed red, sea cow hides, acacia wood, 6 oil for the light, spices for the anointing oil and for the sweet incense, 7 onyx stones, and stones to be set for the ephod and for the breastplate. 8 Let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. 9 According

to all that I show you, the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all of its furniture, even so you shall make it. 10 "They shall make an ark of acacia wood. Its length shall be two and a half cubits, its width a cubit and a half, and a cubit and a half its height. 11 You shall overlay it with pure gold. You shall overlay it inside and outside, and you shall make a gold molding around it. 12 You shall cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in its four feet. Two rings shall be on the one side of it, and two rings on the other side of it. 13 You shall make poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. 14 You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry the ark. 15 The poles shall be in the rings of the ark. They shall not be taken from it. 16 You shall put the covenant which I shall give you into the ark. 17 You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold. Two and a half cubits shall be its length, and a cubit and a half its width. 18 You shall make two cherubim of hammered gold. You shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat. 19 Make one cherub at the one end, and one cherub at the other end. You shall make the cherubim on its two ends of one piece with the mercy seat. 20 The cherubim shall spread out their wings upward, covering the mercy seat with their wings, with their faces toward one another. The faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat. 21 You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the covenant that I will give you. 22 There I will meet with you, and I will tell you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the covenant, all that I command you for the children of Israel. 23 "You shall make a table of acacia wood. Its length shall be two cubits, and its width a cubit, and its height one and a half cubits. 24 You shall overlay it with pure gold, and make a gold molding around it. 25 You shall make a rim of a hand width around it. You shall make a golden molding on its rim around it. 26 You shall make four rings of gold for it, and put the rings in the four corners that are on its four feet. 27 The rings shall be close to the rim, for places for the poles to carry the table. 28 You shall make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold, that the table may be carried with them. 29 You shall make its dishes, its spoons, its ladles, and its bowls with

which to pour out offerings. You shall make them of pure gold. 30 You shall set bread of the presence on the table before me always. 31 "You shall make a lamp stand of pure gold. The lamp stand shall be made of hammered work. Its base, its shaft, its cups, its buds, and its flowers shall be of one piece with it. 32 There shall be six branches going out of its sides: three branches of the lamp stand out of its one side, and three branches of the lamp stand out of its other side; 33 three cups made like almond blossoms in one branch, a bud and a flower; and three cups made like almond blossoms in the other branch, a bud and a flower, so for the six branches going out of the lamp stand; 34 and in the lamp stand four cups made like almond blossoms, its buds and its flowers; 35 and a bud under two branches of one piece with it, and a bud under two branches of one piece with it, and a bud under two branches of one piece with it, for the six branches going out of the lamp stand. 36 Their buds and their branches shall be of one piece with it, all of it one beaten work of pure gold. 37 You shall make its lamps seven, and they shall light its lamps to give light to the space in front of it. 38 Its snuffers and its snuff dishes shall be of pure gold. 39 It shall be made of a talent of pure gold, with all these accessories. 40 See that you make them after their pattern, which has been shown to you on the mountain.

**26** "Moreover you shall make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet, with cherubim. You shall make them with the work of a skillful workman. 2 The length of each curtain shall be twenty-eight cubits, and the width of each curtain four cubits: all the curtains shall have one measure. 3 Five curtains shall be coupled together to one another, and the other five curtains shall be coupled to one another. 4 You shall make loops of blue on the edge of the one curtain from the edge in the coupling, and you shall do likewise on the edge of the curtain that is outermost in the second coupling. 5 You shall make fifty loops in the one curtain, and you shall make fifty loops in the edge of the curtain that is in the second coupling. The loops shall be opposite one another. 6 You shall make fifty clasps of gold, and couple the curtains to one another with the clasps. The tabernacle shall

be a unit. 7 "You shall make curtains of goats' hair for a covering over the tabernacle. You shall make eleven curtains. 8 The length of each curtain shall be thirty cubits, and the width of each curtain four cubits: the eleven curtains shall have one measure. 9 You shall couple five curtains by themselves, and six curtains by themselves, and shall double over the sixth curtain in the forefront of the tent. 10 You shall make fifty loops on the edge of the one curtain that is outermost in the coupling, and fifty loops on the edge of the curtain which is outermost in the second coupling. 11 You shall make fifty clasps of bronze, and put the clasps into the loops, and couple the tent together, that it may be one. 12 The overhanging part that remains of the curtains of the tent—the half curtain that remains—shall hang over the back of the tabernacle. 13 The cubit on the one side and the cubit on the other side, of that which remains in the length of the curtains of the tent, shall hang over the sides of the tabernacle on this side and on that side, to cover it. 14 You shall make a covering for the tent of rams' skins dyed red, and a covering of sea cow hides above. 15 "You shall make the boards for the tabernacle of acacia wood, standing upright. 16 Ten cubits shall be the length of a board, and one and a half cubits the width of each board. 17 There shall be two tenons in each board, joined to one another: thus you shall make for all the boards of the tabernacle. 18 You shall make twenty boards for the tabernacle, for the south side southward. 19 You shall make forty sockets of silver under the twenty boards; two sockets under one board for its two tenons, and two sockets under another board for its two tenons. 20 For the second side of the tabernacle, on the north side, twenty boards, 21 and their forty sockets of silver; two sockets under one board, and two sockets under another board. 22 For the far side of the tabernacle westward you shall make six boards. 23 You shall make two boards for the corners of the tabernacle in the far side. 24 They shall be double beneath, and in the same way they shall be whole to its top to one ring: thus shall it be for them both; they shall be for the two corners. 25 There shall be eight boards, and their sockets of silver, sixteen sockets; two sockets under one board, and two sockets under another board. 26 "You shall make bars of acacia wood: five

for the boards of the one side of the tabernacle, 27 and five bars for the boards of the other side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the boards of the side of the tabernacle, for the far side westward. 28 The middle bar in the middle of the boards shall pass through from end to end. 29 You shall overlay the boards with gold, and make their rings of gold for the places for the bars. You shall overlay the bars with gold. 30 You shall set up the tabernacle according to the way that it was shown to you on the mountain. 31 "You shall make a veil of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, with cherubim. It shall be the work of a skillful workman. 32 You shall hang it on four pillars of acacia overlaid with gold; their hooks shall be of gold, on four sockets of silver. 33 You shall hang up the veil under the clasps, and shall bring the ark of the covenant in there within the veil. The veil shall separate the holy place from the most holy for you. 34 You shall put the mercy seat on the ark of the covenant in the most holy place. 35 You shall set the table outside the veil, and the lamp stand opposite the table on the side of the tabernacle toward the south. You shall put the table on the north side. 36 "You shall make a screen for the door of the Tent, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, the work of the embroiderer. 37 You shall make for the screen five pillars of acacia, and overlay them with gold. Their hooks shall be of gold. You shall cast five sockets of bronze for them.

**27** "You shall make the altar of acacia wood, five cubits long, and five cubits wide. The altar shall be square. Its height shall be three cubits. 2 You shall make its horns on its four corners. Its horns shall be of one piece with it. You shall overlay it with bronze. 3 You shall make its pots to take away its ashes; and its shovels, its basins, its meat hooks, and its fire pans. You shall make all its vessels of bronze. 4 You shall make a grating for it of network of bronze. On the net you shall make four bronze rings in its four corners. 5 You shall put it under the ledge around the altar beneath, that the net may reach halfway up the altar. 6 You shall make poles for the altar, poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with bronze. 7 Its poles shall be put into the rings, and the poles shall be on the two sides of the altar when carrying it. 8 You shall make it hollow with planks. They shall

make it as it has been shown you on the mountain. 9 "You shall make the court of the tabernacle: for the south side southward there shall be hangings for the court of fine twined linen one hundred cubits long for one side. 10 Its pillars shall be twenty, and their sockets twenty, of bronze. The hooks of the pillars and their fillets shall be of silver. 11 Likewise for the length of the north side, there shall be hangings one hundred cubits long, and its pillars twenty, and their sockets twenty, of bronze; the hooks of the pillars, and their fillets, of silver. 12 For the width of the court on the west side shall be hangings of fifty cubits; their pillars ten, and their sockets ten. 13 The width of the court on the east side eastward shall be fifty cubits. 14 The hangings for the one side of the gate shall be fifteen cubits; their pillars three, and their sockets three. 15 For the other side shall be hangings of fifteen cubits; their pillars three, and their sockets three. 16 For the gate of the court shall be a screen of twenty cubits, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, the work of the embroiderer; their pillars four, and their sockets four. 17 All the pillars of the court around shall be filleted with silver; their hooks of silver, and their sockets of bronze. 18 The length of the court shall be one hundred cubits, and the width fifty throughout, and the height five cubits, of fine twined linen, and their sockets of bronze. 19 All the instruments of the tabernacle in all its service, and all its pins, and all the pins of the court, shall be of bronze. 20 "You shall command the children of Israel, that they bring to you pure olive oil beaten for the light, to cause a lamp to burn continually. 21 In the Tent of Meeting, outside the veil which is before the covenant, Aaron and his sons shall keep it in order from evening to morning before the LORD: it shall be a statute forever throughout their generations on the behalf of the children of Israel.

**28** "Bring Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, near to you from among the children of Israel, that he may minister to me in the priest's office: Aaron, with Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar, Aaron's sons. 2 You shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty. 3 You shall speak to all who are wise-hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they make Aaron's

garments to sanctify him, that he may minister to me in the priest's office. 4 These are the garments which they shall make: a breastplate, an ephod, a robe, a fitted tunic, a turban, and a sash. They shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons, that he may minister to me in the priest's office. 5 They shall use the gold, and the blue, and the purple, and the scarlet, and the fine linen. 6 "They shall make the ephod of gold, blue, purple, scarlet, and fine twined linen, the work of the skillful workman. 7 It shall have two shoulder straps joined to the two ends of it, that it may be joined together. 8 The skillfully woven band, which is on it, shall be like its work and of the same piece; of gold, blue, purple, scarlet, and fine twined linen. 9 You shall take two onyx stones, and engrave on them the names of the children of Israel. 10 Six of their names on the one stone, and the names of the six that remain on the other stone, in the order of their birth. 11 With the work of an engraver in stone, like the engravings of a signet, you shall engrave the two stones, according to the names of the children of Israel. You shall make them to be enclosed in settings of gold. 12 You shall put the two stones on the shoulder straps of the ephod, to be stones of memorial for the children of Israel. Aaron shall bear their names before the LORD on his two shoulders for a memorial. 13 You shall make settings of gold, 14 and two chains of pure gold; you shall make them like cords of braided work. You shall put the braided chains on the settings. 15 "You shall make a breastplate of judgment, the work of the skillful workman; like the work of the ephod you shall make it; of gold, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, you shall make it. 16 It shall be square and folded double; a span shall be its length, and a span its width. 17 You shall set in it settings of stones, four rows of stones: a row of ruby, topaz, and beryl shall be the first row; 18 and the second row a turquoise, a sapphire, and an emerald; 19 and the third row a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst; 20 and the fourth row a chrysolite, an onyx, and a jasper. They shall be enclosed in gold in their settings. 21 The stones shall be according to the names of the children of Israel, twelve, according to their names; like the engravings of a signet, everyone according to his name, they shall be for the twelve tribes. 22 You shall make on the breastplate chains like cords, of braided work of pure gold. 23 You shall make on the breastplate two rings of gold, and shall put the two rings on the two ends of the breastplate. 24 You shall put the two braided chains of gold in the two rings at the ends of the breastplate. 25 The other two ends of the two braided chains you shall put on the two settings, and put them on the shoulder straps of the ephod in its forepart. 26 You shall make two rings of gold, and you shall put them on the two ends of the breastplate, on its edge, which is toward the side of the ephod inward. 27 You shall make two rings of gold, and shall put them on the two shoulder straps of the ephod underneath, in its forepart, close by its coupling, above the skillfully woven band of the ephod. 28 They shall bind the breastplate by its rings to the rings of the ephod with a lace of blue, that it may be on the skillfully woven band of the ephod, and that the breastplate may not swing out from the ephod. 29 Aaron shall bear the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate of judgment on his heart, when he goes in to the holy place, for a memorial before the LORD continually. 30 You shall put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim; and they shall be on Aaron's heart, when he goes in before the LORD. Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel on his heart before the LORD continually. 31 "You shall make the robe of the ephod all of blue. 32 It shall have a hole for the head in the middle of it. It shall have a binding of woven work around its hole, as it were the hole of a coat of mail, that it not be torn. 33 On its hem you shall make pomegranates of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, all around its hem; with bells of gold between and around them: 34 a golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, around the hem of the robe. 35 It shall be on Aaron to minister: and its sound shall be heard when he goes in to the holy place before the LORD, and when he comes out, that he not die. 36 "You shall make a plate of pure gold, and engrave on it, like the engravings of a signet, 'HOLY TO THE LORD.' 37 You shall put it on a lace of blue, and it shall be on the sash. It shall be on the front of the sash. 38 It shall be on Aaron's forehead, and Aaron shall bear the iniquity of the holy things, which the children of Israel shall make holy in all their

holy gifts; and it shall be always on his forehead, that they may be accepted before the LORD. 39 You shall weave the tunic with fine linen. You shall make a turban of fine linen. You shall make a sash, the work of the embroiderer. 40 "You shall make tunics for Aaron's sons. You shall make sashes for them. You shall make headbands for them, for glory and for beauty. 41 You shall put them on Aaron your brother, and on his sons with him, and shall anoint them, and consecrate them, and sanctify them, that they may minister to me in the priest's office. 42 You shall make them linen pants to cover their naked flesh. They shall reach from the waist even to the thighs. 43 They shall be on Aaron and on his sons, when they go in to the Tent of Meeting, or when they come near to the altar to minister in the holy place, that they do not bear iniquity, and die. This shall be a statute forever to him and to his offspring after him.

**29** "This is the thing that you shall do to them to make them holy, to minister to me in the priest's office: take one young bull and two rams without defect, 2 unleavened bread, unleavened cakes mixed with oil, and unleavened wafers anointed with oil. You shall make them of fine wheat flour. 3 You shall put them into one basket, and bring them in the basket, with the bull and the two rams. 4 You shall bring Aaron and his sons to the door of the Tent of Meeting, and shall wash them with water. 5 You shall take the garments, and put on Aaron the tunic, the robe of the ephod, the ephod, and the breastplate, and clothe him with the skillfully woven band of the ephod. 6 You shall set the turban on his head, and put the holy crown on the turban. 7 Then you shall take the anointing oil, and pour it on his head, and anoint him. 8 You shall bring his sons, and put tunics on them. 9 You shall clothe them with belts, Aaron and his sons, and bind headbands on them. They shall have the priesthood by a perpetual statute. You shall consecrate Aaron and his sons. 10 "You shall bring the bull before the Tent of Meeting; and Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on the head of the bull. 11 You shall kill the bull before the LORD at the door of the Tent of Meeting. 12 You shall take of the blood of the bull, and put it on the horns of the altar with your finger; and you shall pour out all the blood at the base

of the altar. 13 You shall take all the fat that covers the innards, the cover of the liver, the two kidneys, and the fat that is on them, and burn them on the altar. 14 But the meat of the bull, and its skin, and its dung, you shall burn with fire outside of the camp. It is a sin offering. 15 "You shall also take the one ram, and Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on the head of the ram. 16 You shall kill the ram, and you shall take its blood, and sprinkle it around on the altar. 17 You shall cut the ram into its pieces, and wash its innards, and its legs, and put them with its pieces, and with its head. 18 You shall burn the whole ram on the altar: it is a burnt offering to the LORD; it is a pleasant aroma, an offering made by fire to the LORD. 19 "You shall take the other ram, and Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on the head of the ram. 20 Then you shall kill the ram, and take some of its blood, and put it on the tip of the right ear of Aaron, and on the tip of the right ear of his sons, and on the thumb of their right hand, and on the big toe of their right foot; and sprinkle the blood around on the altar. 21 You shall take of the blood that is on the altar, and of the anointing oil, and sprinkle it on Aaron, and on his garments, and on his sons, and on the garments of his sons with him: and he shall be made holy, and his garments, and his sons, and his sons' garments with him. 22 Also you shall take some of the ram's fat, the fat tail, the fat that covers the innards, the cover of the liver, the two kidneys, the fat that is on them, and the right thigh (for it is a ram of consecration), 23 and one loaf of bread, one cake of oiled bread, and one wafer out of the basket of unleavened bread that is before the LORD. 24 You shall put all of this in Aaron's hands, and in his sons' hands, and shall wave them for a wave offering before the LORD. 25 You shall take them from their hands, and burn them on the altar on the burnt offering, for a pleasant aroma before the LORD: it is an offering made by fire to the LORD. 26 "You shall take the breast of Aaron's ram of consecration, and wave it for a wave offering before the LORD. It shall be your portion. 27 You shall sanctify the breast of the wave offering and the thigh of the wave offering, which is waved, and which is raised up, of the ram of consecration, even of that which is for Aaron, and of that which is for his sons. 28 It shall be for Aaron and his sons as their portion

forever from the children of Israel; for it is a wave offering. It shall be a wave offering from the children of Israel of the sacrifices of their peace offerings, even their wave offering to the LORD. 29 "The holy garments of Aaron shall be for his sons after him, to be anointed in them, and to be consecrated in them. 30 Seven days shall the son who is priest in his place put them on, when he comes into the Tent of Meeting to minister in the holy place. 31 "You shall take the ram of consecration and boil its meat in a holy place. 32 Aaron and his sons shall eat the meat of the ram, and the bread that is in the basket, at the door of the Tent of Meeting. 33 They shall eat those things with which atonement was made, to consecrate and sanctify them; but a stranger shall not eat of it, because they are holy. 34 If anything of the meat of the consecration, or of the bread, remains to the morning, then you shall burn the remainder with fire. It shall not be eaten, because it is holy. 35 "You shall do so to Aaron and to his sons, according to all that I have commanded you. You shall consecrate them seven days. 36 Every day you shall offer the bull of sin offering for atonement. You shall cleanse the altar when you make atonement for it. You shall anoint it, to sanctify it. 37 Seven days you shall make atonement for the altar, and sanctify it; and the altar shall be most holy. Whatever touches the altar shall be holy. 38 "Now this is that which you shall offer on the altar: two lambs a year old day by day continually. 39 The one lamb you shall offer in the morning; and the other lamb you shall offer at evening; 40 and with the one lamb a tenth part of an ephah of fine flour mixed with the fourth part of a hin of beaten oil, and the fourth part of a hin of wine for a drink offering. 41 The other lamb you shall offer at evening, and shall do to it according to the meal offering of the morning and according to its drink offering, for a pleasant aroma, an offering made by fire to the LORD. 42 It shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the Tent of Meeting before the LORD, where I will meet with you, to speak there to you. 43 There I will meet with the children of Israel; and the place shall be sanctified by my glory. 44 I will sanctify the Tent of Meeting and the altar. I will also sanctify Aaron and his sons to minister to me in the priest's office. 45 I will dwell among the children of

Israel, and will be their God. 46 They shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, that I might dwell among them: I am the LORD their God.

**30** "You shall make an altar to burn incense on. You shall make it of acacia wood. 2 Its length shall be a cubit, and its width a cubit. It shall be square, and its height shall be two cubits. Its horns shall be of one piece with it. 3 You shall overlay it with pure gold, its top, its sides around it, and its horns; and you shall make a gold molding around it. 4 You shall make two golden rings for it under its molding; on its two ribs, on its two sides you shall make them; and they shall be for places for poles with which to bear it. 5 You shall make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. 6 You shall put it before the veil that is by the ark of the covenant, before the mercy seat that is over the covenant, where I will meet with you. 7 Aaron shall burn incense of sweet spices on it every morning. When he tends the lamps, he shall burn it. 8 When Aaron lights the lamps at evening, he shall burn it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations. 9 You shall offer no strange incense on it, nor burnt offering, nor meal offering; and you shall pour no drink offering on it. 10 Aaron shall make atonement on its horns once in the year; with the blood of the sin offering of atonement once in the year he shall make atonement for it throughout your generations. It is most holy to the LORD." 11 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 12 "When you take a census of the children of Israel, according to those who are counted among them, then each man shall give a ransom for his soul to the LORD when you count them, that there be no plague among them when you count them. 13 They shall give this, everyone who passes over to those who are counted, half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary (the shekel is twenty gerahs); half a shekel for an offering to the LORD. 14 Everyone who passes over to those who are counted, from twenty years old and upward, shall give the offering to the LORD. 15 The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less, than the half shekel, when they give the offering of the LORD, to make atonement for your souls. 16 You shall take the atonement money

from the children of Israel, and shall appoint it for the service of the Tent of Meeting; that it may be a memorial for the children of Israel before the LORD, to make atonement for your souls.” 17 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 18 “You shall also make a basin of bronze, and its base of bronze, in which to wash. You shall put it between the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and you shall put water in it. 19 Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet in it. 20 When they go into the Tent of Meeting, they shall wash with water, that they not die; or when they come near to the altar to minister, to burn an offering made by fire to the LORD. 21 So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they not die. This shall be a statute forever to them, even to him and to his descendants throughout their generations.” 22 Moreover the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 23 “Also take fine spices: of liquid myrrh, five hundred shekels; and of fragrant cinnamon half as much, even two hundred and fifty; and of fragrant cane, two hundred and fifty; 24 and of cassia five hundred, according to the shekel of the sanctuary; and a hin of olive oil. 25 You shall make it into a holy anointing oil, a perfume compounded after the art of the perfumer: it shall be a holy anointing oil. 26 You shall use it to anoint the Tent of Meeting, the ark of the covenant, 27 the table and all its articles, the lamp stand and its accessories, the altar of incense, 28 the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the basin with its base. 29 You shall sanctify them, that they may be most holy. Whatever touches them shall be holy. 30 You shall anoint Aaron and his sons, and sanctify them, that they may minister to me in the priest’s office. 31 You shall speak to the children of Israel, saying, ‘This shall be a holy anointing oil to me throughout your generations. 32 It shall not be poured on man’s flesh, and do not make any like it, according to its composition. It is holy. It shall be holy to you. 33 Whoever compounds any like it, or whoever puts any of it on a stranger, he shall be cut off from his people.’” 34 The LORD said to Moses, “Take to yourself sweet spices, gum resin, onycha, and galbanum: sweet spices with pure frankincense. There shall be an equal weight of each. 35 You shall make incense of it, a perfume after the art of the perfumer, seasoned with salt, pure and holy. 36 You

shall beat some of it very small, and put some of it before the covenant in the Tent of Meeting, where I will meet with you. It shall be to you most holy. 37 You shall not make this incense, according to its composition, for yourselves: it shall be to you holy for the LORD. 38 Whoever shall make any like that, to smell of it, he shall be cut off from his people.”

**31** The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “Behold, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. 3 I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all kinds of workmanship, 4 to devise skillful works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in bronze, 5 and in cutting of stones for setting, and in carving of wood, to work in all kinds of workmanship. 6 Behold, I myself have appointed with him Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and in the heart of all who are wise-hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded you: 7 the Tent of Meeting, the ark of the covenant, the mercy seat that is on it, all the furniture of the Tent, 8 the table and its vessels, the pure lamp stand with all its vessels, the altar of incense, 9 the altar of burnt offering with all its vessels, the basin and its base, 10 the finely worked garments—the holy garments for Aaron the priest, the garments of his sons to minister in the priest’s office— 11 the anointing oil, and the incense of sweet spices for the holy place: according to all that I have commanded you they shall do.” 12 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 13 “Speak also to the children of Israel, saying, ‘Most certainly you shall keep my Sabbaths; for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you. 14 You shall keep the Sabbath therefore, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. 15 Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day shall surely be put to death. 16 Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. 17 It is a sign between me and the children of Israel forever; for in

six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.” 18 When he finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, he gave Moses the two tablets of the covenant, stone tablets, written with God’s finger.

**32** When the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron, and said to him, “Come, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” 2 Aaron said to them, “Take off the golden rings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them to me.” 3 All the people took off the golden rings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron. 4 He received what they handed him, fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made it a molded calf. Then they said, “These are your gods, Israel, which brought you up out of the land of Egypt.” 5 When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made a proclamation, and said, “Tomorrow shall be a feast to the LORD.” 6 They rose up early on the next day, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play. 7 The LORD spoke to Moses, “Go, get down; for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves! 8 They have turned away quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and have worshiped it, and have sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, Israel, which brought you up out of the land of Egypt.’” 9 The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen these people, and behold, they are a stiff-necked people. 10 Now therefore leave me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them, and that I may consume them; and I will make of you a great nation.” 11 Moses begged the LORD his God, and said, “LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, that you have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? 12 Why should the Egyptians talk, saying, ‘He brought them out for evil, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the surface of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath, and turn away from this evil against your people. 13

Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self, and said to them, ‘I will multiply your offspring as the stars of the sky, and all this land that I have spoken of I will give to your offspring, and they shall inherit it forever.’” 14 So the LORD turned away from the evil which he said he would do to his people. 15 Moses turned, and went down from the mountain, with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand; tablets that were written on both their sides. They were written on one side and on the other. 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 noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, “There is the noise of war in the camp.” 18 He said, “It is not the voice of those who shout for victory. It is not the voice of those who cry for being overcome; but the noise of those who sing that I hear.” 19 As soon as he came near to the camp, he saw the calf and the dancing. Then Moses’ anger grew hot, and he threw the tablets out of his hands, and broke them beneath the mountain. 20 He took the calf which they had made, and burned it with fire, ground it to powder, and scattered it on the water, and made the children of Israel drink it. 21 Moses said to Aaron, “What did these people do to you, that you have brought a great sin on them?” 22 Aaron said, “Do not let the anger of my lord grow hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil. 23 For they said to me, ‘Make us gods, which shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ 24 I said to them, ‘Whoever has any gold, let them take it off.’ So they gave it to me; and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf.” 25 When Moses saw that the people were out of control, (for Aaron had let them lose control, causing derision among their enemies), 26 then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, “Whoever is on the LORD’s side, come to me!” All the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him. 27 He said to them, “The LORD, the God of Israel, says, ‘Every man put his sword on his thigh, and go back and forth from gate to gate throughout the camp, and every man kill his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbor.’” 28 The sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses.



About three thousand men fell of the people that day. 29 Moses said, "Consecrate yourselves today to the LORD, for every man was against his son and against his brother, that he may give you a blessing today." 30 On the next day, Moses said to the people, "You have sinned a great sin. Now I will go up to the LORD. Perhaps I shall make atonement for your sin." 31 Moses returned to the LORD, and said, "Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made themselves gods of gold. 32 Yet now, if you will, forgive their sin—and if not, please blot me out of your book which you have written." 33 The LORD said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot him out of my book. 34 Now go, lead the people to the place of which I have spoken to you. Behold, my angel shall go before you. Nevertheless, in the day when I punish, I will punish them for their sin." 35 The LORD struck the people, because of what they did with the calf, which Aaron made.

**33** The LORD spoke to Moses, "Depart, go up from here, you and the people that you have brought up out of the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your offspring.' 2 I will send an angel before you; and I will drive out the Canaanite, the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite. 3 Go to a land flowing with milk and honey; but I will not go up among you, for you are a stiff-necked people, lest I consume you on the way." 4 When the people heard this evil news, they mourned; and no one put on his jewelry. 5 The LORD had said to Moses, "Tell the children of Israel, 'You are a stiff-necked people. If I were to go up among you for one moment, I would consume you. Therefore now take off your jewelry from you, that I may know what to do to you.'" 6 The children of Israel stripped themselves of their jewelry from Mount Horeb onward. 7 Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far away from the camp, and he called it "The Tent of Meeting." Everyone who sought the LORD went out to the Tent of Meeting, which was outside the camp. 8 When Moses went out to the Tent, all the people rose up, and stood, everyone at their tent door, and watched Moses, until he had gone into the Tent. 9 When Moses entered into the Tent, the pillar of cloud descended, stood at the door of the Tent,

and the LORD spoke with Moses. 10 All the people saw the pillar of cloud stand at the door of the Tent, and all the people rose up and worshiped, everyone at their tent door. 11 The LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. He turned again into the camp, but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the Tent. 12 Moses said to the LORD, "Behold, you tell me, 'Bring up this people;' and you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' 13 Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me your way, now, that I may know you, so that I may find favor in your sight; and consider that this nation is your people." 14 He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." 15 Moses said to him, "If your presence does not go with me, do not carry us up from here. 16 For how would people know that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is not it that you go with us, so that we are separated, I and your people, from all the people who are on the surface of the earth?" 17 The LORD said to Moses, "I will do this thing also that you have spoken; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." 18 Moses said, "Please show me your glory." 19 He said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the LORD's name before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy." 20 He said, "You cannot see my face, for man may not see me and live." 21 The LORD also said, "Behold, there is a place by me, and you shall stand on the rock. 22 It will happen, while my glory passes by, that I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; 23 then I will take away my hand, and you will see my back; but my face shall not be seen."

**34** The LORD said to Moses, "Chisel two stone tablets like the first. I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. 2 Be ready by the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself there to me on the top of the mountain. 3 No one shall come up with you or be seen anywhere on the mountain. Do not let the flocks or herds graze in

front of that mountain.” 4 He chiseled two tablets of stone like the first; then Moses rose up early in the morning, and went up to Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand two stone tablets. 5 The LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the LORD’s name. 6 The LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, “The LORD! The LORD, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger, and abundant in loving kindness and truth, 7 keeping loving kindness for thousands, forgiving iniquity and disobedience and sin; and who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, and on the children’s children, on the third and on the fourth generation.” 8 Moses hurried and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped. 9 He said, “If now I have found favor in your sight, Lord, please let the Lord go among us, even though this is a stiff-necked people; pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance.” 10 He said, “Behold, I make a covenant: before all your people I will do marvels, such as have not been worked in all the earth, nor in any nation; and all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the LORD; for it is an awesome thing that I do with you. 11 Observe that which I command you today. Behold, I will drive out before you the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite. 12 Be careful, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be for a snare among you; 13 but you shall break down their altars, and dash in pieces their pillars, and you shall cut down their Asherah poles; 14 for you shall worship no 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, lest they play the prostitute after their gods, and sacrifice to their gods, and one call you and you eat of his sacrifice; 16 and you take of their daughters to your sons, and their daughters play the prostitute after their gods, and make your sons play the prostitute after their gods. 17 “You shall make no cast idols for yourselves. 18 “You shall keep the feast of unleavened bread. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the month Abib; for in the month Abib you came out of Egypt. 19 “All that opens the womb is mine; and all your livestock that is male, the firstborn of cow and sheep. 20 You shall redeem the firstborn of a donkey with a lamb. If you will not redeem it, then you shall break its neck. You shall redeem all the firstborn of your sons. No one shall appear before me empty. 21 “Six days you shall work, but on the seventh day you shall rest: in plowing time and in harvest you shall rest. 22 “You shall observe the feast of weeks with the first fruits of wheat harvest, and the feast of harvest at the year’s end. 23 Three times in the year all your males shall appear before the Lord GOD, the God of Israel. 24 For I will drive out nations before you and enlarge your borders; neither shall any man desire your land when you go up to appear before the LORD, your God, three times in the year. 25 “You shall not offer the blood of my sacrifice with leavened bread. The sacrifice of the feast of the Passover shall not be left to the morning. 26 “You shall bring the first of the first fruits of your ground to the house of the LORD your God. “You shall not boil a young goat in its mother’s milk.” 27 The LORD said to Moses, “Write these words; for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.” 28 He was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread, nor drank water. He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the ten commandments. 29 When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant in Moses’ hand, when he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone by reason of his speaking with him. 30 When Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come near him. 31 Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned to him; and Moses spoke to them. 32 Afterward all the children of Israel came near, and he gave them all the commandments that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. 33 When Moses was done speaking with them, he put a veil on his face. 34 But when Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he took the veil off, until he came out; and he came out, and spoke to the children of Israel that which he was commanded. 35 The children of Israel saw Moses’ face, that the

skin of Moses' face shone; so Moses put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

**35** Moses assembled all the congregation of the children of Israel, and said to them, "These are the words which the LORD has commanded, that you should do them. **2** 'Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day there shall be a holy day for you, a Sabbath of solemn rest to the LORD: whoever does any work in it shall be put to death. **3** You shall kindle no fire throughout your habitations on the Sabbath day.'" **4** Moses spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, "This is the thing which the LORD commanded, saying, **5** 'Take from among you an offering to the LORD. Whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as the LORD's offering: gold, silver, bronze, **6** blue, purple, scarlet, fine linen, goats' hair, **7** rams' skins dyed red, sea cow hides, acacia wood, **8** oil for the light, spices for the anointing oil and for the sweet incense, **9** onyx stones, and stones to be set for the ephod and for the breastplate. **10** "'Let every wise-hearted man among you come, and make all that the LORD has commanded: **11** the tabernacle, its outer covering, its roof, its clasps, its boards, its bars, its pillars, and its sockets; **12** the ark, and its poles, the mercy seat, the veil of the screen; **13** the table with its poles and all its vessels, and the show bread; **14** the lamp stand also for the light, with its vessels, its lamps, and the oil for the light; **15** and the altar of incense with its poles, the anointing oil, the sweet incense, the screen for the door, at the door of the tabernacle; **16** the altar of burnt offering, with its grating of bronze, its poles, and all its vessels, the basin and its base; **17** the hangings of the court, its pillars, their sockets, and the screen for the gate of the court; **18** the pins of the tabernacle, the pins of the court, and their cords; **19** the finely worked garments for ministering in the holy place—the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons—to minister in the priest's office.'" **20** All the congregation of the children of Israel departed from the presence of Moses. **21** They came, everyone whose heart stirred him up, and everyone whom his spirit made willing, and brought the LORD's offering for the work of the Tent of Meeting, and for all of its service, and for the holy garments. **22** They came, both men and women, as many as were willing-

hearted, and brought brooches, earrings, signet rings, and armlets, all jewels of gold; even every man who offered an offering of gold to the LORD. **23** Everyone with whom was found blue, purple, scarlet, fine linen, goats' hair, rams' skins dyed red, and sea cow hides, brought them. **24** Everyone who offered an offering of silver and bronze brought the LORD's offering; and everyone with whom was found acacia wood for any work of the service, brought it. **25** All the women who were wise-hearted spun with their hands, and brought that which they had spun: the blue, the purple, the scarlet, and the fine linen. **26** All the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom spun the goats' hair. **27** The rulers brought the onyx stones and the stones to be set for the ephod and for the breastplate; **28** with the spice and the oil for the light, for the anointing oil, and for the sweet incense. **29** The children of Israel brought a free will offering to the LORD; every man and woman whose heart made them willing to bring for all the work, which the LORD had commanded to be made by Moses. **30** Moses said to the children of Israel, "Behold, the LORD has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. **31** He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of workmanship; **32** and to make skillful works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, **33** in cutting of stones for setting, and in carving of wood, to work in all kinds of skillful workmanship. **34** He has put in his heart that he may teach, both he and Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. **35** He has filled them with wisdom of heart to work all kinds of workmanship, of the engraver, of the skillful workman, and of the embroiderer, in blue, in purple, in scarlet, and in fine linen, and of the weaver, even of those who do any workmanship, and of those who make skillful works.

**36** "Bezalel and Oholiab shall work with every wise-hearted man, in whom the LORD has put wisdom and understanding to know how to do all the work for the service of the sanctuary, according to all that the LORD has commanded." **2** Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab, and every wise-hearted man, in whose heart the LORD had put wisdom, even everyone whose heart stirred him up to come to the

work to do it. **3** They received from Moses all the offering which the children of Israel had brought for the work of the service of the sanctuary, with which to make it. They kept bringing free will offerings to him every morning. **4** All the wise men, who performed all the work of the sanctuary, each came from his work which he did. **5** They spoke to Moses, saying, "The people have brought much more than enough for the service of the work which the LORD commanded to make." **6** Moses gave a commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, "Let neither man nor woman make anything else for the offering for the sanctuary." So the people were restrained from bringing. **7** For the stuff they had was sufficient to do all the work, and too much. **8** All the wise-hearted men among those who did the work made the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twined linen, blue, purple, and scarlet. They made them with cherubim, the work of a skillful workman. **9** The length of each curtain was twenty-eight cubits, and the width of each curtain four cubits. All the curtains had one measure. **10** He coupled five curtains to one another, and the other five curtains he coupled to one another. **11** He made loops of blue on the edge of the one curtain from the edge in the coupling. Likewise he made in the edge of the curtain that was outermost in the second coupling. **12** He made fifty loops in the one curtain, and he made fifty loops in the edge of the curtain that was in the second coupling. The loops were opposite to one another. **13** He made fifty clasps of gold, and coupled the curtains to one another with the clasps: so the tabernacle was a unit. **14** He made curtains of goats' hair for a covering over the tabernacle. He made them eleven curtains. **15** The length of each curtain was thirty cubits, and four cubits the width of each curtain. The eleven curtains had one measure. **16** He coupled five curtains by themselves, and six curtains by themselves. **17** He made fifty loops on the edge of the curtain that was outermost in the coupling, and he made fifty loops on the edge of the curtain which was outermost in the second coupling. **18** He made fifty clasps of bronze to couple the tent together, that it might be a unit. **19** He made a covering for the tent of rams' skins dyed red, and a covering of sea cow hides above. **20** He made the boards for the tabernacle of acacia wood, standing up. **21** Ten cubits was the length of a board, and a cubit and a half the width of each board. **22** Each board had two tenons, joined to one another. He made all the boards of the tabernacle this way. **23** He made the boards for the tabernacle, twenty boards for the south side southward. **24** He made forty sockets of silver under the twenty boards: two sockets under one board for its two tenons, and two sockets under another board for its two tenons. **25** For the second side of the tabernacle, on the north side, he made twenty boards **26** and their forty sockets of silver: two sockets under one board, and two sockets under another board. **27** For the far part of the tabernacle westward he made six boards. **28** He made two boards for the corners of the tabernacle in the far part. **29** They were double beneath, and in the same way they were all the way to its top to one ring. He did this to both of them in the two corners. **30** There were eight boards and their sockets of silver, sixteen sockets—under every board two sockets. **31** He made bars of acacia wood: five for the boards of the one side of the tabernacle, **32** and five bars for the boards of the other side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the boards of the tabernacle for the hinder part westward. **33** He made the middle bar to pass through in the middle of the boards from the one end to the other. **34** He overlaid the boards with gold, and made their rings of gold as places for the bars, and overlaid the bars with gold. **35** He made the veil of blue, purple, scarlet, and fine twined linen, with cherubim. He made it the work of a skillful workman. **36** He made four pillars of acacia for it, and overlaid them with gold. Their hooks were of gold. He cast four sockets of silver for them. **37** He made a screen for the door of the tent, of blue, purple, scarlet, and fine twined linen, the work of an embroiderer; **38** and the five pillars of it with their hooks. He overlaid their capitals and their fillets with gold, and their five sockets were of bronze.

**37** Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood. Its length was two and a half cubits, and its width a cubit and a half, and a cubit and a half its height. **2** He overlaid it with pure gold inside and outside, and made a molding of gold for it around it. **3** He cast four rings of gold for it in its four feet—two rings on its one side, and two rings on its other side. **4** He

made poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold. 5 He put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, to bear the ark. 6 He made a mercy seat of pure gold. Its length was two and a half cubits, and a cubit and a half its width. 7 He made two cherubim of gold. He made them of beaten work, at the two ends of the mercy seat: 8 one cherub at the one end, and one cherub at the other end. He made the cherubim of one piece with the mercy seat at its two ends. 9 The cherubim spread out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, with their faces toward one another. The faces of the cherubim were toward the mercy seat. 10 He made the table of acacia wood. Its length was two cubits, and its width was a cubit, and its height was a cubit and a half. 11 He overlaid it with pure gold, and made a gold molding around it. 12 He made a border of a hand's width around it, and made a golden molding on its border around it. 13 He cast four rings of gold for it, and put the rings in the four corners that were on its four feet. 14 The rings were close by the border, the places for the poles to carry the table. 15 He made the poles of acacia wood, and overlaid them with gold, to carry the table. 16 He made the vessels which were on the table, its dishes, its spoons, its bowls, and its pitchers with which to pour out, of pure gold. 17 He made the lamp stand of pure gold. He made the lamp stand of beaten work. Its base, its shaft, its cups, its buds, and its flowers were of one piece with it. 18 There were six branches going out of its sides: three branches of the lamp stand out of its one side, and three branches of the lamp stand out of its other side: 19 three cups made like almond blossoms in one branch, a bud and a flower, and three cups made like almond blossoms in the other branch, a bud and a flower; so for the six branches going out of the lamp stand. 20 In the lamp stand were four cups made like almond blossoms, its buds and its flowers; 21 and a bud under two branches of one piece with it, and a bud under two branches of one piece with it, and a bud under two branches of one piece with it, for the six branches going out of it. 22 Their buds and their branches were of one piece with it. The whole thing was one beaten work of pure gold. 23 He made its seven lamps, and its snuffers, and its snuff dishes, of pure gold. 24 He made it of a

talent of pure gold, with all its vessels. 25 He made the altar of incense of acacia wood. It was square: its length was a cubit, and its width a cubit. Its height was two cubits. Its horns were of one piece with it. 26 He overlaid it with pure gold: its top, its sides around it, and its horns. He made a gold molding around it. 27 He made two golden rings for it under its molding crown, on its two ribs, on its two sides, for places for poles with which to carry it. 28 He made the poles of acacia wood, and overlaid them with gold. 29 He made the holy anointing oil and the pure incense of sweet spices, after the art of the perfumer.

**38** He made the altar of burnt offering of acacia wood. It was square. Its length was five cubits, its width was five cubits, and its height was three cubits. 2 He made its horns on its four corners. Its horns were of one piece with it, and he overlaid it with bronze. 3 He made all the vessels of the altar: the pots, the shovels, the basins, the forks, and the fire pans. He made all its vessels of bronze. 4 He made for the altar a grating of a network of bronze, under the ledge around it beneath, reaching halfway up. 5 He cast four rings for the four corners of bronze grating, to be places for the poles. 6 He made the poles of acacia wood, and overlaid them with bronze. 7 He put the poles into the rings on the sides of the altar, with which to carry it. He made it hollow with planks. 8 He made the basin of bronze, and its base of bronze, out of the mirrors of the ministering women who ministered at the door of the Tent of Meeting. 9 He made the court: for the south side southward the hangings of the court were of fine twined linen, one hundred cubits; 10 their pillars were twenty, and their sockets twenty, of bronze; the hooks of the pillars and their fillets were of silver. 11 For the north side one hundred cubits, their pillars twenty, and their sockets twenty, of bronze; the hooks of the pillars, and their fillets, of silver. 12 For the west side were hangings of fifty cubits, their pillars ten, and their sockets ten; the hooks of the pillars, and their fillets, of silver. 13 For the east side eastward fifty cubits, 14 the hangings for the one side were fifteen cubits; their pillars three, and their sockets three; 15 and so for the other side: on this hand and that hand by the gate of the court were hangings of fifteen cubits; their pillars three, and their sockets three. 16 All the hangings around the

court were of fine twined linen. 17 The sockets for the pillars were of bronze. The hooks of the pillars and their fillets were of silver. Their capitals were overlaid with silver. All the pillars of the court had silver bands. 18 The screen for the gate of the court was the work of the embroiderer, of blue, purple, scarlet, and fine twined linen. Twenty cubits was the length, and the height along the width was five cubits, like the hangings of the court. 19 Their pillars were four, and their sockets four, of bronze; their hooks of silver, and the overlaying of their capitals, and their fillets, of silver. 20 All the pins of the tabernacle, and around the court, were of bronze. 21 These are the amounts of materials used for the tabernacle, even the Tabernacle of the Testimony, as they were counted, according to the commandment of Moses, for the service of the Levites, by the hand of Ithamar, the son of Aaron the priest. 22 Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, made all that the LORD commanded Moses. 23 With him was Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, an engraver, and a skillful workman, and an embroiderer in blue, in purple, in scarlet, and in fine linen. 24 All the gold that was used for the work in all the work of the sanctuary, even the gold of the offering, was twenty-nine talents and seven hundred thirty shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary. 25 The silver of those who were counted of the congregation was one hundred talents and one thousand seven hundred seventy-five shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary: 26 a beka a head, that is, half a shekel, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, for everyone who passed over to those who were counted, from twenty years old and upward, for six hundred three thousand five hundred fifty men. 27 The one hundred talents of silver were for casting the sockets of the sanctuary and the sockets of the veil: one hundred sockets for the one hundred talents, one talent per socket. 28 From the one thousand seven hundred seventy-five shekels he made hooks for the pillars, overlaid their capitals, and made fillets for them. 29 The bronze of the offering was seventy talents and two thousand four hundred shekels. 30 With this he made the sockets to the door of the Tent of Meeting, the bronze altar, the bronze grating for it, all the vessels of the altar, 31 the sockets around the

court, the sockets of the gate of the court, all the pins of the tabernacle, and all the pins around the court.

**39** Of the blue, purple, and scarlet, they made finely worked garments for ministering in the holy place, and made the holy garments for Aaron, as the LORD commanded Moses. 2 He made the ephod of gold, blue, purple, scarlet, and fine twined linen. 3 They beat the gold into thin plates, and cut it into wires, to work it in with the blue, the purple, the scarlet, and the fine linen, the work of the skillful workman. 4 They made shoulder straps for it, joined together. It was joined together at the two ends. 5 The skillfully woven band that was on it, with which to fasten it on, was of the same piece, like its work: of gold, of blue, purple, scarlet, and fine twined linen, as the LORD commanded Moses. 6 They worked the onyx stones, enclosed in settings of gold, engraved with the engravings of a signet, according to the names of the children of Israel. 7 He put them on the shoulder straps of the ephod, to be stones of memorial for the children of Israel, as the LORD commanded Moses. 8 He made the breastplate, the work of a skillful workman, like the work of the ephod: of gold, of blue, purple, scarlet, and fine twined linen. 9 It was square. They made the breastplate double. Its length was a span, and its width a span, being double. 10 They set in it four rows of stones. A row of ruby, topaz, and beryl was the first row; 11 and the second row, a turquoise, a sapphire, and an emerald; 12 and the third row, a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst; 13 and the fourth row, a chrysolite, an onyx, and a jasper. They were enclosed in gold settings. 14 The stones were according to the names of the children of Israel, twelve, according to their names; like the engravings of a signet, everyone according to his name, for the twelve tribes. 15 They made on the breastplate chains like cords, of braided work of pure gold. 16 They made two settings of gold, and two gold rings, and put the two rings on the two ends of the breastplate. 17 They put the two braided chains of gold in the two rings at the ends of the breastplate. 18 The other two ends of the two braided chains they put on the two settings, and put them on the shoulder straps of the ephod, in its front. 19 They made two rings of gold, and put them on the two ends of the breastplate, on its edge, which

was toward the side of the ephod inward. **20** They made two more rings of gold, and put them on the two shoulder straps of the ephod underneath, in its front, close by its coupling, above the skillfully woven band of the ephod. **21** They bound the breastplate by its rings to the rings of the ephod with a lace of blue, that it might be on the skillfully woven band of the ephod, and that the breastplate might not come loose from the ephod, as the LORD commanded Moses. **22** He made the robe of the ephod of woven work, all of blue. **23** The opening of the robe in the middle of it was like the opening of a coat of mail, with a binding around its opening, that it should not be torn. **24** They made on the skirts of the robe pomegranates of blue, purple, scarlet, and twined linen. **25** They made bells of pure gold, and put the bells between the pomegranates around the skirts of the robe, between the pomegranates; **26** a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate, around the skirts of the robe, to minister in, as the LORD commanded Moses. **27** They made the tunics of fine linen of woven work for Aaron and for his sons, **28** the turban of fine linen, the linen headbands of fine linen, the linen trousers of fine twined linen, **29** the sash of fine twined linen, blue, purple, and scarlet, the work of the embroiderer, as the LORD commanded Moses. **30** They made the plate of the holy crown of pure gold, and wrote on it an inscription, like the engravings of a signet: "HOLY TO THE LORD". **31** They tied to it a lace of blue, to fasten it on the turban above, as the LORD commanded Moses. **32** Thus all the work of the tabernacle of the Tent of Meeting was finished. The children of Israel did according to all that the LORD commanded Moses; so they did. **33** They brought the tabernacle to Moses: the tent, with all its furniture, its clasps, its boards, its bars, its pillars, its sockets, **34** the covering of rams' skins dyed red, the covering of sea cow hides, the veil of the screen, **35** the ark of the covenant with its poles, the mercy seat, **36** the table, all its vessels, the show bread, **37** the pure lamp stand, its lamps, even the lamps to be set in order, all its vessels, the oil for the light, **38** the golden altar, the anointing oil, the sweet incense, the screen for the door of the Tent, **39** the bronze altar, its grating of bronze, its poles, all of its vessels, the basin and its base, **40** the hangings of the court,

its pillars, its sockets, the screen for the gate of the court, its cords, its pins, and all the instruments of the service of the tabernacle, for the Tent of Meeting, **41** the finely worked garments for ministering in the holy place, the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, to minister in the priest's office. **42** According to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did all the work. **43** Moses saw all the work, and behold, they had done it as the LORD had commanded. They had done so; and Moses blessed them.

**40** The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, **2** "On the first day of the first month you shall raise up the tabernacle of the Tent of Meeting. **3** You shall put the ark of the covenant in it, and you shall screen the ark with the veil. **4** You shall bring in the table, and set in order the things that are on it. You shall bring in the lamp stand, and light its lamps. **5** You shall set the golden altar for incense before the ark of the covenant, and put the screen of the door to the tabernacle. **6** "You shall set the altar of burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle of the Tent of Meeting. **7** You shall set the basin between the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and shall put water therein. **8** You shall set up the court around it, and hang up the screen of the gate of the court. **9** "You shall take the anointing oil, and anoint the tabernacle and all that is in it, and shall make it holy, and all its furniture, and it will be holy. **10** You shall anoint the altar of burnt offering, with all its vessels, and sanctify the altar, and the altar will be most holy. **11** You shall anoint the basin and its base, and sanctify it. **12** "You shall bring Aaron and his sons to the door of the Tent of Meeting, and shall wash them with water. **13** You shall put on Aaron the holy garments; and you shall anoint him, and sanctify him, that he may minister to me in the priest's office. **14** You shall bring his sons, and put tunics on them. **15** You shall anoint them, as you anointed their father, that they may minister to me in the priest's office. Their anointing shall be to them for an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations." **16** Moses did so. According to all that the LORD commanded him, so he did. **17** In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was raised up. **18** Moses raised up the tabernacle, and laid its sockets, and

set up its boards, and put in its bars, and raised up its pillars. 19 He spread the covering over the tent, and put the roof of the tabernacle above on it, as the LORD commanded Moses. 20 He took and put the covenant into the ark, and set the poles on the ark, and put the mercy seat above on the ark. 21 He brought the ark into the tabernacle, and set up the veil of the screen, and screened the ark of the covenant, as the LORD commanded Moses. 22 He put the table in the Tent of Meeting, on the north side of the tabernacle, outside of the veil. 23 He set the bread in order on it before the LORD, as the LORD commanded Moses. 24 He put the lamp stand in the Tent of Meeting, opposite the table, on the south side of the tabernacle. 25 He lit the lamps before the LORD, as the LORD commanded Moses. 26 He put the golden altar in the Tent of Meeting before the veil; 27 and he burned incense of sweet spices on it, as the LORD commanded Moses. 28 He put up the screen of the door to the tabernacle. 29 He set the altar of burnt offering at the door of the tabernacle of the Tent of Meeting, and offered on it the burnt offering and the meal offering, as the LORD commanded Moses. 30 He set the basin between the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and put water therein, with which to wash. 31 Moses, Aaron, and his sons washed their hands and their feet there. 32 When they went into the Tent of Meeting, and when they came near to the altar, they washed, as the LORD commanded Moses. 33 He raised up the court around the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the screen of the gate of the court. So Moses finished the work. 34 Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the LORD's glory filled the tabernacle. 35 Moses was not able to enter into the Tent of Meeting, because the cloud stayed on it, and the LORD's glory filled the tabernacle. 36 When the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward, throughout all their journeys; 37 but if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not travel until the day that it was taken up. 38 For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and there was fire in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.



# Joshua

**1** Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' servant, saying, **2** "Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go across this Jordan, you and all these people, to the land which I am giving to them, even to the children of Israel. **3** I have given you every place that the sole of your foot will tread on, as I told Moses. **4** From the wilderness and this Lebanon even to the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your border. **5** No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not fail you nor forsake you. **6** "Be strong and courageous; for you shall cause this people to inherit the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. **7** Only be strong and very courageous. Be careful to observe to do according to all the law which Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. **8** This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it; for then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall have good success. **9** Have not I commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid. Do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." **10** Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, **11** "Pass through the middle of the camp, and command the people, saying, 'Prepare food; for within three days you are to pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God gives you to possess.'" **12** Joshua spoke to the Reubenites, and to the Gadites, and to the half-tribe of Manasseh, saying, **13** "Remember the word which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, 'The LORD your God gives you rest, and will give you this land. **14** Your wives, your little ones, and your livestock shall live in the land which Moses gave you beyond the Jordan; but you shall pass over before your brothers armed, all the mighty men of valor, and shall help them **15** until the LORD has given your

brothers rest, as he has given you, and they have also possessed the land which the LORD your God gives them. Then you shall return to the land of your possession and possess it, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you beyond the Jordan toward the sunrise." **16** They answered Joshua, saying, "All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. **17** Just as we listened to Moses in all things, so will we listen to you. Only may the LORD your God be with you, as he was with Moses. **18** Whoever rebels against your commandment, and does not listen to your words in all that you command him shall himself be put to death. Only be strong and courageous."

**2** Joshua the son of Nun secretly sent two men out of Shittim as spies, saying, "Go, view the land, including Jericho." They went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab, and slept there. **2** The king of Jericho was told, "Behold, men of the children of Israel came in here tonight to spy out the land." **3** Jericho's king sent to Rahab, saying, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who have entered into your house; for they have come to spy out all the land." **4** The woman took the two men and hid them. Then she said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they came from. **5** About the time of the shutting of the gate, when it was dark, the men went out. Where the men went, I do not know. Pursue them quickly. You may catch up with them." **6** But she had brought them up to the roof, and hidden them under the stalks of flax which she had laid in order on the roof. **7** The men pursued them along the way to the fords of the Jordan River. As soon as those who pursued them had gone out, they shut the gate. **8** Before they had lain down, she came up to them on the roof. **9** She said to the men, "I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. **10** For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you, when you came out of Egypt; and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites, who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and to Og, whom you utterly destroyed. **11** As soon as we had heard it, our hearts melted, and there was not any more spirit in any man, because of you: for the

LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and on earth beneath. **12** Now therefore, please swear to me by the LORD, since I have dealt kindly with you, that you also will deal kindly with my father's house, and give me a true sign; **13** and that you will save alive my father, my mother, my brothers, and my sisters, and all that they have, and will deliver our lives from death." **14** The men said to her, "Our life for yours, if you do not talk about this business of ours; and it shall be, when the LORD gives us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with you." **15** Then she let them down by a cord through the window; for her house was on the side of the wall, and she lived on the wall. **16** She said to them, "Go to the mountain, lest the pursuers find you. Hide yourselves there three days, until the pursuers have returned. Afterward, you may go your way." **17** The men said to her, "We will be guiltless of this your oath which you have made us to swear. **18** Behold, when we come into the land, tie this line of scarlet thread in the window which you used to let us down. Gather to yourself into the house your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your father's household. **19** It shall be that whoever goes out of the doors of your house into the street, his blood will be on his head, and we will be guiltless. Whoever is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if any hand is on him. **20** But if you talk about this business of ours, then we shall be guiltless of your oath which you have made us to swear." **21** She said, "Let it be as you have said." She sent them away, and they departed. Then she tied the scarlet line in the window. **22** They went and came to the mountain, and stayed there three days, until the pursuers had returned. The pursuers sought them all along the way, but did not find them. **23** Then the two men returned, descended from the mountain, crossed the river, and came to Joshua the son of Nun. They told him all that had happened to them. **24** They said to Joshua, "Truly the LORD has delivered all the land into our hands. Moreover, all the inhabitants of the land melt away before us."

**3** Joshua got up early in the morning; and they moved from Shittim and came to the Jordan, he and all the children of Israel. They camped there before they crossed over. **2** After three days, the officers went through the middle of the camp; **3**

and they commanded the people, saying, "When you see the ark of the LORD your God's covenant, and the Levitical priests bearing it, then leave your place and follow it. **4** Yet there shall be a space between you and it of about two thousand cubits by measure—do not come closer to it—that you may know the way by which you must go; for you have not passed this way before." **5** Joshua said to the people, "Sanctify yourselves; for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you." **6** Joshua spoke to the priests, saying, "Take up the ark of the covenant, and cross over before the people." They took up the ark of the covenant, and went before the people. **7** The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I will begin to magnify you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. **8** You shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, saying, 'When you come to the brink of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.'" **9** Joshua said to the children of Israel, "Come here, and hear the words of the LORD your God." **10** Joshua said, "By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that he will without fail drive the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Hivite, the Perizzite, the Girgashite, the Amorite, and the Jebusite out from before you. **11** Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth passes over before you into the Jordan. **12** Now therefore take twelve men out of the tribes of Israel, for every tribe a man. **13** It shall be that when the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of GOD, the Lord of all the earth, rest in the waters of the Jordan, that the waters of the Jordan will be cut off. The waters that come down from above shall stand in one heap." **14** When the people moved from their tents to pass over the Jordan, the priests who bore the ark of the covenant being before the people, **15** and when those who bore the ark had come to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who bore the ark had dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks all the time of harvest), **16** the waters which came down from above stood, and rose up in one heap a great way off, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan; and those that went down toward the sea of the Arabah, even the Salt Sea, were wholly cut off. Then the people passed over near Jericho. **17**

The priests who bore the ark of the LORD's covenant stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan; and all Israel crossed over on dry ground, until all the nation had passed completely over the Jordan.

**4** When all the nation had completely crossed over the Jordan, the LORD spoke to Joshua, saying, **2** "Take twelve men out of the people, a man out of every tribe, **3** and command them, saying, 'Take from out of the middle of the Jordan, out of the place where the priests' feet stood firm, twelve stones, carry them over with you, and lay them down in the place where you will camp tonight.'" **4** Then Joshua called the twelve men whom he had prepared of the children of Israel, a man out of every tribe. **5** Joshua said to them, "Cross before the ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan, and each of you pick up a stone and put it on your shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel; **6** that this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask in the future, saying, 'What do you mean by these stones?' **7** then you shall tell them, 'Because the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the LORD's covenant. When it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever.'" **8** The children of Israel did as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones out of the middle of the Jordan, as the LORD spoke to Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel. They carried them over with them to the place where they camped, and laid them down there. **9** Joshua set up twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests who bore the ark of the covenant stood; and they are there to this day. **10** For the priests who bore the ark stood in the middle of the Jordan until everything was finished that the LORD commanded Joshua to speak to the people, according to all that Moses commanded Joshua; and the people hurried and passed over. **11** When all the people had completely crossed over, the LORD's ark crossed over with the priests in the presence of the people. **12** The children of Reuben, and the children of Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh crossed over armed before the children of Israel, as Moses spoke to them. **13** About forty

thousand men, ready and armed for war, passed over before the LORD to battle, to the plains of Jericho. **14** On that day, the LORD magnified Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they feared him, as they feared Moses, all the days of his life. **15** The LORD spoke to Joshua, saying, **16** "Command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, that they come up out of the Jordan." **17** Joshua therefore commanded the priests, saying, "Come up out of the Jordan!" **18** When the priests who bore the ark of the LORD's covenant had come up out of the middle of the Jordan, and the soles of the priests' feet had been lifted up to the dry ground, the waters of the Jordan returned to their place, and went over all its banks, as before. **19** The people came up out of the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and encamped in Gilgal, on the east border of Jericho. **20** Joshua set up those twelve stones, which they took out of the Jordan, in Gilgal. **21** He spoke to the children of Israel, saying, "When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, 'What do these stones mean?' **22** Then you shall let your children know, saying, 'Israel came over this Jordan on dry land. **23** For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan from before you until you had crossed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which he dried up from before us, until we had crossed over, **24** that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD's hand is mighty, and that you may fear the LORD your God forever."

**5** When all the kings of the Amorites, who were beyond the Jordan westward, and all the kings of the Canaanites, who were by the sea, heard how the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan from before the children of Israel until we had crossed over, their heart melted, and there was no more spirit in them, because of the children of Israel. **2** At that time, the LORD said to Joshua, "Make flint knives, and circumcise again the sons of Israel the second time." **3** Joshua made himself flint knives, and circumcised the sons of Israel at the hill of the foreskins. **4** This is the reason Joshua circumcised them: all the people who came out of Egypt, who were males, even all the men of war, died in the wilderness along the way, after they came out of Egypt. **5** For all the people who came out were circumcised; but all the people who were born in the wilderness along the way as

they came out of Egypt had not been circumcised. For the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness until all the nation, even the men of war who came out of Egypt, were consumed, because they did not listen to the LORD's voice. The LORD swore to them that he would not let them see the land which the LORD swore to their fathers that he would give us, a land flowing with milk and honey. Their children, whom he raised up in their place, were circumcised by Joshua, for they were uncircumcised, because they had not circumcised them on the way. When they were done circumcising the whole nation, they stayed in their places in the camp until they were healed. 9 The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." Therefore the name of that place was called Gilgal to this day. 10 The children of Israel encamped in Gilgal. They kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at evening in the plains of Jericho. 11 They ate unleavened cakes and parched grain of the produce of the land on the next day after the Passover, in the same day. 12 The manna ceased on the next day, after they had eaten of the produce of the land. The children of Israel did not have manna any more, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year. 13 When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man stood in front of him with his sword drawn in his hand. Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our enemies?" 14 He said, "No; but I have come now as commander of the LORD's army." Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and worshiped, and asked him, "What does my lord say to his servant?" 15 The prince of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Take off your sandals, for the place on which you stand is holy." Joshua did so.

**6** Now Jericho was tightly shut up because of the children of Israel. No one went out, and no one came in. 2 The LORD said to Joshua, "Behold, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and the mighty men of valor. 3 All of your men of war shall march around the city, going around the city once. You shall do this six days. 4 Seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. On the seventh day, you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. 5 It shall be that when they make a long blast with the

ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the city wall will fall down flat, and the people shall go up, every man straight in front of him." 6 Joshua the son of Nun called the priests, and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the LORD's ark." 7 They said to the people, "Advance! March around the city, and let the armed men pass on before the LORD's ark." 8 It was so, that when Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the LORD advanced and blew the trumpets, and the ark of the LORD's covenant followed them. 9 The armed men went before the priests who blew the trumpets, and the ark went after them. The trumpets sounded as they went. 10 Joshua commanded the people, saying, "You shall not shout nor let your voice be heard, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth until the day I tell you to shout. Then you shall shout." 11 So he caused the LORD's ark to go around the city, circling it once. Then they came into the camp, and stayed in the camp. 12 Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the LORD's ark. 13 The seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns in front of the LORD's ark went on continually, and blew the trumpets. The armed men went in front of them. The rear guard came after the LORD's ark. The trumpets sounded as they went. 14 The second day they marched around the city once, and returned into the camp. They did this six days. 15 On the seventh day, they rose early at the dawning of the day, and marched around the city in the same way seven times. On this day only they marched around the city seven times. 16 At the seventh time, when the priests blew the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, "Shout, for the LORD has given you the city! 17 The city shall be devoted, even it and all that is in it, to the LORD. Only Rahab the prostitute shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent. 18 But as for you, only keep yourselves from what is devoted to destruction, lest when you have devoted it, you take of the devoted thing; so you would make the camp of Israel accursed and trouble it. 19 But all the silver, gold, and vessels of bronze and iron are

holy to the LORD. They shall come into the LORD's treasury." 20 So the people shouted and the priests blew the trumpets. When the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted with a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight in front of him, and they took the city. 21 They utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, both young and old, and ox, sheep, and donkey, with the edge of the sword. 22 Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, "Go into the prostitute's house, and bring the woman and all that she has out from there, as you swore to her." 23 The young men who were spies went in, and brought out Rahab with her father, her mother, her brothers, and all that she had. They also brought out all of her relatives, and they set them outside of the camp of Israel. 24 They burned the city with fire, and all that was in it. Only they put the silver, the gold, and the vessels of bronze and of iron into the treasury of the LORD's house. 25 But Rahab the prostitute, her father's household, and all that she had, Joshua saved alive. She lives in the middle of Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho. 26 Joshua commanded them with an oath at that time, saying, "Cursed is the man before the LORD who rises up and builds this city Jericho. With the loss of his firstborn he will lay its foundation, and with the loss of his youngest son he will set up its gates." 27 So the LORD was with Joshua; and his fame was in all the land.

**7** But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the devoted things; for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of the devoted things. Therefore the LORD's anger burned against the children of Israel. 2 Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Beth Aven, on the east side of Bethel, and spoke to them, saying, "Go up and spy out the land." The men went up and spied out Ai. 3 They returned to Joshua, and said to him, "Do not let all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and strike Ai. Do not make all the people to toil there, for there are only a few of them." 4 So about three thousand men of the people went up there, and they fled before the men of Ai. 5 The men of Ai struck about thirty-six

men of them. They chased them from before the gate even to Shebarim, and struck them at the descent. The hearts of the people melted, and became like water. 6 Joshua tore his clothes, and fell to the earth on his face before the LORD's ark until the evening, he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads. 7 Joshua said, "Alas, Lord GOD, why have you brought this people over the Jordan at all, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to cause us to perish? I wish that we had been content and lived beyond the Jordan!" 8 Oh, Lord, what shall I say, after Israel has turned their backs before their enemies? 9 For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear of it, and will surround us, and cut off our name from the earth. What will you do for your great name?" 10 The LORD said to Joshua, "Get up! Why have you fallen on your face like that? 11 Israel has sinned. Yes, they have even transgressed my covenant which I commanded them. Yes, they have even taken some of the devoted things, and have also stolen, and also deceived. They have even put it among their own stuff. 12 Therefore the children of Israel cannot stand before their enemies. They turn their backs before their enemies, because they have become devoted for destruction. I will not be with you any more, unless you destroy the devoted things from among you. 13 Get up! Sanctify the people, and say, 'Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, for the LORD, the God of Israel, says, "There is a devoted thing among you, Israel. You cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the devoted thing from among you.'" 14 In the morning therefore you shall be brought near by your tribes. It shall be that the tribe which the LORD selects shall come near by families. The family which the LORD selects shall come near by households. The household which the LORD selects shall come near man by man. 15 It shall be, that he who is taken with the devoted thing shall be burned with fire, he and all that he has, because he has transgressed the LORD's covenant, and because he has done a disgraceful thing in Israel.'" 16 So Joshua rose up early in the morning and brought Israel near by their tribes. The tribe of Judah was selected. 17 He brought near the family of Judah, and he selected the family of the Zerahites. He brought near the family of the Zerahites man by man, and Zabdi was selected.

18 He brought near his household man by man, and Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was selected. 19 Joshua said to Achan, "My son, please give glory to the LORD, the God of Israel, and make confession to him. Tell me now what you have done! Do not hide it from me!" 20 Achan answered Joshua, and said, "I have truly sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel, and this is what I have done. 21 When I saw among the plunder a beautiful Babylonian robe, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, then I coveted them and took them. Behold, they are hidden in the ground in the middle of my tent, with the silver under it." 22 So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent. Behold, it was hidden in his tent, with the silver under it. 23 They took them from the middle of the tent, and brought them to Joshua and to all the children of Israel. They laid them down before the LORD. 24 Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the robe, the wedge of gold, his sons, his daughters, his cattle, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent, and all that he had; and they brought them up to the valley of Achor. 25 Joshua said, "Why have you troubled us? The LORD will trouble you today." All Israel stoned him with stones, and they burned them with fire and stoned them with stones. 26 They raised over him a great heap of stones that remains to this day. The LORD turned from the fierceness of his anger. Therefore the name of that place was called "The valley of Achor" to this day.

**8** The LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid, and do not be dismayed. Take all the warriors with you, and arise, go up to Ai. Behold, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, with his people, his city, and his land. 2 You shall do to Ai and her king as you did to Jericho and her king, except you shall take its goods and its livestock for yourselves. Set an ambush for the city behind it." 3 So Joshua arose, with all the warriors, to go up to Ai. Joshua chose thirty thousand men, the mighty men of valor, and sent them out by night. 4 He commanded them, saying, "Behold, you shall lie in ambush against the city, behind the city. Do not go very far from the city, but all of you be ready. 5 I and all the people who are with me will approach the city. It shall happen, when they come out against

us, as at the first, that we will flee before them. 6 They will come out after us until we have drawn them away from the city; for they will say, 'They flee before us, like the first time.' So we will flee before them, 7 and you shall rise up from the ambush, and take possession of the city; for the LORD your God will deliver it into your hand. 8 It shall be, when you have seized the city, that you shall set the city on fire. You shall do this according to the LORD's word. Behold, I have commanded you." 9 Joshua sent them out; and they went to set up the ambush, and stayed between Bethel and Ai on the west side of Ai; but Joshua stayed among the people that night. 10 Joshua rose up early in the morning, mustered the people, and went up, he and the elders of Israel, before the people to Ai. 11 All the people, even the men of war who were with him, went up and came near, and came before the city and encamped on the north side of Ai. Now there was a valley between him and Ai. 12 He took about five thousand men, and set them in ambush between Bethel and Ai, on the west side of the city. 13 So they set the people, even all the army who was on the north of the city, and their ambush on the west of the city; and Joshua went that night into the middle of the valley. 14 When the king of Ai saw it, they hurried and rose up early, and the men of the city went out against Israel to battle, he and all his people, at the time appointed, before the Arabah; but he did not know that there was an ambush against him behind the city. 15 Joshua and all Israel made as if they were beaten before them, and fled by the way of the wilderness. 16 All the people who were in the city were called together to pursue after them. They pursued Joshua, and were drawn away from the city. 17 There was not a man left in Ai or Bethel who did not go out after Israel. They left the city open, and pursued Israel. 18 The LORD said to Joshua, "Stretch out the javelin that is in your hand toward Ai, for I will give it into your hand." Joshua stretched out the javelin that was in his hand toward the city. 19 The ambush arose quickly out of their place, and they ran as soon as he had stretched out his hand and entered into the city and took it. They hurried and set the city on fire. 20 When the men of Ai looked behind them, they saw, and behold, the smoke of the city ascended up to heaven, and they had no power to flee this way

or that way. The people who fled to the wilderness turned back on the pursuers. 21 When Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had taken the city, and that the smoke of the city ascended, then they turned back and killed the men of Ai. 22 The others came out of the city against them, so they were in the middle of Israel, some on this side, and some on that side. They struck them, so that they let none of them remain or escape. 23 They captured the king of Ai alive, and brought him to Joshua. 24 When Israel had finished killing all the inhabitants of Ai in the field, in the wilderness in which they pursued them, and they had all fallen by the edge of the sword until they were consumed, all Israel returned to Ai and struck it with the edge of the sword. 25 All that fell that day, both of men and women, were twelve thousand, even all the people of Ai. 26 For Joshua did not draw back his hand, with which he stretched out the javelin, until he had utterly destroyed all the inhabitants of Ai. 27 Israel took for themselves only the livestock and the goods of that city, according to the LORD's word which he commanded Joshua. 28 So Joshua burned Ai and made it a heap forever, even a desolation, to this day. 29 He hanged the king of Ai on a tree until the evening. At sundown, Joshua commanded, and they took his body down from the tree and threw it at the entrance of the gate of the city, and raised a great heap of stones on it that remains to this day. 30 Then Joshua built an altar to the LORD, the God of Israel, on Mount Ebal, 31 as Moses the servant of the LORD commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the book of the law of Moses: an altar of uncut stones, on which no one had lifted up any iron. They offered burnt offerings on it to the LORD and sacrificed peace offerings. 32 He wrote there on the stones a copy of Moses' law, which he wrote in the presence of the children of Israel. 33 All Israel, with their elders, officers, and judges, stood on both sides of the ark before the Levitical priests, who carried the ark of the LORD's covenant, the foreigner as well as the native; half of them in front of Mount Gerizim, and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded at the first, that they should bless the people of Israel. 34 Afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessing and the curse, according to all that is written in the book of

the law. 35 There was not a word of all that Moses commanded which Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, with the women, the little ones, and the foreigners who were among them.

**9** When all the kings who were beyond the Jordan, in the hill country, and in the lowland, and on all the shore of the great sea in front of Lebanon, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite, heard of it 2 they gathered themselves together to fight with Joshua and with Israel, with one accord. 3 But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and to Ai, 4 they also resorted to a ruse, and went and made as if they had been ambassadors, and took old sacks on their donkeys, and old, torn-up and bound up wine skins, 5 and old and patched sandals on their feet, and wore old garments. All the bread of their food supply was dry and moldy. 6 They went to Joshua at the camp at Gilgal, and said to him and to the men of Israel, "We have come from a far country. Now therefore make a covenant with us." 7 The men of Israel said to the Hivites, "What if you live among us? How could we make a covenant with you?" 8 They said to Joshua, "We are your servants." Joshua said to them, "Who are you? Where do you come from?" 9 They said to him, "Your servants have come from a very far country because of the name of the LORD your God; for we have heard of his fame, all that he did in Egypt, 10 and all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon king of Heshbon and to Og king of Bashan, who was at Ashtaroath. 11 Our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spoke to us, saying, 'Take supplies in your hand for the journey, and go to meet them. Tell them, "We are your servants. Now make a covenant with us."' 12 This our bread we took hot for our supplies out of our houses on the day we went out to go to you; but now, behold, it is dry, and has become moldy. 13 These wine skins, which we filled, were new; and behold, they are torn. These our garments and our sandals have become old because of the very long journey." 14 The men sampled their provisions, and did not ask counsel from the LORD's mouth. 15 Joshua made peace with them, and made a covenant with them, to let them live. The princes

of the congregation swore to them. **16** At the end of three days after they had made a covenant with them, they heard that they were their neighbors, and that they lived among them. **17** The children of Israel traveled and came to their cities on the third day. Now their cities were Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kiriath Jearim. **18** The children of Israel did not strike them, because the princes of the congregation had sworn to them by the LORD, the God of Israel. All the congregation murmured against the princes. **19** But all the princes said to all the congregation, "We have sworn to them by the LORD, the God of Israel. Now therefore we may not touch them. **20** We will do this to them, and let them live; lest wrath be on us, because of the oath which we swore to them." **21** The princes said to them, "Let them live." So they became wood cutters and drawers of water for all the congregation, as the princes had spoken to them. **22** Joshua called for them, and he spoke to them, saying, "Why have you deceived us, saying, 'We are very far from you,' when you live among us? **23** Now therefore you are cursed, and some of you will never fail to be slaves, both wood cutters and drawers of water for the house of my God." **24** They answered Joshua, and said, "Because your servants were certainly told how the LORD your God commanded his servant Moses to give you all the land, and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land from before you. Therefore we were very afraid for our lives because of you, and have done this thing. **25** Now, behold, we are in your hand. Do to us as it seems good and right to you to do." **26** He did so to them, and delivered them out of the hand of the children of Israel, so that they did not kill them. **27** That day Joshua made them wood cutters and drawers of water for the congregation and for the LORD's altar to this day, in the place which he should choose.

**10** Now when Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem heard how Joshua had taken Ai, and had utterly destroyed it; as he had done to Jericho and her king, so he had done to Ai and her king; and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel, and were among them, **2** they were very afraid, because Gibeon was a great city, as one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all its

men were mighty. **3** Therefore Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem sent to Hoham king of Hebron, Piram king of Jarmuth, Japhia king of Lachish, and Debir king of Eglon, saying, **4** "Come up to me and help me. Let's strike Gibeon; for they have made peace with Joshua and with the children of Israel." **5** Therefore the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon, gathered themselves together and went up, they and all their armies, and encamped against Gibeon, and made war against it. **6** The men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp at Gilgal, saying, "Do not abandon your servants! Come up to us quickly and save us! Help us; for all the kings of the Amorites that dwell in the hill country have gathered together against us." **7** So Joshua went up from Gilgal, he and the whole army with him, including all the mighty men of valor. **8** The LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear them, for I have delivered them into your hands. Not a man of them will stand before you." **9** Joshua therefore came to them suddenly. He marched from Gilgal all night. **10** The LORD confused them before Israel. He killed them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, and chased them by the way of the ascent of Beth Horon, and struck them to Azekah and to Makkedah. **11** As they fled from before Israel, while they were at the descent of Beth Horon, the LORD hurled down great stones from the sky on them to Azekah, and they died. There were more who died from the hailstones than those whom the children of Israel killed with the sword. **12** Then Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel. He said in the sight of Israel, "Sun, stand still on Gibeon! You, moon, stop in the valley of Aijalon!" **13** The sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the nation had avenged themselves of their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jashar? The sun stayed in the middle of the sky, and did not hurry to go down about a whole day. **14** There was no day like that before it or after it, that the LORD listened to the voice of a man; for the LORD fought for Israel. **15** Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp to Gilgal. **16** These five kings fled, and hid themselves in the cave at Makkedah. **17** Joshua was told, saying, "The five kings have been



found, hidden in the cave at Makkedah.” 18 Joshua said, “Roll large stones to cover the cave’s entrance, and set men by it to guard them; 19 but do not stay there. Pursue your enemies, and attack them from the rear. Do not allow them to enter into their cities; for the LORD your God has delivered them into your hand.” 20 When Joshua and the children of Israel had finished killing them with a very great slaughter until they were consumed, and the remnant which remained of them had entered into the fortified cities, 21 all the people returned to the camp to Joshua at Makkedah in peace. None moved his tongue against any of the children of Israel. 22 Then Joshua said, “Open the cave entrance, and bring those five kings out of the cave to me.” 23 They did so, and brought those five kings out of the cave to him: the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon. 24 When they brought those kings out to Joshua, Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said to the chiefs of the men of war who went with him, “Come near. Put your feet on the necks of these kings.” They came near, and put their feet on their necks. 25 Joshua said to them, “Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed. Be strong and courageous, for the LORD will do this to all your enemies against whom you fight.” 26 Afterward Joshua struck them, put them to death, and hanged them on five trees. They were hanging on the trees until the evening. 27 At the time of the going down of the sun, Joshua commanded, and they took them down off the trees, and threw them into the cave in which they had hidden themselves, and laid great stones on the mouth of the cave, which remain to this very day. 28 Joshua took Makkedah on that day, and struck it with the edge of the sword, with its king. He utterly destroyed it and all the souls who were in it. He left no one remaining. He did to the king of Makkedah as he had done to the king of Jericho. 29 Joshua passed from Makkedah, and all Israel with him, to Libnah, and fought against Libnah. 30 The LORD delivered it also, with its king, into the hand of Israel. He struck it with the edge of the sword, and all the souls who were in it. He left no one remaining in it. He did to its king as he had done to the king of Jericho. 31 Joshua passed from Libnah, and all Israel with him, to Lachish, and encamped against it, and fought against it. 32 The LORD delivered Lachish into the hand of Israel. He took it on the second day, and struck it with the edge of the sword, with all the souls who were in it, according to all that he had done to Libnah. 33 Then Horam king of Gezer came up to help Lachish; and Joshua struck him and his people, until he had left him no one remaining. 34 Joshua passed from Lachish, and all Israel with him, to Eglon; and they encamped against it and fought against it. 35 They took it on that day, and struck it with the edge of the sword. He utterly destroyed all the souls who were in it that day, according to all that he had done to Lachish. 36 Joshua went up from Eglon, and all Israel with him, to Hebron; and they fought against it. 37 They took it, and struck it with the edge of the sword, with its king and all its cities, and all the souls who were in it. He left no one remaining, according to all that he had done to Eglon; but he utterly destroyed it, and all the souls who were in it. 38 Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to Debir, and fought against it. 39 He took it, with its king and all its cities. They struck them with the edge of the sword, and utterly destroyed all the souls who were in it. He left no one remaining. As he had done to Hebron, so he did to Debir, and to its king; as he had done also to Libnah, and to its king. 40 So Joshua struck all the land, the hill country, the South, the lowland, the slopes, and all their kings. He left no one remaining, but he utterly destroyed all that breathed, as the LORD, the God of Israel, commanded. 41 Joshua struck them from Kadesh Barnea even to Gaza, and all the country of Goshen, even to Gibeon. 42 Joshua took all these kings and their land at one time because the LORD, the God of Israel, fought for Israel. 43 Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp to Gilgal.

**11** When Jabin king of Hazor heard of it, he sent to Jobab king of Madon, to the king of Shimron, to the king of Achshaph, 2 and to the kings who were on the north, in the hill country, in the Arabah south of Chinneroth, in the lowland, and in the heights of Dor on the west, 3 to the Canaanite on the east and on the west, the Amorite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite in the hill country, and the Hivite under Hermon in the land of Mizpah. 4 They went out, they and all their armies with them, many people, even as

the sand that is on the seashore in multitude, with very many horses and chariots. 5 All these kings met together; and they came and encamped together at the waters of Merom, to fight with Israel. 6 The LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid because of them; for tomorrow at this time, I will deliver them up all slain before Israel. You shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire." 7 So Joshua came suddenly, with all the warriors, against them by the waters of Merom, and attacked them. 8 The LORD delivered them into the hand of Israel, and they struck them, and chased them to great Sidon, and to Misrephoth Maim, and to the valley of Mizpah eastward. They struck them until they left them no one remaining. 9 Joshua did to them as the LORD told him. He hamstrung their horses and burned their chariots with fire. 10 Joshua turned back at that time, and took Hazor, and struck its king with the sword; for Hazor used to be the head of all those kingdoms. 11 They struck all the souls who were in it with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying them. There was no one left who breathed. He burned Hazor with fire. 12 Joshua captured all the cities of those kings, with their kings, and he struck them with the edge of the sword, and utterly destroyed them, as Moses the servant of the LORD commanded. 13 But as for the cities that stood on their mounds, Israel burned none of them, except Hazor only. Joshua burned that. 14 The children of Israel took all the plunder of these cities, with the livestock, as plunder for themselves; but every man they struck with the edge of the sword, until they had destroyed them. They did not leave any who breathed. 15 As the LORD commanded Moses his servant, so Moses commanded Joshua. Joshua did so. He left nothing undone of all that the LORD commanded Moses. 16 So Joshua captured all that land, the hill country, all the South, all the land of Goshen, the lowland, the Arabah, the hill country of Israel, and the lowland of the same, 17 from Mount Halak, that goes up to Seir, even to Baal Gad in the valley of Lebanon under Mount Hermon. He took all their kings, struck them, and put them to death. 18 Joshua made war a long time with all those kings. 19 There was not a city that made peace with the children of Israel, except the Hivites, the inhabitants of Gibeon. They took all in battle. 20 For it was of the

LORD to harden their hearts, to come against Israel in battle, that he might utterly destroy them, that they might have no favor, but that he might destroy them, as the LORD commanded Moses. 21 Joshua came at that time, and cut off the Anakim from the hill country, from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, and from all the hill country of Judah, and from all the hill country of Israel. Joshua utterly destroyed them with their cities. 22 There were none of the Anakim left in the land of the children of Israel. Only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod, did some remain. 23 So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD spoke to Moses; and Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. Then the land had rest from war.

**12** Now these are the kings of the land, whom the children of Israel struck, and possessed their land beyond the Jordan toward the sunrise, from the valley of the Arnon to Mount Hermon, and all the Arabah eastward: 2 Sihon king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon, and ruled from Aroer, which is on the edge of the valley of the Arnon, and the middle of the valley, and half Gilead, even to the river Jabbok, the border of the children of Ammon; 3 and the Arabah to the sea of Chinneroth, eastward, and to the sea of the Arabah, even the Salt Sea, eastward, the way to Beth Jeshimoth; and on the south, under the slopes of Pisgah: 4 and the border of Og king of Bashan, of the remnant of the Rephaim, who lived at Ashtaroth and at Edrei, 5 and ruled in Mount Hermon, and in Salecah, and in all Bashan, to the border of the Geshurites and the Maacathites, and half Gilead, the border of Sihon king of Heshbon. 6 Moses the servant of the LORD and the children of Israel struck them. Moses the servant of the LORD gave it for a possession to the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh. 7 These are the kings of the land whom Joshua and the children of Israel struck beyond the Jordan westward, from Baal Gad in the valley of Lebanon even to Mount Halak, that goes up to Seir. Joshua gave it to the tribes of Israel for a possession according to their divisions; 8 in the hill country, and in the lowland, and in the Arabah, and in the slopes, and in the wilderness, and in the South; the Hittite, the Amorite, and the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite:

9 the king of Jericho, one; the king of Ai, which is beside 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 Hopher, one; 18 the king of Aphek, one; the king of Lass Sharon, 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 the height of Dor, one; the king of Goyim in Gilgal, one; 24 the king of Tirzah, one: all the kings thirty-one.

**13** Now Joshua was old and well advanced in years. The LORD said to him, "You are old and advanced in years, and there remains yet very much land to be possessed. 2 "This is the land that still remains: all the regions of the Philistines, and all the Geshurites; 3 from the Shihor, which is before Egypt, even to the border of Ekron northward, which is counted as Canaanite; the five lords of the Philistines; the Gazites, and the Ashdodites, the Ashkelonites, the Gittites, and the Ekronites; also the Avvim, 4 on the south; all the land of the Canaanites, and Mearah that belongs to the Sidonians, to Aphek, to the border of the Amorites; 5 and the land of the Gebalites, and all Lebanon, toward the sunrise, from Baal Gad under Mount Hermon to the entrance of Hamath; 6 all the inhabitants of the hill country from Lebanon to Misrephoth Maim, even all the Sidonians. I will drive them out from before the children of Israel. Just allocate it to Israel for an inheritance, as I have commanded you. 7 Now therefore divide this land for an inheritance to the nine tribes and the half-tribe of Manasseh." 8 With him the Reubenites and the Gadites received their inheritance, which Moses gave them, beyond the Jordan eastward, even as Moses the servant of the LORD gave them: 9 from Aroer, that is on the edge of the valley of the Arnon, and the city that is in the middle of the valley, and all the plain

of Medeba to Dibon; 10 and all the cities of Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon, to the border of the children of Ammon; 11 and Gilead, and the border of the Geshurites and Maacathites, and all Mount Hermon, and all Bashan to Salecah; 12 all the kingdom of Og in Bashan, who reigned in Ashtaroth and in Edrei (who was left of the remnant of the Rephaim); for Moses attacked these, and drove them out. 13 Nevertheless the children of Israel did not drive out the Geshurites, nor the Maacathites: but Geshur and Maacath live within Israel to this day. 14 Only he gave no inheritance to the tribe of Levi. The offerings of the LORD, the God of Israel, made by fire are his inheritance, as he spoke to him. 15 Moses gave to the tribe of the children of Reuben according to their families. 16 Their border was from Aroer, that is on the edge of the valley of the Arnon, and the city that is in the middle of the valley, and all the plain by Medeba; 17 Heshbon, and all its cities that are in the plain; Dibon, Bamoth Baal, Beth Baal Meon, 18 Jahaz, Kedemoth, Mephaath, 19 Kiriathaim, Sibmah, Zereth Shahar in the mount of the valley, 20 Beth Peor, the slopes of Pisgah, Beth Jeshimoth, 21 all the cities of the plain, and all the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon, whom Moses struck with the chiefs of Midian, Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba, the princes of Sihon, who lived in the land. 22 The children of Israel also killed Balaam the son of Beor, the soothsayer, with the sword, among the rest of their slain. 23 The border of the children of Reuben was the bank of the Jordan. This was the inheritance of the children of Reuben according to their families, the cities and its villages. 24 Moses gave to the tribe of Gad, to the children of Gad, according to their families. 25 Their border was Jazer, and all the cities of Gilead, and half the land of the children of Ammon, to Aroer that is near Rabbah; 26 and from Heshbon to Ramath Mizpeh, and Betonim; and from Mahanaim to the border of Debir; 27 and in the valley, Beth Haram, Beth Nimrah, Succoth, and Zaphon, the rest of the kingdom of Sihon king of Heshbon, the Jordan's bank, to the uttermost part of the sea of Chinnereth beyond the Jordan eastward. 28 This is the inheritance of the children of Gad according to their families, the cities and its villages. 29 Moses gave an inheritance to the half-tribe of Manasseh. It was for the half-tribe of the

children of Manasseh according to their families. 30 Their border was from Mahanaim, all Bashan, all the kingdom of Og king of Bashan, and all the villages of Jair, which are in Bashan, sixty cities. 31 Half Gilead, Ashtaroth, and Edrei, the cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan, were for the children of Machir the son of Manasseh, even for the half of the children of Machir according to their families. 32 These are the inheritances which Moses distributed in the plains of Moab, beyond the Jordan at Jericho, eastward. 33 But Moses gave no inheritance to the tribe of Levi. The LORD, the God of Israel, is their inheritance, as he spoke to them.

**14** These are the inheritances which the children of Israel took in the land of Canaan, which Eleazar the priest, Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of the fathers' houses of the tribes of the children of Israel, distributed to them, 2 by the lot of their inheritance, as the LORD commanded by Moses, for the nine tribes, and for the half-tribe. 3 For Moses had given the inheritance of the two tribes and the half-tribe beyond the Jordan; but to the Levites he gave no inheritance among them. 4 For the children of Joseph were two tribes, Manasseh and Ephraim. They gave no portion to the Levites in the land, except cities to dwell in, with their pasture lands for their livestock and for their property. 5 The children of Israel did as the LORD commanded Moses, and they divided the land. 6 Then the children of Judah came near to Joshua in Gilgal. Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, "You know the thing that the LORD spoke to Moses the man of God concerning me and concerning you in Kadesh Barnea. 7 I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to spy out the land. I brought him word again as it was in my heart. 8 Nevertheless, my brothers who went up with me made the heart of the people melt; but I wholly followed the LORD my God. 9 Moses swore on that day, saying, 'Surely the land where you walked shall be an inheritance to you and to your children forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.' 10 "Now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, as he spoke, these forty-five years, from the time that the LORD spoke this word to Moses, while Israel walked in the

wilderness. Now, behold, I am eighty-five years old, today. 11 As yet I am as strong today as I was in the day that Moses sent me. As my strength was then, even so is my strength now for war, to go out and to come in. 12 Now therefore give me this hill country, of which the LORD spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there, and great and fortified cities. It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall drive them out, as the LORD said." 13 Joshua blessed him; and he gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh for an inheritance. 14 Therefore Hebron became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because he followed the LORD, the God of Israel wholeheartedly. 15 Now the name of Hebron before was Kiriath Arba, after the greatest man among the Anakim. Then the land had rest from war.

**15** The lot for the tribe of the children of Judah according to their families was to the border of Edom, even to the wilderness of Zin southward, at the uttermost part of the south. 2 Their south border was from the uttermost part of the Salt Sea, from the bay that looks southward; 3 and it went out southward of the ascent of Akrabbim, and passed along to Zin, and went up by the south of Kadesh Barnea, and passed along by Hezron, went up to Addar, and turned toward Karka; 4 and it passed along to Azmon, went out at the brook of Egypt; and the border ended at the sea. This shall be your south border. 5 The east border was the Salt Sea, even to the end of the Jordan. The border of the north quarter was from the bay of the sea at the end of the Jordan. 6 The border went up to Beth Hoglah, and passed along by the north of Beth Arabah; and the border went up to the stone of Bohan the son of Reuben. 7 The border went up to Debir from the valley of Achor, and so northward, looking toward Gilgal, that faces the ascent of Adummim, which is on the south side of the river. The border passed along to the waters of En Shemesh, and ended at En Rogel. 8 The border went up by the valley of the son of Hinnom to the side of the Jebusite (also called Jerusalem) southward; and the border went up to the top of the mountain that lies before the valley of Hinnom westward, which is at the farthest part of the valley of Rephaim northward. 9 The border extended from the top of the mountain to

the spring of the waters of Nephtoah, and went out to the cities of Mount Ephron; and the border extended to Baalah (also called Kiriath Jearim); 10 and the border turned about from Baalah westward to Mount Seir, and passed along to the side of Mount Jearim (also called Chesalon) on the north, and went down to Beth Shemesh, and passed along by Timnah; 11 and the border went out to the side of Ekron northward; and the border extended to Shikkeron, and passed along to Mount Baalah, and went out at Jabneel; and the goings out of the border were at the sea. 12 The west border was to the shore of the great sea. This is the border of the children of Judah according to their families. 13 He gave to Caleb the son of Jephunneh a portion among the children of Judah, according to the commandment of the LORD to Joshua, even Kiriath Arba, named after the father of Anak (also called Hebron). 14 Caleb drove out the three sons of Anak: Sheshai, and Ahiman, and Talmi, the children of Anak. 15 He went up against the inhabitants of Debir: now the name of Debir before was Kiriath Sepher. 16 Caleb said, "He who strikes Kiriath Sepher, and takes it, to him I will give Achsah my daughter as wife." 17 Othniel the son of Kenaz, the brother of Caleb, took it: and he gave him Achsah his daughter as wife. 18 When she came, she had him ask her father for a field. She got off her donkey, and Caleb said, "What do you want?" 19 She said, "Give me a blessing. Because you have set me in the land of the South, give me also springs of water." So he gave her the upper springs and the lower springs. 20 This is the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Judah according to their families. 21 The farthest cities of the tribe of the children of Judah toward the border of Edom in the South were Kabzeel, Eder, Jagur, 22 Kinah, Dimonah, Adadah, 23 Kedesh, Hazor, Ithnan, 24 Ziph, Telem, Bealoth, 25 Hazor Hadattah, Kerioth Hezron (also called Hazor), 26 Amam, Shema, Moladah, 27 Hazar Gaddah, Heshmon, Beth Pelet, 28 Hazar Shual, Beersheba, Biziothiah, 29 Baalah, lim, Ezem, 30 Eltolad, Chesil, Hormah, 31 Ziklag, Madmannah, Sansannah, 32 Lebaoth, Shilhim, Ain, and Rimmon. All the cities are twenty-nine, with their villages. 33 In the lowland, Eshtaol, Zorah, Ashnah, 34 Zanoah, En Gannim, Tappuah, Enam, 35 Jarmuth, Adullam, Socoh, Azekah, 36 Shaaraim, Adithaim

and Gederah (or Gederothaim); fourteen cities with their villages. 37 Zenan, Hadashah, Migdal Gad, 38 Dilean, Mizpah, Joktheel, 39 Lachish, Bozkath, Eglon, 40 Cabbon, Lahmam, Chitlish, 41 Gederoth, Beth Dagon, Naamah, and Makkedah; sixteen cities with their villages. 42 Libnah, Ether, Ashan, 43 Iptah, Ashnah, Nezib, 44 Keilah, Achzib, and Mareshah; nine cities with their villages. 45 Ekron, with its towns and its villages; 46 from Ekron even to the sea, all that were by the side of Ashdod, with their villages. 47 Ashdod, its towns and its villages; Gaza, its towns and its villages; to the brook of Egypt, and the great sea with its coastline. 48 In the hill country, Shamir, Jattir, Socoh, 49 Dannah, Kiriath Sannah (which is Debir), 50 Anab, Eshtemoh, Anim, 51 Goshen, Holon, and Giloh; eleven cities with their villages. 52 Arab, Dumah, Eshan, 53 Janim, Beth Tappuah, Aphekah, 54 Humtah, Kiriath Arba (also called Hebron), and Zior; nine cities with their villages. 55 Maon, Carmel, Ziph, Jutah, 56 Jezreel, Jokdeam, Zanoah, 57 Kain, Gibeah, and Timnah; ten cities with their villages. 58 Halhul, Beth Zur, Gedor, 59 Maarath, Beth Anoth, and Eltekon; six cities with their villages. 60 Kiriath Baal (also called Kiriath Jearim), and Rabbah; two cities with their villages. 61 In the wilderness, Beth Arabah, Middin, Secacah, 62 Nibshan, the City of Salt, and En Gedi; six cities with their villages. 63 As for the Jebusites, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the children of Judah could not drive them out; but the Jebusites live with the children of Judah at Jerusalem to this day.

**16** The lot came out for the children of Joseph from the Jordan at Jericho, at the waters of Jericho on the east, even the wilderness, going up from Jericho through the hill country to Bethel. 2 It went out from Bethel to Luz, and passed along to the border of the Archites to Ataroth; 3 and it went down westward to the border of the Japhletites, to the border of Beth Horon the lower, and on to Gezer; and ended at the sea. 4 The children of Joseph, Manasseh and Ephraim, took their inheritance. 5 This was the border of the children of Ephraim according to their families. The border of their inheritance eastward was Ataroth Addar, to Beth Horon the upper. 6 The border went out westward at Michmethath on the north. The border turned about eastward to Taanath

Shiloh, and passed along it on the east of Janoah. 7 It went down from Janoah to Ataroth, to Naarah, reached to Jericho, and went out at the Jordan. 8 From Tappuah the border went along westward to the brook of Kanah; and ended at the sea. This is the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Ephraim according to their families; 9 together with the cities which were set apart for the children of Ephraim in the middle of the inheritance of the children of Manasseh, all the cities with their villages. 10 They did not drive out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer; but the Canaanites dwell in the territory of Ephraim to this day, and have become servants to do forced labor.

**17** This was the lot for the tribe of Manasseh, for he was the firstborn of Joseph. As for Machir the firstborn of Manasseh, the father of Gilead, because he was a man of war, therefore he had Gilead and Bashan. 2 So this was for the rest of the children of Manasseh according to their families: for the children of Abiezer, for the children of Helek, for the children of Asriel, for the children of Shechem, for the children of Hephher, and for the children of Shemida. These were the male children of Manasseh the son of Joseph according to their families. 3 But Zelophehad, the son of Hephher, the son of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, had no sons, but daughters. These are the names of his daughters: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. 4 They came to Eleazar the priest, and to Joshua the son of Nun, and to the princes, saying, "The LORD commanded Moses to give us an inheritance among our brothers." Therefore according to the commandment of the LORD he gave them an inheritance among the brothers of their father. 5 Ten parts fell to Manasseh, in addition to the land of Gilead and Bashan, which is beyond the Jordan; 6 because the daughters of Manasseh had an inheritance among his sons. The land of Gilead belonged to the rest of the sons of Manasseh. 7 The border of Manasseh was from Asher to Michmethath, which is before Shechem. The border went along to the right hand, to the inhabitants of En Tappuah. 8 The land of Tappuah belonged to Manasseh; but Tappuah on the border of Manasseh belonged to the children of Ephraim. 9 The border went down to the brook of Kanah, southward of the brook. These cities

belonged to Ephraim among the cities of Manasseh. The border of Manasseh was on the north side of the brook, and ended at the sea. 10 Southward it was Ephraim's, and northward it was Manasseh's, and the sea was his border. They reached to Asher on the north, and to Issachar on the east. 11 Manasseh had three heights in Issachar, in Asher Beth Shean and its towns, and Ibleam and its towns, and the inhabitants of Dor and its towns, and the inhabitants of Endor and its towns, and the inhabitants of Taanach and its towns, and the inhabitants of Megiddo and its towns. 12 Yet the children of Manasseh could not drive out the inhabitants of those cities; but the Canaanites would dwell in that land. 13 When the children of Israel had grown strong, they put the Canaanites to forced labor, and did not utterly drive them out. 14 The children of Joseph spoke to Joshua, saying, "Why have you given me just one lot and one part for an inheritance, since we are a numerous people, because the LORD has blessed us so far?" 15 Joshua said to them, "If you are a numerous people, go up to the forest, and clear land for yourself there in the land of the Perizzites and of the Rephaim, since the hill country of Ephraim is too narrow for you." 16 The children of Joseph said, "The hill country is not enough for us. All the Canaanites who dwell in the land of the valley have chariots of iron, both those who are in Beth Shean and its towns, and those who are in the valley of Jezreel." 17 Joshua spoke to the house of Joseph, that is, to Ephraim and to Manasseh, saying, "You are a numerous people, and have great power. You shall not have one lot only; 18 but the hill country shall be yours. Although it is a forest, you shall cut it down, and it's farthest extent shall be yours; for you shall drive out the Canaanites, though they have chariots of iron, and though they are strong."

**18** The whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled themselves together at Shiloh, and set up the Tent of Meeting there. The land was subdued before them. 2 Seven tribes remained among the children of Israel, which had not yet divided their inheritance. 3 Joshua said to the children of Israel, "How long will you neglect to go in to possess the land, which the LORD, the God of your fathers, has given you? 4 Appoint for yourselves three men from each tribe. I will send them, and they shall arise, walk

through the land, and describe it according to their inheritance; then they shall come to me. **5** They shall divide it into seven portions. Judah shall live in his borders on the south, and the house of Joseph shall live in their borders on the north. **6** You shall survey the land into seven parts, and bring the description here to me; and I will cast lots for you here before the LORD our God. **7** However, the Levites have no portion among you; for the priesthood of the LORD is their inheritance. Gad, Reuben, and the half-tribe of Manasseh have received their inheritance east of the Jordan, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave them.” **8** The men arose and went. Joshua commanded those who went to survey the land, saying, “Go walk through the land, survey it, and come again to me. I will cast lots for you here before the LORD in Shiloh.” **9** The men went and passed through the land, and surveyed it by cities into seven portions in a book. They came to Joshua to the camp at Shiloh. **10** Joshua cast lots for them in Shiloh before the LORD. There Joshua divided the land to the children of Israel according to their divisions. **11** The lot of the tribe of the children of Benjamin came up according to their families. The border of their lot went out between the children of Judah and the children of Joseph. **12** Their border on the north quarter was from the Jordan. The border went up to the side of Jericho on the north, and went up through the hill country westward. It ended at the wilderness of Beth Aven. **13** The border passed along from there to Luz, to the side of Luz (also called Bethel), southward. The border went down to Ataroth Addar, by the mountain that lies on the south of Beth Horon the lower. **14** The border extended, and turned around on the west quarter southward, from the mountain that lies before Beth Horon southward; and ended at Kiriath Baal (also called Kiriath Jearim), a city of the children of Judah. This was the west quarter. **15** The south quarter was from the farthest part of Kiriath Jearim. The border went out westward, and went out to the spring of the waters of Nephtoah. **16** The border went down to the farthest part of the mountain that lies before the valley of the son of Hinnom, which is in the valley of Rephaim northward. It went down to the valley of Hinnom, to the side of the Jebusite southward, and went down to En Rogel. **17** It extended northward, went out at En Shemesh, and went out to Gelliloth, which is opposite the ascent of Adummim. It went down to the stone of Bohan the son of Reuben. **18** It passed along to the side opposite the Arabah northward, and went down to the Arabah. **19** The border passed along to the side of Beth Hoglah northward; and the border ended at the north bay of the Salt Sea, at the south end of the Jordan. This was the south border. **20** The Jordan was its border on the east quarter. This was the inheritance of the children of Benjamin, by the borders around it, according to their families. **21** Now the cities of the tribe of the children of Benjamin according to their families were Jericho, Beth Hoglah, Emek Keziz, **22** Beth Arabah, Zemaraim, Bethel, **23** Avvim, Parah, Ophrah, **24** Chephar Ammoni, Ophni, and Geba; twelve cities with their villages. **25** Gibeon, Ramah, Beeroth, **26** Mizpeh, Chephirah, Mozah, **27** Rekem, Irpeel, Taralah, **28** Zelah, Eleph, the Jebusite (also called Jerusalem), Gibeath, and Kiriath; fourteen cities with their villages. This is the inheritance of the children of Benjamin according to their families.

**19** The second lot came out for Simeon, even for the tribe of the children of Simeon according to their families. Their inheritance was in the middle of the inheritance of the children of Judah. **2** They had for their inheritance Beersheba (or Sheba), Moladah, **3** Hazar Shual, Balah, Ezem, **4** Etlolad, Bethul, Hormah, **5** Ziklag, Beth Marcaboth, Hazar Susah, **6** Beth Lebaoth, and Sharuhin; thirteen cities with their villages; **7** Ain, Rimmon, Ether, and Ashan; four cities with their villages; **8** and all the villages that were around these cities to Baalath Beer, Ramah of the South. This is the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Simeon according to their families. **9** Out of the part of the children of Judah was the inheritance of the children of Simeon; for the portion of the children of Judah was too much for them. Therefore the children of Simeon had inheritance in the middle of their inheritance. **10** The third lot came up for the children of Zebulun according to their families. The border of their inheritance was to Sarid. **11** Their border went up westward, even to Maralah, and reached to Dabbesheth. It reached to the brook that is before Jokneam. **12** It turned from Sarid eastward toward the sunrise to the border of

Chisloth Tabor. It went out to Daberath, and went up to Japhia. **13** From there it passed along eastward to Gath Hopher, to Ethkazin; and it went out at Rimmon which stretches to Neah. **14** The border turned around it on the north to Hannathon; and it ended at the valley of Iphtah El; **15** Kattath, Nahalal, Shimron, Idalah, and Bethlehem: twelve cities with their villages. **16** This is the inheritance of the children of Zebulun according to their families, these cities with their villages. **17** The fourth lot came out for Issachar, even for the children of Issachar according to their families. **18** Their border was to Jezreel, Chesulloth, Shunem, **19** Hapharaim, Shion, Anaharath, **20** Rabbith, Kishion, Ebez, **21** Remeth, Engannim, En Haddah, and Beth Pазzez. **22** The border reached to Tabor, Shahazumah, and Beth Shemesh. Their border ended at the Jordan: sixteen cities with their villages. **23** This is the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Issachar according to their families, the cities with their villages. **24** The fifth lot came out for the tribe of the children of Asher according to their families. **25** Their border was Helkath, Hali, Beten, Achshaph, **26** Allammelech, Amad, Mishal. It reached to Carmel westward, and to Shihorlibnath. **27** It turned toward the sunrise to Beth Dagon, and reached to Zebulun, and to the valley of Iphtah El northward to Beth Emek and Neiel. It went out to Cabul on the left hand, **28** and Ebron, Rehob, Hammon, and Kanah, even to great Sidon. **29** The border turned to Ramah, to the fortified city of Tyre; and the border turned to Hosah. It ended at the sea by the region of Achzib; **30** Ummah also, and Aphek, and Rehob: twenty-two cities with their villages. **31** This is the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Asher according to their families, these cities with their villages. **32** The sixth lot came out for the children of Naphtali, even for the children of Naphtali according to their families. **33** Their border was from Heleph, from the oak in Zaanannim, Adami-nekeb, and Jabneel, to Lakkum. It ended at the Jordan. **34** The border turned westward to Aznoth Tabor, and went out from there to Hukkuk. It reached to Zebulun on the south, and reached to Asher on the west, and to Judah at the Jordan toward the sunrise. **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; nineteen cities with their villages. **39** This is the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Naphtali according to their families, the cities with their villages. **40** The seventh lot came out for the tribe of the children of Dan according to their families. **41** The border of their inheritance was Zorah, Eshtaol, Irshemesh, **42** Shaalabbin, Aijalon, Ithlah, **43** Elon, Timnah, Ekron, **44** Eltekeh, Gibbethon, Baalath, **45** Jehud, Bene Berak, Gath Rimmon, **46** Me Jarkon, and Rakkon, with the border opposite Joppa. **47** The border of the children of Dan went out beyond them; for the children of Dan went up and fought against Leshem, and took it, and struck it with the edge of the sword, and possessed it, and lived therein, and called Leshem, Dan, after the name of Dan their forefather. **48** This is the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Dan according to their families, these cities with their villages. **49** So they finished distributing the land for inheritance by its borders. The children of Israel gave an inheritance to Joshua the son of Nun among them. **50** According to the LORD's commandment, they gave him the city which he asked, even Timnathserah in the hill country of Ephraim; and he built the city, and lived there. **51** These are the inheritances, which Eleazar the priest, Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of the fathers' houses of the tribes of the children of Israel, distributed for inheritance by lot in Shiloh before the LORD, at the door of the Tent of Meeting. So they finished dividing the land.

**20** The LORD spoke to Joshua, saying, **2** "Speak to the children of Israel, saying, 'Assign the cities of refuge, of which I spoke to you by Moses, **3** that the man slayer who kills any person accidentally or unintentionally may flee there. They shall be to you for a refuge from the avenger of blood. **4** He shall flee to one of those cities, and shall stand at the entrance of the gate of the city, and declare his case in the ears of the elders of that city. They shall take him into the city with them, and give him a place, that he may live among them. **5** If the avenger of blood pursues him, then they shall not deliver up the man slayer into his hand; because he struck his neighbor unintentionally, and did not hate him before. **6** He shall dwell in that city until he stands before the congregation for judgment, until the death of the high priest that shall



be in those days. Then the man slayer shall return, and come to his own city, and to his own house, to the city he fled from.” 7 They set apart Kedesh in Galilee in the hill country of Naphtali, Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim, and Kiriath Arba (also called Hebron) in the hill country of Judah. 8 Beyond the Jordan at Jericho eastward, they assigned Bezer in the wilderness in the plain out of the tribe of Reuben, Ramoth in Gilead out of the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan out of the tribe of Manasseh. 9 These were the appointed cities for all the children of Israel, and for the alien who lives among them, that whoever kills any person unintentionally might flee there, and not die by the hand of the avenger of blood, until he stands trial before the congregation.

**21** Then the heads of fathers' houses of the Levites came near to Eleazar the priest, and to Joshua the son of Nun, and to the heads of fathers' houses of the tribes of the children of Israel. 2 They spoke to them at Shiloh in the land of Canaan, saying, “The LORD commanded through Moses to give us cities to dwell in, with their pasture lands for our livestock.” 3 The children of Israel gave to the Levites out of their inheritance, according to the commandment of the LORD, these cities with their pasture lands. 4 The lot came out for the families of the Kohathites. The children of Aaron the priest, who were of the Levites, had thirteen cities by lot out of the tribe of Judah, out of the tribe of the Simeonites, and out of the tribe of Benjamin. 5 The rest of the children of Kohath had ten cities by lot out of the families of the tribe of Ephraim, out of the tribe of Dan, and out of the half-tribe of Manasseh. 6 The children of Gershon had thirteen cities by lot out of the families of the tribe of Issachar, out of the tribe of Asher, out of the tribe of Naphtali, and out of the half-tribe of Manasseh in Bashan. 7 The children of Merari according to their families had twelve cities out of the tribe of Reuben, out of the tribe of Gad, and out of the tribe of Zebulun. 8 The children of Israel gave these cities with their pasture lands by lot to the Levites, as the LORD commanded by Moses. 9 They gave out of the tribe of the children of Judah, and out of the tribe of the children of Simeon, these cities which are mentioned by name: 10 and they were for the children of Aaron, of the families of the Kohathites, who were

of the children of Levi; for theirs was the first lot. 11 They gave them Kiriath Arba, named after the father of Anak (also called Hebron), in the hill country of Judah, with its pasture lands around it. 12 But they gave the fields of the city and its villages to Caleb the son of Jephunneh for his possession. 13 To the children of Aaron the priest they gave Hebron with its pasture lands, the city of refuge for the man slayer, Libnah with its pasture lands, 14 Jattir with its pasture lands, Eshtemoa with its pasture lands, 15 Holon with its pasture lands, Debir with its pasture lands, 16 Ain with its pasture lands, Juttah with its pasture lands, and Beth Shemesh with its pasture lands: nine cities out of those two tribes. 17 Out of the tribe of Benjamin, Gibeon with its pasture lands, Geba with its pasture lands, 18 Anathoth with its pasture lands, and Almon with its pasture lands: four cities. 19 All the cities of the children of Aaron, the priests, were thirteen cities with their pasture lands. 20 The families of the children of Kohath, the Levites, even the rest of the children of Kohath, had the cities of their lot out of the tribe of Ephraim. 21 They gave them Shechem with its pasture lands in the hill country of Ephraim, the city of refuge for the man slayer, and Gezer with its pasture lands, 22 Kibzaim with its pasture lands, and Beth Horon with its pasture lands: four cities. 23 Out of the tribe of Dan, Elteke with its pasture lands, Gibbethon with its pasture lands, 24 Aijalon with its pasture lands, Gath Rimmon with its pasture lands: four cities. 25 Out of the half-tribe of Manasseh, Taanach with its pasture lands, and Gath Rimmon with its pasture lands: two cities. 26 All the cities of the families of the rest of the children of Kohath were ten with their pasture lands. 27 They gave to the children of Gershon, of the families of the Levites, out of the half-tribe of Manasseh Golan in Bashan with its pasture lands, the city of refuge for the man slayer, and Be Eshterah with its pasture lands: two cities. 28 Out of the tribe of Issachar, Kishion with its pasture lands, Daberath with its pasture lands, 29 Jarmuth with its pasture lands, En Gannim with its pasture lands: four cities. 30 Out of the tribe of Asher, Mishal with its pasture lands, Abdon with its pasture lands, 31 Helkath with its pasture lands, and Rehob with its pasture lands: four cities. 32 Out of the tribe of Naphtali, Kedesh in Galilee with its pasture lands,

the city of refuge for the man slayer, Hammothdor with its pasture lands, and Kartan with its pasture lands: three cities. **33** All the cities of the Gershonites according to their families were thirteen cities with their pasture lands. **34** To the families of the children of Merari, the rest of the Levites, out of the tribe of Zebulun, Jokneam with its pasture lands, Kartah with its pasture lands, **35** Dimnah with its pasture lands, and Nahalal with its pasture lands: four cities. **36** Out of the tribe of Reuben, Bezer with its pasture lands, Jahaz with its pasture lands, **37** Kedemoth with its pasture lands, and Mephaath with its pasture lands: four cities. **38** Out of the tribe of Gad, Ramoth in Gilead with its pasture lands, the city of refuge for the man slayer, and Mahanaim with its pasture lands, **39** Heshbon with its pasture lands, Jazer with its pasture lands: four cities in all. **40** All these were the cities of the children of Merari according to their families, even the rest of the families of the Levites. Their lot was twelve cities. **41** All the cities of the Levites among the possessions of the children of Israel were forty-eight cities with their pasture lands. **42** Each of these cities included their pasture lands around them. It was this way with all these cities. **43** So the LORD gave to Israel all the land which he swore to give to their fathers. They possessed it, and lived in it. **44** The LORD gave them rest all around, according to all that he swore to their fathers. Not a man of all their enemies stood before them. The LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. **45** Nothing failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.

**22** Then Joshua called the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, **2** and said to them, "You have kept all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, and have listened to my voice in all that I commanded you. **3** You have not left your brothers these many days to this day, but have performed the duty of the commandment of the LORD your God. **4** Now the LORD your God has given rest to your brothers, as he spoke to them. Therefore now return and go to your tents, to the land of your possession, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you beyond the Jordan. **5** Only take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law which

Moses the servant of the LORD commanded 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 away; and they went to their tents. **7** Now to the one half-tribe of Manasseh Moses had given inheritance in Bashan; but Joshua gave to the other half among their brothers beyond the Jordan westward. Moreover when Joshua sent them away to their tents, he blessed them, **8** and spoke to them, saying, "Return with much wealth to your tents, with very much livestock, with silver, with gold, with bronze, with iron, and with very much clothing. Divide the plunder of your enemies with your brothers." **9** The children of Reuben and the children of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh returned, and departed from the children of Israel out of Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan, to go to the land of Gilead, to the land of their possession, which they owned, according to the commandment of the LORD by Moses. **10** When they came to the region near the Jordan, that is in the land of Canaan, the children of Reuben and the children of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh built an altar there by the Jordan, a great altar to look at. **11** The children of Israel heard this, "Behold, the children of Reuben and the children of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh have built an altar along the border of the land of Canaan, in the region around the Jordan, on the side that belongs to the children of Israel." **12** When the children of Israel heard of it, the whole congregation of the children of Israel gathered themselves together at Shiloh, to go up against them to war. **13** The children of Israel sent to the children of Reuben, and to the children of Gad, and to the half-tribe of Manasseh, into the land of Gilead, Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest. **14** With him were ten princes, one prince of a fathers' house for each of the tribes of Israel; and they were each head of their fathers' houses among the thousands of Israel. **15** They came to the children of Reuben, and to the children of Gad, and to the half-tribe of Manasseh, to the land of Gilead, and they spoke with them, saying, **16** "The whole congregation of the LORD says, 'What trespass is this that you have committed against the God of Israel, to turn away today from following the LORD, in that you have

built yourselves an altar, to rebel today against the LORD? 17 Is the iniquity of Peor too little for us, from which we have not cleansed ourselves to this day, although there came a plague on the congregation of the LORD, 18 that you must turn away today from following the LORD? It will be, since you rebel today against the LORD, that tomorrow he will be angry with the whole congregation of Israel. 19 However, if the land of your possession is unclean, then pass over to the land of the possession of the LORD, in which the LORD's tabernacle dwells, and take possession among us; but do not rebel against the LORD, nor rebel against us, in building an altar other than the LORD our God's altar. 20 Did not Achan the son of Zerah commit a trespass in the devoted thing, and wrath fell on all the congregation of Israel? That man did not perish alone in his iniquity." 21 Then the children of Reuben and the children of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh answered, and spoke to the heads of the thousands of Israel, 22 "The Mighty One, God, the LORD, the Mighty One, God, the LORD, he knows; and Israel shall know: if it was in rebellion, or if in trespass against the LORD (do not save us today), 23 that we have built us an altar to turn away from following the LORD; or if to offer burnt offering or meal offering, or if to offer sacrifices of peace offerings, let the LORD himself require it. 24 "If we have not out of concern done this, and for a reason, saying, 'In time to come your children might speak to our children, saying, "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, you children of Reuben and children of Gad. You have no portion in the LORD.'" So your children might make our children cease from fearing the LORD. 26 "Therefore we said, 'Let's now prepare to build ourselves an altar, not for burnt offering, nor for sacrifice; 27 but it will be a witness between us and you, and between our generations after us, that we may perform the service of the LORD before him with our burnt offerings, with our sacrifices, and with our peace offerings;' that your children may not tell our children in time to come, 'You have no portion in the LORD.' 28 "Therefore we said, 'It shall be, when they tell us or our generations this in time to come, that we shall say, "Behold the pattern of the LORD's altar,

which our fathers made, not for burnt offering, nor for sacrifice; but it is a witness between us and you.'" 29 "Far be it from us that we should rebel against the LORD, and turn away today from following the LORD, to build an altar for burnt offering, for meal offering, or for sacrifice, besides the LORD our God's altar that is before his tabernacle!" 30 When Phinehas the priest, and the princes of the congregation, even the heads of the thousands of Israel that were with him, heard the words that the children of Reuben and the children of Gad and the children of Manasseh spoke, it pleased them well. 31 Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest said to the children of Reuben, to the children of Gad, and to the children of Manasseh, "Today we know that the LORD is among us, because you have not committed this trespass against the LORD. Now you have delivered the children of Israel out of the LORD's hand." 32 Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, and the princes, returned from the children of Reuben, and from the children of Gad, out of the land of Gilead, to the land of Canaan, to the children of Israel, and brought them word again. 33 The thing pleased the children of Israel; and the children of Israel blessed God, and spoke no more of going up against them to war, to destroy the land in which the children of Reuben and the children of Gad lived. 34 The children of Reuben and the children of Gad named the altar "A Witness Between Us that the LORD is God."

**23** After many days, when the LORD had given rest to Israel from their enemies all around, and Joshua was old and well advanced in years, 2 Joshua called for all Israel, for their elders and for their heads, and for their judges and for their officers, and said to them, "I am old and well advanced in years. 3 You have seen all that the LORD your God has done to all these nations because of you; for it is the LORD your God who has fought for you. 4 Behold, I have allotted to you these nations that remain, to be an inheritance for your tribes, from the Jordan, with all the nations that I have cut off, even to the great sea toward the going down of the sun. 5 The LORD your God will thrust them out from before you, and drive them from out of your sight. You shall possess their land, as the LORD your God spoke to you. 6 "Therefore be very courageous to keep and to do all that is written

in the book of the law of Moses, that you not turn away from it to the right hand or to the left; 7 that you not come among these nations, these that remain among you; neither make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause to swear by them, neither serve them, nor bow down yourselves to them; 8 but hold fast to the LORD your God, as you have done to this day. 9 "For the LORD has driven great and strong nations out from before you. But as for you, no man has stood before you to this day. 10 One man of you shall chase a thousand; for it is the LORD your God who fights for you, as he spoke to you. 11 Take heed therefore to yourselves, that you love the LORD your God. 12 "But if you do at all go back, and hold fast to the remnant of these nations, even these who remain among you, and make marriages with them, and go in to them, and they to you; 13 know for a certainty that the LORD your God will no longer drive these nations from out of your sight; but they shall be a snare and a trap to you, a scourge in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from off this good land which the LORD your God has given you. 14 "Behold, today I am going the way of all the earth. You know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spoke concerning you. All have happened to you. Not one thing has failed of it. 15 It shall happen that as all the good things have come on you of which the LORD your God spoke to you, so the LORD will bring on you all the evil things, until he has destroyed you from off this good land which the LORD your God has given you, 16 when you disobey the covenant of the LORD your God, which he commanded you, and go and serve other gods, and bow down yourselves to them. Then the LORD's anger will be kindled against you, and you will perish quickly from off the good land which he has given to you."

**24** Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and called for the elders of Israel, for their heads, for their judges, and for their officers; and they presented themselves before God. 2 Joshua said to all the people, "The LORD, the God of Israel, says, "Your fathers lived of old time beyond the River, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nahor. They served other gods. 3 I took your

father Abraham from beyond the River, and led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his offspring, and gave him Isaac. 4 I gave to Isaac Jacob and Esau: and I gave to Esau Mount Seir, to possess it. Jacob and his children went down into Egypt. 5 "I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt, according to that which I did among them: and afterward I brought you out. 6 I brought your fathers out of Egypt: and you came to the sea. The Egyptians pursued your fathers with chariots and with horsemen to the Red Sea. 7 When they cried out to the LORD, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians, and brought the sea on them, and covered them; and your eyes saw what I did in Egypt. You lived in the wilderness many days. 8 "I brought you into the land of the Amorites, that lived beyond the Jordan. They fought with you, and I gave them into your hand. You possessed their land, and I destroyed them from before you. 9 Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose and fought against Israel. He sent and called Balaam the son of Beor to curse you, 10 but I would not listen to Balaam; therefore he blessed you still. So I delivered you out of his hand. 11 "You went over the Jordan, and came to Jericho. The men of Jericho fought against you, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Girgashite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite; and I delivered them into your hand. 12 I sent the hornet before you, which drove them out from before you, even the two kings of the Amorites; not with your sword, nor with your bow. 13 I gave you a land on which you had not labored, and cities which you did not build, and you live in them. You eat of vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.' 14 "Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth. Put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River, in Egypt; and serve the LORD. 15 If it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose today whom you will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." 16 The people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods; 17 for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and who did those great signs in

our sight, and preserved us in all the way in which we went, and among all the peoples through the middle of whom we passed. 18 The LORD drove out from before us all the peoples, even the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD; for he is our God." 19 Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God. He will not forgive your disobedience nor your sins. 20 If you forsake the LORD, and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you evil, and consume you, after he has done you good." 21 The people said to Joshua, "No, but we will serve the LORD." 22 Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD yourselves, to serve him." They said, "We are witnesses." 23 "Now therefore put away the foreign gods which are among you, and incline your heart to the LORD, the God of Israel." 24 The people said to Joshua, "We will serve the LORD our God, and we will listen to his voice." 25 So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made for them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem. 26 Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God; and he took a great stone, and set it up there under the oak that was by the sanctuary of the LORD. 27 Joshua said to all the people, "Behold, this stone shall be a witness against us, for it has heard all the LORD's words which he spoke to us. It shall be therefore a witness against you, lest you deny your God." 28 So Joshua sent the people away, each to his own inheritance. 29 After these things, Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being one hundred ten years old. 30 They buried him in the border of his inheritance in Timnathserah, which is in the hill country of Ephraim, on the north of the mountain of Gaash. 31 Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, and had known all the work of the LORD, that he had worked for Israel. 32 They buried the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, in Shechem, in the parcel of ground which Jacob bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for a hundred pieces of silver. They became the inheritance of the children of Joseph. 33 Eleazar the son of Aaron died. They buried him in the hill of Phinehas his son, which was given him in the hill country of Ephraim.

# Judges

**1** After the death of Joshua, the children of Israel asked of the LORD, saying, "Who should go up for us first against the Canaanites, to fight against them?" **2** The LORD said, "Judah shall go up. Behold, I have delivered the land into his hand." **3** Judah said to Simeon his brother, "Come up with me into my lot, that we may fight against the Canaanites; and I likewise will go with you into your lot." So Simeon went with him. **4** Judah went up, and the LORD delivered the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand. They struck ten thousand men in Bezek. **5** They found Adoni-Bezek in Bezek, and they fought against him. They struck the Canaanites and the Perizzites. **6** But Adoni-Bezek fled. They pursued him, caught him, and cut off his thumbs and his big toes. **7** Adoni-Bezek said, "Seventy kings, having their thumbs and their big toes cut off, scavenged under my table. As I have done, so God has done to me." They brought him to Jerusalem, and he died there. **8** The children of Judah fought against Jerusalem, took it, struck it with the edge of the sword, and set the city on fire. **9** After that, the children of Judah went down to fight against the Canaanites who lived in the hill country, and in the South, and in the lowland. **10** Judah went against the Canaanites who lived in Hebron. (The name of Hebron before that was Kiriath Arba.) They struck Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai. **11** From there he went against the inhabitants of Debir. (The name of Debir before that was Kiriath Sepher.) **12** Caleb said, "I will give Achsah my daughter as wife to the man who strikes Kiriath Sepher, and takes it." **13** Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, took it, so he gave him Achsah his daughter as his wife. **14** When she came, she got him to ask her father for a field. She got off her donkey; and Caleb said to her, "What would you like?" **15** She said to him, "Give me a blessing; because you have set me in the land of the South, give me also springs of water." Then Caleb gave her the upper springs and the lower springs. **16** The children of the Kenite, Moses' brother-in-law, went up out of the city of palm trees with the children of Judah into the wilderness of Judah, which is in the south of Arad; and they went and lived with the people. **17** Judah went with Simeon his brother, and

they struck the Canaanites who inhabited Zephath, and utterly destroyed it. The name of the city was called Hormah. **18** Also Judah took Gaza with its border, and Ashkelon with its border, and Ekron with its border. **19** The LORD was with Judah, and drove out the inhabitants of the hill country; for he could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley, because they had chariots of iron. **20** They gave Hebron to Caleb, as Moses had said, and he drove the three sons of Anak out of there. **21** The children of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who inhabited Jerusalem, but the Jebusites dwell with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day. **22** The house of Joseph also went up against Bethel, and the LORD was with them. **23** The house of Joseph sent to spy out Bethel. (The name of the city before that was Luz.) **24** The watchers saw a man come out of the city, and they said to him, "Please show us the entrance into the city, and we will deal kindly with you." **25** He showed them the entrance into the city, and they struck the city with the edge of the sword; but they let the man and all his family go. **26** The man went into the land of the Hittites, built a city, and called its name Luz, which is its name to this day. **27** Manasseh did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth Shean and its towns, nor Taanach and its towns, nor the inhabitants of Dor and its towns, nor the inhabitants of Ibleam and its towns, nor the inhabitants of Megiddo and its towns; but the Canaanites would dwell in that land. **28** When Israel had grown strong, they put the Canaanites to forced labor, and did not utterly drive them out. **29** Ephraim did not drive out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer, but the Canaanites lived in Gezer among them. **30** Zebulun did not drive out the inhabitants of Kitron, nor the inhabitants of Nahalol; but the Canaanites lived among them, and became subject to forced labor. **31** Asher did not drive out the inhabitants of Acco, nor the inhabitants of Sidon, nor of Ahlab, nor of Achzib, nor of Helbah, nor of Aphik, nor of Rehob; **32** but the Asherites lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land, for they did not drive them out. **33** Naphtali did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth Shemesh, nor the inhabitants of Beth Anath; but he lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land. Nevertheless the inhabitants of Beth Shemesh and of Beth Anath became subject to forced labor.

**34** The Amorites forced the children of Dan into the hill country, for they would not allow them to come down to the valley; **35** but the Amorites would dwell in Mount Heres, in Aijalon, and in Shaalbim. Yet the hand of the house of Joseph prevailed, so that they became subject to forced labor. **36** The border of the Amorites was from the ascent of Akrabbim, from the rock, and upward.

**2** The LORD's angel came up from Gilgal to Bochim.

He said, "I brought you out of Egypt, and have brought you to the land which I swore to give your fathers. I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you. **2** You shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land. You shall break down their altars.' But you have not listened to my voice. Why have you done this? **3** Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be in your sides, and their gods will be a snare to you.'" **4** When the LORD's angel spoke these words to all the children of Israel, the people lifted up their voice and wept. **5** They called the name of that place Bochim, and they sacrificed there to the LORD. **6** Now when Joshua had sent the people away, the children of Israel each went to his inheritance to possess the land. **7** The people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great work of the LORD that he had worked for Israel. **8** Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being one hundred ten years old. **9** They buried him in the border of his inheritance in Timnath Heres, in the hill country of Ephraim, on the north of the mountain of Gaash. **10** After all that generation were gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD, nor the work which he had done for Israel. **11** The children of Israel did that which was evil in the LORD's sight, and served the Baals. **12** They abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed themselves down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger. **13** They abandoned the LORD, and served Baal and the Ashtaroth. **14** The LORD's anger burned against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of raiders who plundered them. He sold them into the hands of

their enemies all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies. **15** Wherever they went out, the LORD's hand was against them for evil, as the LORD had spoken, and as the LORD had sworn to them; and they were very distressed. **16** The LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them. **17** Yet they did not listen to their judges; for they prostituted themselves to other gods, and bowed themselves down to them. They quickly turned away from the way in which their fathers walked, obeying the LORD's commandments. They did not do so. **18** When the LORD raised up judges for them, then the LORD was with the judge, and saved them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for it grieved the LORD because of their groaning by reason of those who oppressed them and troubled them. **19** But when the judge was dead, they turned back, and dealt more corruptly than their fathers in following other gods to serve them and to bow down to them. They did not cease what they were doing, or give up their stubborn ways. **20** The LORD's anger burned against Israel; and he said, "Because this nation transgressed my covenant which I commanded their fathers, and has not listened to my voice, **21** I also will no longer drive out any of the nations that Joshua left when he died from before them; **22** that by them I may test Israel, to see if they will keep the LORD's way to walk therein, as their fathers kept it, or not." **23** So the LORD left those nations, without driving them out hastily. He did not deliver them into Joshua's hand.

**3** Now these are the nations which the LORD left, to test Israel by them, even as many as had not known all the wars of Canaan; **2** only that the generations of the children of Israel might know, to teach them war, at least those who knew nothing of it before: **3** the five lords of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites who lived on Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal Hermon to the entrance of Hamath. **4** They were left to test Israel by them, to know whether they would listen to the LORD's commandments, which he commanded their fathers by Moses. **5** The children of Israel lived among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. **6** They took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their own

daughters to their sons and served their gods. 7 The children of Israel did that which was evil in the LORD's sight, and forgot the LORD their God, and served the Baals and the Asheroth. 8 Therefore the LORD's anger burned against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of Cushan Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia; and the children of Israel served Cushan Rishathaim eight years. 9 When the children of Israel cried to the LORD, the LORD raised up a savior to the children of Israel, who saved them, even Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. 10 The LORD's Spirit came on him, and he judged Israel; and he went out to war, and the LORD delivered Cushan Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand. His hand prevailed against Cushan Rishathaim. 11 The land had rest forty years, then Othniel the son of Kenaz died. 12 The children of Israel again did that which was evil in the LORD's sight, and the LORD strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done that which was evil in the LORD's sight. 13 He gathered the children of Ammon and Amalek to himself; and he went and struck Israel, and they possessed the city of palm trees. 14 The children of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years. 15 But when the children of Israel cried to the LORD, the LORD raised up a savior for them: Ehud the son of Gera, the Benjamite, a left-handed man. The children of Israel sent tribute by him to Eglon the king of Moab. 16 Ehud made himself a sword which had two edges, a cubit in length; and he wore it under his clothing on his right thigh. 17 He offered the tribute to Eglon king of Moab. Now Eglon was a very fat man. 18 When Ehud had finished offering the tribute, he sent away the people who carried the tribute. 19 But he himself turned back from the stone idols that were by Gilgal, and said, "I have a secret message for you, O king." The king said, "Keep silence!" All who stood by him left him. 20 Ehud came to him; and he was sitting by himself alone in the cool upper room. Ehud said, "I have a message from God to you." He arose out of his seat. 21 Ehud put out his left hand, and took the sword from his right thigh, and thrust it into his body. 22 The handle also went in after the blade; and the fat closed on the blade, for he did not draw the sword out of his body; and it came out behind. 23 Then Ehud went out onto the porch, and

shut the doors of the upper room on him, and locked them. 24 After he had gone, his servants came and saw that the doors of the upper room were locked. They said, "Surely he is covering his feet in the upper room." 25 They waited until they were ashamed; and behold, he did not open the doors of the upper room. Therefore they took the key and opened them, and behold, their lord had fallen down dead on the floor. 26 Ehud escaped while they waited, passed beyond the stone idols, and escaped to Seirah. 27 When he had come, he blew a trumpet in the hill country of Ephraim; and the children of Israel went down with him from the hill country, and he led them. 28 He said to them, "Follow me; for the LORD has delivered your enemies the Moabites into your hand." They followed him, and took the fords of the Jordan against the Moabites, and did not allow any man to pass over. 29 They struck at that time about ten thousand men of Moab, every strong man and every man of valor. No man escaped. 30 So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. Then the land had rest eighty years. 31 After him was Shamgar the son of Anath, who struck six hundred men of the Philistines with an ox goad. He also saved Israel.

**4** The children of Israel again did that which was evil in the LORD's sight, when Ehud was dead. 2 The LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the captain of whose army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth of the Gentiles. 3 The children of Israel cried to the LORD, for he had nine hundred chariots of iron; and he mightily oppressed the children of Israel for twenty years. 4 Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, judged Israel at that time. 5 She lived under Deborah's palm tree between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the children of Israel came up to her for judgment. 6 She sent and called Barak the son of Abinoam out of Kedesh Naphtali, and said to him, "Has not the LORD, the God of Israel, commanded, 'Go and lead the way to Mount Tabor, and take with you ten thousand men of the children of Naphtali and of the children of Zebulun? 7 I will draw to you, to the river Kishon, Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude; and I will deliver him into your hand.'" 8 Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, then I will



go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go.” 9 and behold, Sisera lay dead, and the tent peg was in his temples. 23 So God subdued Jabin the king of She said, “I will surely go with you. Nevertheless, the Canaan before the children of Israel on that day. 24 journey that you take will not be for your honor; for the LORD will sell Sisera into a woman’s hand.” Deborah The hand of the children of Israel prevailed more and arose, and went with Barak to Kedesh. 10 Barak more against Jabin the king of Canaan, until they had called Zebulun and Naphtali together to Kedesh. Ten destroyed Jabin king of Canaan.

11 Now Heber the Kenite had separated himself from the Kenites, even from the children of 5 Then Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam Hobab, Moses’ brother-in-law, and had pitched his sang on that day, saying, 2 “Because the leaders tent as far as the oak in Zaananim, which is by took the lead in Israel, because the people offered themselves willingly, be blessed, LORD! 3 “Hear, you Kedesh. 12 They told Sisera that Barak the son of kings! Give ear, you princes! I, even I, will sing to the LORD. I will sing praise to the LORD, the God of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor. 13 Sisera gathered together all his chariots, even nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the people who were with him, from Harosheth of the Gentiles, to the river Kishon. 4 “LORD, when you went out of Seir, when you marched out of the field of Edom, the earth trembled, the sky also dropped. Yes, the clouds dropped water. 5 The mountains quaked at the LORD’s presence, even Sinai at the presence of the LORD, the God of Israel. 6 “In the days of Shamgar the son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were unoccupied. The travelers walked through byways. 7 The rulers ceased in Israel. They ceased until I, Deborah, arose; Until I arose a mother in Israel. 8 They chose new gods. Then war was in the gates. Was there a shield or spear seen among forty thousand in Israel? 9 My heart is toward the governors of Israel, who offered themselves willingly among the people. Bless the LORD! 10 “Speak, you who ride on white donkeys, you who sit on rich carpets, and you who walk by the way. 11 Far from the noise of archers, in the places of drawing water, there they will rehearse the LORD’s righteous acts, the righteous acts of his rule in Israel. “Then the LORD’s people went down to the gates. 12 ‘Awake, awake, Deborah! Awake, awake, utter a song! Arise, Barak, and lead away your captives, you son of Abinoam.’ 13 “Then a remnant of the nobles and the people came down. The LORD came down for me against the mighty. 14 Those whose root is in Amalek came out of Ephraim, after you, Benjamin, among your peoples. Governors come down out of Machir. Those who handle the marshal’s staff came out of Zebulun. 15 The princes of Issachar were with Deborah. As was Issachar, so was Barak. They rushed into the valley at his feet. By the watercourses of Reuben, there were great resolves of heart. 16 Why did you sit among the sheepfolds? To hear the whistling for the flocks? At the watercourses of

Reuben, there were great searchings of heart. 17 Gilead lived beyond the Jordan. Why did Dan remain in ships? Asher sat still at the haven of the sea, and lived by his creeks. 18 Zebulun was a people that jeopardized their lives to the death; Naphtali also, on the high places of the field. 19 "The kings came and fought, then the kings of Canaan fought at Taanach by the waters of Megiddo. They took no plunder of silver. 20 From the sky the stars fought. From their courses, they fought against Sisera. 21 The river Kishon swept them away, that ancient river, the river Kishon. My soul, march on with strength. 22 Then the horse hoofs stamped because of the prancing, the prancing of their strong ones. 23 'Curse Meroz,' said the LORD's angel. 'Curse bitterly its inhabitants, because they did not come to help the LORD, to help the LORD against the mighty.' 24 "Jael shall be blessed above women, the wife of Heber the Kenite; blessed shall she be above women in the tent. 25 He asked for water. She gave him milk. She brought him butter in a lordly dish. 26 She put her hand to the tent peg, and her right hand to the workmen's hammer. With the hammer she struck Sisera. She struck through his head. Yes, she pierced and struck through his temples. 27 At her feet he bowed, he fell, he lay. At her feet he bowed, he fell. Where he bowed, there he fell down dead. 28 "Through the window she looked out, and cried: Sisera's mother looked through the lattice. 'Why is his chariot so long in coming? Why do the wheels of his chariots wait?' 29 Her wise ladies answered her, Yes, she returned answer to herself, 30 'Have they not found, have they not divided the plunder? A lady, two ladies to every man; to Sisera a plunder of dyed garments, a plunder of dyed garments embroidered, of dyed garments embroidered on both sides, on the necks of the plunder?' 31 "So let all your enemies perish, LORD, but let those who love him be as the sun when it rises in its strength." Then the land had rest forty years.

**6** The children of Israel did that which was evil in the LORD's sight, so the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years. 2 The hand of Midian prevailed against Israel; and because of Midian the children of Israel made themselves the dens which are in the mountains, the caves, and the strongholds. 3 So it was, when Israel had sown, that

the Midianites, the Amalekites, and the children of the east came up against them. 4 They encamped against them, and destroyed the increase of the earth, until you come to Gaza. They left no sustenance in Israel, and no sheep, ox, or donkey. 5 For they came up with their livestock and their tents. They came in as locusts for multitude. Both they and their camels were without number; and they came into the land to destroy it. 6 Israel was brought very low because of Midian; and the children of Israel cried to the LORD. 7 When the children of Israel cried to the LORD because of Midian, 8 The LORD sent a prophet to the children of Israel; and he said to them, "The LORD, the God of Israel, says, 'I brought you up from Egypt, and brought you out of the house of bondage. 9 I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out from before you, and gave you their land. 10 I said to you, "I am the LORD your God. You shall not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell." But you have not listened to my voice.'" 11 The LORD's angel came and sat under the oak which was in Ophrah, that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite. His son Gideon was beating out wheat in the wine press, to hide it from the Midianites. 12 The LORD's angel appeared to him, and said to him, "The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!" 13 Gideon said to him, "Oh, my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? Where are all his wondrous works which our fathers told us of, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has cast us off, and delivered us into the hand of Midian." 14 The LORD looked at him, and said, "Go in this your might, and save Israel from the hand of Midian. Have not I sent you?" 15 He said to him, "O Lord, how shall I save Israel? Behold, my family is the poorest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." 16 The LORD said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man." 17 He said to him, "If now I have found favor in your sight, then show me a sign that it is you who talk with me. 18 Please do not go away until I come to you, and bring out my present, and lay it before you." He said, "I will wait until you come back." 19 Gideon went in and prepared a young goat and unleavened cakes of an ephah of meal. He

put the meat in a basket and he put the broth in a pot, and brought it out to him under the oak, and presented it. 20 The angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth." He did so. 21 Then the LORD's angel stretched out the end of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes; and fire went up out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened cakes. Then the LORD's angel departed out of his sight. 22 Gideon saw that he was the LORD's angel; and Gideon said, "Alas, Lord GOD! Because I have seen the LORD's angel face to face!" 23 The LORD said to him, "Peace be to you! Do not be afraid. You shall not die." 24 Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD, and called it "The LORD is Peace." To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites. 25 That same night, the LORD said to him, "Take your father's bull, even the second bull seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the Asherah that is by it. 26 Then build an altar to the LORD your God on the top of this stronghold, in an orderly way, and take the second bull, and offer a burnt offering with the wood of the Asherah which you shall cut down." 27 Then Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as the LORD had spoken to him. Because he feared his father's household and the men of the city, he could not do it by day, but he did it by night. 28 When the men of the city arose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was broken down, and the Asherah was cut down that was by it, and the second bull was offered on the altar that was built. 29 They said to one another, "Who has done this thing?" When they inquired and asked, they said, "Gideon the son of Joash has done this thing." 30 Then the men of the city said to Joash, "Bring out your son, that he may die, because he has broken down the altar of Baal, and because he has cut down the Asherah that was by it." 31 Joash said to all who stood against him, "Will you contend for Baal? Or will you save him? He who will contend for him, let him be put to death by morning! If he is a god, let him contend for himself, because someone has broken down his altar!" 32 Therefore on that day he named him Jerub-Baal, saying, "Let Baal contend against him, because he has broken down his altar." 33 Then

all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the children of the east assembled themselves together; and they passed over, and encamped in the valley of Jezreel. 34 But the LORD's Spirit came on Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered together to follow him. 35 He sent messengers throughout all Manasseh, and they also were gathered together to follow him. He sent messengers to Asher, to Zebulun, and to Naphtali; and they came up to meet them. 36 Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand, as you have spoken, 37 behold, I will put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you have spoken." 38 It was so; for he rose up early on the next day, and pressed the fleece together, and wrung the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full of water. 39 Gideon said to God, "Do not let your anger be kindled against me, and I will speak but this once. Please let me make a trial just this once with the fleece. Let it now be dry only on the fleece, and on all the ground let there be dew." 40 God did so that night; for it was dry on the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground.

**7** Then Jerubbaal, who is Gideon, and all the people who were with him, rose up early and encamped beside the spring of Harod. Midian's camp was on the north side of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley. 2 The LORD said to Gideon, "The people who are with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel brag against me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me.' 3 Now therefore proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, 'Whoever is fearful and trembling, let him return and depart from Mount Gilead.'" So twenty-two thousand of the people returned, and ten thousand remained. 4 The LORD said to Gideon, "There are still too many people. Bring them down to the water, and I will test them for you there. It shall be, that those whom I tell you, 'This shall go with you,' shall go with you; and whoever I tell you, 'This shall not go with you,' shall not go." 5 So he brought down the people to the water; and the LORD said to Gideon, "Everyone who laps of the water with his tongue, like a dog laps, you shall set him by himself; likewise everyone who bows down on his knees to drink." 6 The number of

those who lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, was three hundred men; but all the rest of the people bowed down on their knees to drink water. 7 The LORD said to Gideon, "I will save you by the three hundred men who lapped, and deliver the Midianites into your hand. Let all the other people go, each to his own place." 8 So the people took food in their hand, and their trumpets; and he sent all the rest of the men of Israel to their own tents, but retained the three hundred men; and the camp of Midian was beneath him in the valley. 9 That same night, the LORD said to him, "Arise, go down into the camp, for I have delivered it into your hand. 10 But if you are afraid to go down, go with Purah your servant down to the camp. 11 You will hear what they say; and afterward your hands will be strengthened to go down into the camp." Then went he down with Purah his servant to the outermost part of the armed men who were in the camp. 12 The Midianites and the Amalekites and all the children of the east lay along in the valley like locusts for multitude; and their camels were without number, as the sand which is on the seashore for multitude. 13 When Gideon had come, behold, there was a man telling a dream to his fellow. He said, "Behold, I dreamed a dream; and behold, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian, came to the tent, and struck it so that it fell, and turned it upside down, so that the tent lay flat." 14 His fellow answered, "This is nothing other than the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel. God has delivered Midian into his hand, with all the army." 15 It was so, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, that he worshiped. Then he returned into the camp of Israel and said, "Arise, for the LORD has delivered the army of Midian into your hand!" 16 He divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put into the hands of all of them trumpets and empty pitchers, with torches within the pitchers. 17 He said to them, "Watch me, and do likewise. Behold, when I come to the outermost part of the camp, it shall be that, as I do, so you shall do. 18 When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then blow the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and shout, 'For the LORD and for Gideon!'" 19 So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outermost part

of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch, when they had but newly set the watch. Then they blew the trumpets and broke in pieces the pitchers that were in their hands. 20 The three companies blew the trumpets, broke the pitchers, and held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands with which to blow; and they shouted, "The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!" 21 They each stood in his place around the camp, and all the army ran; and they shouted, and put them to flight. 22 They blew the three hundred trumpets, and the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow and against all the army; and the army fled as far as Beth Shittah toward Zererah, as far as the border of Abel Meholah, by Tabbath. 23 The men of Israel were gathered together out of Naphtali, out of Asher, and out of all Manasseh, and pursued Midian. 24 Gideon sent messengers throughout all the hill country of Ephraim, saying, "Come down against Midian and take the waters before them as far as Beth Barah, even the Jordan!" So all the men of Ephraim were gathered together and took the waters as far as Beth Barah, even the Jordan. 25 They took the two princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb. They killed Oreb at Oreb's rock, and Zeeb they killed at Zeeb's wine press, as they pursued Midian. Then they brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon beyond the Jordan.

**8** The men of Ephraim said to him, "Why have you treated us this way, that you did not call us when you went to fight with Midian?" They rebuked him sharply. 2 He said to them, "What have I now done in comparison with you? Is not the gleaning of the grapes of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abiezer? 3 God has delivered into your hand the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb! What was I able to do in comparison with you?" Then their anger was abated toward him when he had said that. 4 Gideon came to the Jordan and passed over, he and the three hundred men who were with him, faint, yet pursuing. 5 He said to the men of Succoth, "Please give loaves of bread to the people who follow me; for they are faint, and I am pursuing after Zebah and Zalmunna, the kings of Midian." 6 The princes of Succoth said, "Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hand, that we should give bread to your army?" 7 Gideon said, "Therefore when the LORD has delivered Zebah

and Zalmunna into my hand, then I will tear your flesh with the thorns of the wilderness and with briers.” 8 He went up there to Penuel, and spoke to them in the same way; and the men of Penuel answered him as the men of Succoth had answered. 9 He spoke also to the men of Penuel, saying, “When I come again in peace, I will break down this tower.” 10 Now Zebah and Zalmunna were in Karkor, and their armies with them, about fifteen thousand men, all who were left of all the army of the children of the east; for there fell one hundred twenty thousand men who drew sword. 11 Gideon went up by the way of those who lived in tents on the east of Nobah and Jogbehah, and struck the army; for the army felt secure. 12 Zebah and Zalmunna fled and he pursued them. He took the two kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna, and confused all the army. 13 Gideon the son of Joash returned from the battle from the ascent of Heres. 14 He caught a young man of the men of Succoth, and inquired of him; and he described for him the princes of Succoth, and its elders, seventy-seven men. 15 He came to the men of Succoth, and said, “See Zebah and Zalmunna, concerning whom you taunted me, saying, ‘Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hand, that we should give bread to your men who are weary?’” 16 He took the elders of the city, and thorns of the wilderness and briers, and with them he taught the men of Succoth. 17 He broke down the tower of Penuel, and killed the men of the city. 18 Then he said to Zebah and Zalmunna, “What kind of men were they whom you killed at Tabor?” They answered, “They were like you. They all resembled the children of a king.” 19 He said, “They were my brothers, the sons of my mother. As the LORD lives, if you had saved them alive, I would not kill you.” 20 He said to Jether his firstborn, “Get up and kill them!” But the youth did not draw his sword; for he was afraid, because he was yet a youth. 21 Then Zebah and Zalmunna said, “You rise and fall on us; for as the man is, so is his strength.” Gideon arose, and killed Zebah and Zalmunna, and took the crescents that were on their camels’ necks. 22 Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, “Rule over us, both you, your son, and your son’s son also; for you have saved us out of the hand of Midian.” 23 Gideon said to them, “I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you. The LORD shall rule over you.” 24 Gideon said to them, “I do have a request: that you would each give me the earrings of his plunder.” (For they had golden earrings, because they were Ishmaelites.) 25 They answered, “We will willingly give them.” They spread a garment, and every man threw the earrings of his plunder into it. 26 The weight of the golden earrings that he requested was one thousand and seven hundred shekels of gold, in addition to the crescents, and the pendants, and the purple clothing that was on the kings of Midian, and in addition to the chains that were about their camels’ necks. 27 Gideon made an ephod out of it, and put it in Ophrah, his city. Then all Israel played the prostitute with it there; and it became a snare to Gideon and to his house. 28 So Midian was subdued before the children of Israel, and they lifted up their heads no more. The land had rest forty years in the days of Gideon. 29 Jerubbaal the son of Joash went and lived in his own house. 30 Gideon had seventy sons conceived from his body, for he had many wives. 31 His concubine who was in Shechem also bore him a son, and he named him Abimelech. 32 Gideon the son of Joash died in a good old age, and was buried in the tomb of Joash his father, in Ophrah of the Abiezrites. 33 As soon as Gideon was dead, the children of Israel turned again and played the prostitute following the Baals, and made Baal Berith their god. 34 The children of Israel did not remember the LORD their God, who had delivered them out of the hand of all their enemies on every side; 35 neither did they show kindness to the house of Jerubbaal, that is, Gideon, according to all the goodness which he had shown to Israel.

**9** Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem to his mother’s brothers, and spoke with them and with all the family of the house of his mother’s father, saying, 2 “Please speak in the ears of all the men of Shechem, ‘Is it better for you that all the sons of Jerubbaal, who are seventy persons, rule over you, or that one rule over you?’ Remember also that I am your bone and your flesh.” 3 His mother’s brothers spoke of him in the ears of all the men of Shechem all these words. Their hearts inclined to follow Abimelech; for they said, “He is our brother.” 4 They gave him seventy pieces of silver out of the house of Baal Berith, with which Abimelech hired vain

and reckless fellows who followed him. 5 He went to his father's house at Ophrah, and killed his brothers the sons of Jerubbaal, being seventy persons, on one stone; but Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left, for he hid himself. 6 All the men of Shechem assembled themselves together with all the house of Millo, and went and made Abimelech king by the oak of the pillar that was in Shechem. 7 When they told it to Jotham, he went and stood on the top of Mount Gerizim and lifted up his voice, cried out, and said to them, "Listen to me, you men of Shechem, that God may listen to you. 8 The trees set out to anoint a king over themselves. They said to the olive tree, 'Reign over us.' 9 "But the olive tree said to them, 'Should I stop producing my oil, with which they honor God and man by me, and go to wave back and forth over the trees?' 10 "The trees said to the fig tree, 'Come and reign over us.' 11 "But the fig tree said to them, 'Should I leave my sweetness, and my good fruit, and go to wave back and forth over the trees?' 12 "The trees said to the vine, 'Come and reign over us.' 13 "The vine said to them, 'Should I leave my new wine, which cheers God and man, and go to wave back and forth over the trees?' 14 "Then all the trees said to the bramble, 'Come and reign over us.' 15 "The bramble said to the trees, 'If in truth you anoint me king over you, then come and take refuge in my shade; and if not, let fire come out of the bramble, and devour the cedars of Lebanon.' 16 "Now therefore, if you have dealt truly and righteously, in that you have made Abimelech king, and if you have dealt well with Jerubbaal and his house, and have done to him according to the deserving of his hands 17 (for my father fought for you, risked his life, and delivered you out of the hand of Midian; 18 and you have risen up against my father's house today and have slain his sons, seventy persons, on one stone, and have made Abimelech, the son of his female servant, king over the men of Shechem, because he is your brother); 19 if you then have dealt truly and righteously with Jerubbaal and with his house today, then rejoice in Abimelech, and let him also rejoice in you; 20 but if not, let fire come out from Abimelech and devour the men of Shechem and the house of Millo; and let fire come out from the men of Shechem and from the house of Millo and devour Abimelech." 21 Jotham ran away and fled, and went to Beer and lived there, for fear of Abimelech his brother. 22 Abimelech was prince over Israel three years. 23 Then God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech, 24 that the violence done to the seventy sons of Jerubbaal might come, and that their blood might be laid on Abimelech their brother who killed them, and on the men of Shechem who strengthened his hands to kill his brothers. 25 The men of Shechem set an ambush for him on the tops of the mountains, and they robbed all who came along that way by them; and Abimelech was told about it. 26 Gaal the son of Ebed came with his brothers and went over to Shechem; and the men of Shechem put their trust in him. 27 They went out into the field, harvested their vineyards, trod the grapes, celebrated, and went into the house of their god and ate and drank, and cursed Abimelech. 28 Gaal the son of Ebed said, "Who is Abimelech, and who is Shechem, that we should serve him? Is not he the son of Jerubbaal? Is not Zebul his officer? Serve the men of Hamor the father of Shechem, but why should we serve him? 29 I wish that this people were under my hand! Then I would remove Abimelech." He said to Abimelech, "Increase your army and come out!" 30 When Zebul the ruler of the city heard the words of Gaal the son of Ebed, his anger burned. 31 He sent messengers to Abimelech craftily, saying, "Behold, Gaal the son of Ebed and his brothers have come to Shechem; and behold, they incite the city against you. 32 Now therefore, go up by night, you and the people who are with you, and lie in wait in the field. 33 It shall be that in the morning, as soon as the sun is up, you shall rise early and rush on the city. Behold, when he and the people who are with him come out against you, then may you do to them as you shall find occasion." 34 Abimelech rose up, and all the people who were with him, by night, and they laid wait against Shechem in four companies. 35 Gaal the son of Ebed went out, and stood in the entrance of the gate of the city. Abimelech rose up, and the people who were with him, from the ambush. 36 When Gaal saw the people, he said to Zebul, "Behold, people are coming down from the tops of the mountains." Zebul said to him, "You see the shadows of the mountains

as if they were men.” 37 Gaal spoke again and said, “Behold, people are coming down by the middle of the land, and one company comes by the way of the oak of Meonenim.” 38 Then Zebul said to him, “Now where is your mouth, that you said, ‘Who is Abimelech, that we should serve him?’ Is not this the people that you have despised? Please go out now and fight with them.” 39 Gaal went out before the men of Shechem, and fought with Abimelech. 40 Abimelech chased him, and he fled before him, and many fell wounded, even to the entrance of the gate. 41 Abimelech lived at Arumah; and Zebul drove out Gaal and his brothers, that they should not dwell in Shechem. 42 On the next day, the people went out into the field; and they told Abimelech. 43 He took the people and divided them into three companies, and laid wait in the field; and he looked, and behold, the people came out of the city. So, he rose up against them and struck them. 44 Abimelech and the companies that were with him rushed forward and stood in the entrance of the gate of the city; and the two companies rushed on all who were in the field and struck them. 45 Abimelech fought against the city all that day; and he took the city and killed the people in it. He beat down the city and sowed it with salt. 46 When all the men of the tower of Shechem heard of it, they entered into the stronghold of the house of Elberith. 47 Abimelech was told that all the men of the tower of Shechem were gathered together. 48 Abimelech went up to Mount Zalmon, he and all the people who were with him; and Abimelech took an ax in his hand, and cut down a bough from the trees, and took it up, and laid it on his shoulder. Then he said to the people who were with him, “What you have seen me do, make haste, and do as I have done!” 49 All the people likewise each cut down his bough, followed Abimelech, and put them at the base of the stronghold, and set the stronghold on fire over them, so that all the people of the tower of Shechem died also, about a thousand men and women. 50 Then Abimelech went to Thebez and encamped against Thebez, and took it. 51 But there was a strong tower within the city, and all the men and women of the city fled there, and shut themselves in, and went up to the roof of the tower. 52 Abimelech came to the tower and fought against it, and came near to the door of the tower to burn it with fire. 53 A certain woman cast an upper millstone on Abimelech’s head, and broke his skull. 54 Then he called hastily to the young man, his armor bearer, and said to him, “Draw your sword and kill me, that men not say of me, ‘A woman killed him.’ His young man thrust him through, and he died.” 55 When the men of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead, they each departed to his place. 56 Thus God repaid the wickedness of Abimelech, which he did to his father in killing his seventy brothers; 57 and God repaid all the wickedness of the men of Shechem on their heads; and the curse of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal came on them.

**10** After Abimelech, Tola the son of Puah, the son of Dodo, a man of Issachar, arose to save Israel. He lived in Shamir in the hill country of Ephraim. 2 He judged Israel twenty-three years, and died, and was buried in Shamir. 3 After him Jair, the Gileadite, arose. He judged Israel twenty-two years. 4 He had thirty sons who rode on thirty donkey colts. They had thirty cities, which are called Havvoth Jair to this day, which are in the land of Gilead. 5 Jair died, and was buried in Kamon. 6 The children of Israel again did that which was evil in the LORD’s sight, and served the Baals, the Ashtaroth, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines. They abandoned the LORD, and did not serve him. 7 The LORD’s anger burned against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of the Philistines and into the hand of the children of Ammon. 8 They troubled and oppressed the children of Israel that year. For eighteen years they oppressed all the children of Israel that were beyond the Jordan in the land of the Amorites, which is in Gilead. 9 The children of Ammon passed over the Jordan to fight also against Judah, and against Benjamin, and against the house of Ephraim, so that Israel was very distressed. 10 The children of Israel cried to the LORD, saying, “We have sinned against you, even because we have forsaken our God, and have served the Baals.” 11 The LORD said to the children of Israel, “Did not I save you from the Egyptians, and from the Amorites, from the children of Ammon, and from the Philistines? 12 The Sidonians also, and the Amalekites, and the

Maonites, oppressed you; and you cried to me, and I saved you out of their hand. **13** Yet you have forsaken me and served other gods. Therefore I will save you no more. **14** Go and cry to the gods which you have chosen. Let them save you in the time of your distress!" **15** The children of Israel said to the LORD, "We have sinned! Do to us whatever seems good to you; only deliver us, please, today." **16** They put away the foreign gods from among them and served the LORD; and his soul was grieved for the misery of Israel. **17** Then the children of Ammon were gathered together and encamped in Gilead. The children of Israel assembled themselves together and encamped in Mizpah. **18** The people, the princes of Gilead, said to one another, "Who is the man who will begin to fight against the children of Ammon? He shall be head over all the inhabitants of Gilead."

**11** Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valor. He was the son of a prostitute. Gilead became the father of Jephthah. **2** Gilead's wife bore him sons. When his wife's sons grew up, they drove Jephthah out and said to him, "You will not inherit in our father's house, for you are the son of another woman." **3** Then Jephthah fled from his brothers and lived in the land of Tob. Outlaws joined up with Jephthah, and they went out with him. **4** After a while, the children of Ammon made war against Israel. **5** When the children of Ammon made war against Israel, the elders of Gilead went to get Jephthah out of the land of Tob. **6** They said to Jephthah, "Come and be our chief, that we may fight with the children of Ammon." **7** Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "Did not you hate me, and drive me out of my father's house? Why have you come to me now when you are in distress?" **8** The elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "Therefore we have turned again to you now, that you may go with us and fight with the children of Ammon. You will be our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead." **9** Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "If you bring me home again to fight with the children of Ammon, and the LORD delivers them before me, will I be your head?" **10** The elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "The LORD will be witness between us. Surely we will do what you say." **11** Then Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and chief over them.

Jephthah spoke all his words before the LORD in Mizpah. **12** Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the children of Ammon, saying, "What do you have to do with me, that you have come to me to fight against my land?" **13** The king of the children of Ammon answered the messengers of Jephthah, "Because Israel took away my land when he came up out of Egypt, from the Arnon even to the Jabbok, and to the Jordan. Now therefore restore that territory again peaceably." **14** Jephthah sent messengers again to the king of the children of Ammon; **15** and he said to him, "Jephthah says: Israel did not take away the land of Moab, nor the land of the children of Ammon; **16** but when they came up from Egypt, and Israel went through the wilderness to the Red Sea, and came to Kadesh, **17** then Israel sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying, 'Please let me pass through your land;' but the king of Edom did not listen. In the same way, he sent to the king of Moab, but he refused; so Israel stayed in Kadesh. **18** Then they went through the wilderness, and went around the land of Edom, and the land of Moab, and came by the east side of the land of Moab, and they encamped on the other side of the Arnon; but they did not come within the border of Moab, for the Arnon was the border of Moab. **19** Israel sent messengers to Sihon king of the Amorites, the king of Heshbon; and Israel said to him, 'Please let us pass through your land to my place.' **20** But Sihon did not trust Israel to pass through his border; but Sihon gathered all his people together, and encamped in Jahaz, and fought against Israel. **21** The LORD, the God of Israel, delivered Sihon and all his people into the hand of Israel, and they struck them. So Israel possessed all the land of the Amorites, the inhabitants of that country. **22** They possessed all the border of the Amorites, from the Arnon even to the Jabbok, and from the wilderness even to the Jordan. **23** So now the LORD, the God of Israel, has dispossessed the Amorites from before his people Israel, and should you possess them? **24** Will not you possess that which Chemosh your god gives you to possess? So whoever the LORD our God has dispossessed from before us, them will we possess. **25** Now are you anything better than Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab? Did he ever strive against Israel, or did he ever fight against



them? 26 Israel lived in Heshbon and its towns, and in Aroer and its towns, and in all the cities that are along the side of the Arnon for three hundred years! Why did not you recover them within that time? 27 Therefore I have not sinned against you, but you do me wrong to war against me. May the LORD the Judge be judge today between the children of Israel and the children of Ammon." 28 However, the king of the children of Ammon did not listen to the words of Jephthah which he sent him. 29 Then the LORD's Spirit came on Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead and Manasseh, and passed over Mizpah of Gilead, and from Mizpah of Gilead he passed over to the children of Ammon. 30 Jephthah vowed a vow to the LORD, and said, "If you will indeed deliver the children of Ammon into my hand, 31 then it shall be, that whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, it shall be the LORD's, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering." 32 So Jephthah passed over to the children of Ammon to fight against them; and the LORD delivered them into his hand. 33 He struck them from Aroer until you come to Minnith, even twenty cities, and to Abelcheramim, with a very great slaughter. So the children of Ammon were subdued before the children of Israel. 34 Jephthah came to Mizpah to his house; and behold, his daughter came out to meet him with tambourines and with dances. She was his only child. Besides her he had neither son nor daughter. 35 When he saw her, he tore his clothes, and said, "Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low, and you are one of those who trouble me; for I have opened my mouth to the LORD, and I cannot go back." 36 She said to him, "My father, you have opened your mouth to the LORD; do to me according to that which has proceeded out of your mouth, because the LORD has taken vengeance for you on your enemies, even on the children of Ammon." 37 Then she said to her father, "Let this thing be done for me. Leave me alone two months, that I may depart and go down on the mountains, and bewail my virginity, I and my companions." 38 He said, "Go." He sent her away for two months; and she departed, she and her companions, and mourned her virginity on the mountains. 39 At the end of two months, she returned to her father, who did

with her according to his vow which he had vowed. She was a virgin. It became a custom in Israel 40 that the daughters of Israel went yearly to celebrate the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite four days in a year.

**12** The men of Ephraim were gathered together, and passed northward; and they said to Jephthah, "Why did you pass over to fight against the children of Ammon, and did not call us to go with you? We will burn your house around you with fire!" 2 Jephthah said to them, "I and my people were at great strife with the children of Ammon; and when I called you, you did not save me out of their hand. 3 When I saw that you did not save me, I put my life in my hand, and passed over against the children of Ammon, and the LORD delivered them into my hand. Why then have you come up to me today, to fight against me?" 4 Then Jephthah gathered together all the men of Gilead, and fought with Ephraim. The men of Gilead struck Ephraim, because they said, "You are fugitives of Ephraim, you Gileadites, in the middle of Ephraim, and in the middle of Manasseh." 5 The Gileadites took the fords of the Jordan against the Ephraimites. Whenever a fugitive of Ephraim said, "Let me go over," the men of Gilead said to him, "Are you an Ephraimite?" If he said, "No;" 6 then they said to him, "Now say 'Shibboleth,'" and he said "Sibboleth"; for he could not manage to pronounce it correctly, then they seized him and killed him at the fords of the Jordan. At that time, forty-two thousand of Ephraim fell. 7 Jephthah judged Israel six years. Then Jephthah the Gileadite died, and was buried in the cities of Gilead. 8 After him Ibzan of Bethlehem judged Israel. 9 He had thirty sons. He sent his thirty daughters outside his clan, and he brought in thirty daughters from outside his clan for his sons. He judged Israel seven years. 10 Ibzan died, and was buried at Bethlehem. 11 After him, Elon the Zebulunite judged Israel; and he judged Israel ten years. 12 Elon the Zebulunite died, and was buried in Aijalon in the land of Zebulun. 13 After him, Abdon the son of Hillel the Pirathonite judged Israel. 14 He had forty sons and thirty sons' sons who rode on seventy donkey colts. He judged Israel eight years. 15 Abdon the son of Hillel the Pirathonite died, and was buried in Pirathon in the land of Ephraim, in the hill country of the Amalekites.

**13** The children of Israel again did that which was evil in the LORD's sight; and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years. **2** There was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren, and childless. **3** The LORD's angel appeared to the woman, and said to her, "See now, you are barren and childless; but you shall conceive and bear a son. **4** Now therefore please beware and drink no wine nor strong drink, and do not eat any unclean thing; **5** for, behold, you shall conceive and give birth to a son. No razor shall come on his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb. He shall begin to save Israel out of the hand of the Philistines." **6** Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, "A man of God came to me, and his face was like the face of the angel of God, very awesome. I did not ask him where he was from, neither did he tell me his name; **7** but he said to me, 'Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son; and now drink no wine nor strong drink. Do not eat any unclean thing, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.'" **8** Then Manoah entreated the LORD, and said, "Oh, Lord, please let the man of God whom you sent come again to us, and teach us what we should do to the child who shall be born." **9** God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the angel of God came again to the woman as she sat in the field; but Manoah, her husband, was not with her. **10** The woman hurried and ran, and told her husband, saying to him, "Behold, the man who came to me that day has appeared to me." **11** Manoah arose and followed his wife, and came to the man, and said to him, "Are you the man who spoke to my wife?" He said, "I am." **12** Manoah said, "Now let your words happen. What shall the child's way of life and mission be?" **13** The LORD's angel said to Manoah, "Of all that I said to the woman let her beware. **14** She may not eat of anything that comes of the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing. Let her observe all that I commanded her." **15** Manoah said to the LORD's angel, "Please stay with us, that we may make a young goat ready for you." **16** The LORD's angel said to Manoah, "Though you detain me, I will not eat your bread. If you will prepare a burnt offering, you must

offer it to the LORD." For Manoah did not know that he was the LORD's angel. **17** Manoah said to the LORD's angel, "What is your name, that when your words happen, we may honor you?" **18** The LORD's angel said to him, "Why do you ask about my name, since it is incomprehensible?" **19** So Manoah took the young goat with the meal offering, and offered it on the rock to the LORD. Then the angel did an amazing thing as Manoah and his wife watched. **20** For when the flame went up toward the sky from off the altar, the LORD's angel ascended in the flame of the altar. Manoah and his wife watched; and they fell on their faces to the ground. **21** But the LORD's angel did not appear to Manoah or to his wife any more. Then Manoah knew that he was the LORD's angel. **22** Manoah said to his wife, "We shall surely die, because we have seen God." **23** But his wife said to him, "If the LORD were pleased to kill us, he would not have received a burnt offering and a meal offering at our hand, and he would not have shown us all these things, nor would he have told us such things as these at this time." **24** The woman bore a son and named him Samson. The child grew, and the LORD blessed him. **25** The LORD's Spirit began to move him in Mahaneh Dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

**14** Samson went down to Timnah, and saw a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines. **2** He came up, and told his father and his mother, saying, "I have seen a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines. Now therefore get her for me as my wife." **3** Then his father and his mother said to him, "Is not there a woman among your brothers' daughters, or among all my people, that you go to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines?" Samson said to his father, "Get her for me, for she pleases me well." **4** But his father and his mother did not know that it was of the LORD; for he sought an occasion against the Philistines. Now at that time the Philistines ruled over Israel. **5** Then Samson went down to Timnah with his father and his mother, and came to the vineyards of Timnah; and behold, a young lion roared at him. **6** The LORD's Spirit came mightily on him, and he tore him as he would have torn a young goat with his bare hands, but he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done. **7** He went down and talked with the woman, and she

pleased Samson well. **8** After a while he returned to take her, and he went over to see the carcass of the lion; and behold, there was a swarm of bees in the body of the lion, and honey. **9** He took it into his hands, and went on, eating as he went. He came to his father and mother and gave to them, and they ate, but he did not tell them that he had taken the honey out of the lion's body. **10** His father went down to the woman; and Samson made a feast there, for the young men used to do so. **11** When they saw him, they brought thirty companions to be with him. **12** Samson said to them, "Let me tell you a riddle now. If you can tell me the answer within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty linen garments and thirty changes of clothing; **13** but if you cannot tell me the answer, then you shall give me thirty linen garments and thirty changes of clothing." They said to him, "Tell us your riddle, that we may hear it." **14** He said to them, "Out of the eater came out food. Out of the strong came out sweetness." They could not in three days declare the riddle. **15** On the seventh day, they said to Samson's wife, "Entice your husband, that he may declare to us the riddle, lest we burn you and your father's house with fire. Have you called us to impoverish us? Is not that so?" **16** Samson's wife wept before him, and said, "You just hate me, and do not love me. You have told a riddle to the children of my people, and have not told it to me." He said to her, "Behold, I have not told my father or my mother, so why should I tell you?" **17** She wept before him the seven days, while their feast lasted; and on the seventh day, he told her, because she pressed him severely; and she told the riddle to the children of her people. **18** The men of the city said to him on the seventh day before the sun went down, "What is sweeter than honey? What is stronger than a lion?" He said to them, "If you had not plowed with my heifer, you would not have found out my riddle." **19** The LORD's Spirit came mightily on him, and he went down to Ashkelon and struck thirty men of them. He took their plunder, then gave the changes of clothing to those who declared the riddle. His anger burned, and he went up to his father's house. **20** But Samson's wife was given to his companion, who had been his friend.

**15** But after a while, in the time of wheat harvest, Samson visited his wife with a young goat. He said, "I will go in to my wife's room." But her father would not allow him to go in. **2** Her father said, "I most certainly thought that you utterly hated her; therefore I gave her to your companion. 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 the case of the Philistines when I harm them." **4** Samson went and caught three hundred foxes, and took torches, and turned tail to tail, and put a torch in the middle between every two tails. **5** When he had set the torches on fire, he let them go into the standing grain of the Philistines, and burned up both the shocks and the standing grain, and also the olive groves. **6** Then the Philistines said, "Who has done this?" They said, "Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, because he has taken his wife and given her to his companion." The Philistines came up, and burned her and her father with fire. **7** Samson said to them, "If you behave like this, surely I will take revenge on you, and after that I will cease." **8** He struck them hip and thigh with a great slaughter; and he went down and lived in the cave in Etam's rock. **9** Then the Philistines went up, encamped in Judah, and spread themselves in Lehi. **10** The men of Judah said, "Why have you come up against us?" They said, "We have come up to bind Samson, to do to him as he has done to us." **11** Then three thousand men of Judah went down to the cave in Etam's rock, and said to Samson, "Do not you know that the Philistines are rulers over us? What then is this that you have done to us?" He said to them, "As they did to me, so I have done to them." **12** They said to him, "We have come down to bind you, that we may deliver you into the hand of the Philistines." Samson said to them, "Swear to me that you will not attack me yourselves." **13** They spoke to him, saying, "No, but we will bind you securely and deliver you into their hands; but surely we will not kill you." They bound him with two new ropes, and brought him up from the rock. **14** When he came to Lehi, the Philistines shouted as they met him. Then the LORD's Spirit came mightily on him, and the ropes that were on his arms became as flax that was burned with fire; and his bands dropped from off his hands. **15** He found a

fresh jawbone of a donkey, put out his hand, took it, and struck a thousand men with it. **16** Samson said, "With the jawbone of a donkey, heaps on heaps; with the jawbone of a donkey I have struck a thousand men." **17** When he had finished speaking, he threw the jawbone out of his hand; and that place was called Ramath Lehi. **18** He was very thirsty, and called on the LORD and said, "You have given this great deliverance by the hand of your servant; and now shall I die of thirst, and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?" **19** But God split the hollow place that is in Lehi, and water came out of it. When he had drunk, his spirit came again, and he revived. Therefore its name was called En Hakkore, which is in Lehi, to this day. **20** He judged Israel twenty years in the days of the Philistines.

**16** Samson went to Gaza, and saw there a prostitute, and went in to her. **2** The Gazites were told, "Samson is here!" They surrounded him and laid wait for him all night in the gate of the city, and were quiet all the night, saying, "Wait until morning light; then we will kill him." **3** Samson lay until midnight, then arose at midnight and took hold of the doors of the gate of the city, with the two posts, and plucked them up, bar and all, and put them on his shoulders and carried them up to the top of the mountain that is before Hebron. **4** It came to pass afterward that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. **5** The lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, "Entice him, and see in which his great strength lies, and by what means we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him; and we will each give you eleven hundred pieces of silver." **6** Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me where your great strength lies, and what you might be bound to afflict you." **7** Samson said to her, "If they bind me with seven green cords that were never dried, then shall I become weak, and be as another man." **8** Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven green cords which had not been dried, and she bound him with them. **9** Now she had an ambush waiting in the inner room. She said to him, "The Philistines are on you, Samson!" He broke the cords as a flax thread is broken when it touches the fire. So his strength was not known. **10** Delilah said to Samson, "Behold,

you have mocked me, and told me lies. Now please tell me how you might be bound." **11** He said to her, "If they only bind me with new ropes with which no work has been done, then shall I become weak, and be as another man." **12** So Delilah took new ropes and bound him with them, then said to him, "The Philistines are on you, Samson!" The ambush was waiting in the inner room. He broke them off his arms like a thread. **13** Delilah said to Samson, "Until now, you have mocked me and told me lies. Tell me with what you might be bound." He said to her, "If you weave the seven locks of my head with the fabric on the loom." **14** She fastened it with the pin, and said to him, "The Philistines are on you, Samson!" He awakened out of his sleep, and plucked away the pin of the beam and the fabric. **15** She said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when your heart is not with me? You have mocked me these three times, and have not told me where your great strength lies." **16** When she pressed him daily with her words and urged him, his soul was troubled to death. **17** He told her all his heart and said to her, "No razor has ever come on my head; for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If I am shaved, then my strength will go from me and I will become weak, and be like any other man." **18** When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, "Come up this once, for he has told me all his heart." Then the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hand. **19** She made him sleep on her knees; and she called for a man and shaved off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him. **20** She said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" He awoke out of his sleep, and said, "I will go out as at other times, and shake myself free." But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him. **21** The Philistines laid hold on him and put out his eyes; and they brought him down to Gaza and bound him with fetters of bronze; and he ground at the mill in the prison. **22** However, the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaved. **23** The lords of the Philistines gathered together to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god, and to rejoice; for they said, "Our god has delivered Samson our enemy into our hand."

24 When the people saw him, they praised their god; for they said, "Our god has delivered our enemy and the destroyer of our country, who has slain many of us, into our hand." 25 When their hearts were merry, they said, "Call for Samson, that he may entertain us." They called for Samson out of the prison; and he performed before them. They set him between the pillars; 26 and Samson said to the boy who held him by the hand, "Allow me to feel the pillars on which the house rests, that I may lean on them." 27 Now the house was full of men and women; and all the lords of the Philistines were there; and there were on the roof about three thousand men and women, who saw while Samson performed. 28 Samson called to the LORD, and said, "Lord GOD, remember me, please, and strengthen me, please, only this once, God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes." 29 Samson took hold of the two middle pillars on which the house rested and leaned on them, the one with his right hand and the other with his left. 30 Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" He bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell on the lords, and on all the people who were in it. So the dead that he killed at his death were more than those who he killed in his life. 31 Then his brothers and all the house of his father came down and took him, and brought him up and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the burial site of Manoah his father. He judged Israel twenty years.

**17** There was a man of the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Micah. 2 He said to his mother, "The eleven hundred pieces of silver that were taken from you, about which you uttered a curse, and also spoke it in my ears—behold, the silver is with me. I took it." His mother said, "May the LORD bless my son!" 3 He restored the eleven hundred pieces of silver to his mother, then his mother said, "I most certainly dedicate the silver to the LORD from my hand for my son, to make a carved image and a molten image. Now therefore I will restore it to you." 4 When he restored the money to his mother, his mother took two hundred pieces of silver, and gave them to a silversmith, who made a carved image and a molten image out of it. It was in the house of Micah. 5 The man Micah had a house of gods, and he made an ephod, and teraphim, and consecrated one of his

sons, who became his priest. 6 In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did that which was right in his own eyes. 7 There was a young man out of Bethlehem Judah, of the family of Judah, who was a Levite; and he lived there. 8 The man departed out of the city, out of Bethlehem Judah, to live where he could find a place, and he came to the hill country of Ephraim, to the house of Micah, as he traveled. 9 Micah said to him, "Where did you come from?" He said to him, "I am a Levite of Bethlehem Judah, and I am looking for a place to live." 10 Micah said to him, "Dwell with me, and be to me a father and a priest, and I will give you ten pieces of silver per year, a suit of clothing, and your food." So the Levite went in. 11 The Levite was content to dwell with the man; and the young man was to him as one of his sons. 12 Micah consecrated the Levite, and the young man became his priest, and was in the house of Micah. 13 Then Micah said, "Now I know that the LORD will do good to me, since I have a Levite as my priest."

**18** In those days there was no king in Israel. In those days the tribe of the Danites sought an inheritance to dwell in; for to that day, their inheritance had not fallen to them among the tribes of Israel. 2 The children of Dan sent five men of their family from their whole number, men of valor, from Zorah and from Eshtaol, to spy out the land and to search it. They said to them, "Go, explore the land!" They came to the hill country of Ephraim, to the house of Micah, and lodged there. 3 When they were by the house of Micah, they knew the voice of the young man the Levite; so they went over there and said to him, "Who brought you here? What do you do in this place? What do you have here?" 4 He said to them, "Thus and thus has Micah dealt with me, and he has hired me, and I have become his priest." 5 They said to him, "Please ask counsel of God, that we may know whether our way which we go shall be prosperous." 6 The priest said to them, "Go in peace. Your way in which you go is before the LORD." 7 Then the five men departed and came to Laish and saw the people who were there, how they lived in safety, in the way of the Sidonians, quiet and secure; for there was no one in the land possessing authority, that might put them to shame in anything, and they were far from the Sidonians, and had no dealings

with anyone else. **8** They came to their brothers at Zorah and Eshtaol; and their brothers asked them, "What do you say?" **9** They said, "Arise, and let's go up against them; for we have seen the land, and behold, it is very good. Do you stand still? Do not be slothful to go and to enter in to possess the land. **10** When you go, you will come to an unsuspecting people, and the land is large; for God has given it into your hand, a place where there is no lack of anything that is in the earth." **11** The family of the Danites set out from Zorah and Eshtaol with six hundred men armed with weapons of war. **12** They went up and encamped in Kiriath Jearim in Judah. Therefore they call that place Mahaneh Dan to this day. Behold, it is behind Kiriath Jearim. **13** They passed from there to the hill country of Ephraim, and came to the house of Micah. **14** Then the five men who went to spy out the country of Laish answered and said to their brothers, "Do you know that there is in these houses an ephod, and teraphim, and a carved image, and a molten image? Now therefore consider what you have to do." **15** They went over there and came to the house of the young Levite man, even to the house of Micah, and asked him how he was doing. **16** The six hundred men armed with their weapons of war, who were of the children of Dan, stood by the entrance of the gate. **17** The five men who went to spy out the land went up, and came in there, and took the engraved image, the ephod, the teraphim, and the molten image; and the priest stood by the entrance of the gate with the six hundred men armed with weapons of war. **18** When these went into Micah's house, and took the engraved image, the ephod, the teraphim, and the molten image, the priest said to them, "What are you doing?" **19** They said to him, "Hold your peace, put your hand on your mouth, and go with us. Be a father and a priest to us. Is it better for you to be priest to the house of one man, or to be priest to a tribe and a family in Israel?" **20** The priest's heart was glad, and he took the ephod, the teraphim, and the engraved image, and went with the people. **21** So they turned and departed, and put the little ones, the livestock, and the goods before them. **22** When they were a good way from the house of Micah, the men who were in the houses near Micah's house gathered together and overtook the children of Dan. **23** As

they called to the children of Dan, they turned their faces, and said to Micah, "What ails you, that you come with such a company?" **24** He said, "You have taken away my gods which I made, and the priest, and have gone away! What more do I have? How can you ask me, 'What ails you?'" **25** The children of Dan said to him, "Do not let your voice be heard among us, lest angry fellows fall on you, and you lose your life, with the lives of your household." **26** The children of Dan went their way; and when Micah saw that they were too strong for him, he turned and went back to his house. **27** They took that which Micah had made, and the priest whom he had, and came to Laish, to a people quiet and unsuspecting, and struck them with the edge of the sword; then they burned the city with fire. **28** There was no deliverer, because it was far from Sidon, and they had no dealings with anyone else; and it was in the valley that lies by Beth Rehob. They built the city and lived in it. **29** They called the name of the city Dan, after the name of Dan their father, who was born to Israel; however the name of the city used to be Laish. **30** The children of Dan set up for themselves the engraved image; and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Moses, and his sons were priests to the tribe of the Danites until the day of the captivity of the land. **31** So they set up for themselves Micah's engraved image which he made, and it remained all the time that God's house was in Shiloh.

**19** In those days, when there was no king in Israel, there was a certain Levite living on the farther side of the hill country of Ephraim, who took for himself a concubine out of Bethlehem Judah. **2** His concubine played the prostitute against him, and went away from him to her father's house to Bethlehem Judah, and was there for four months. **3** Her husband arose and went after her to speak kindly to her, to bring her again, having his servant with him and a couple of donkeys. She brought him into her father's house; and when the father of the young lady saw him, he rejoiced to meet him. **4** His father-in-law, the young lady's father, kept him there; and he stayed with him three days. So they ate and drank, and stayed there. **5** On the fourth day, they got up early in the morning, and he rose up to depart. The young lady's father said to his son-in-law, "Strengthen your

heart with a morsel of bread, and afterward you shall go your way.” 6 So they sat down, ate, and drank, both of them together. Then the young lady’s father said to the man, “Please be pleased to stay all night, and let your heart be merry.” 7 The man rose up to depart; but his father-in-law urged him, and he stayed there again. 8 He arose early in the morning on the fifth day to depart; and the young lady’s father said, “Please strengthen your heart and stay until the day declines;” and they both ate. 9 When the man rose up to depart, he, and his concubine, and his servant, his father-in-law, the young lady’s father, said to him, “Behold, now the day draws toward evening, please stay all night. Behold, the day is ending. Stay here, that your heart may be merry; and tomorrow go on your way early, that you may go home.” 10 But the man would not stay that night, but he rose up and went near Jebus (also called Jerusalem). With him were a couple of saddled donkeys. His concubine also was with him. 11 When they were by Jebus, the day was far spent; and the servant said to his master, “Please come and let’s enter into this city of the Jebusites, and stay in it.” 12 His master said to him, “We will not enter into the city of a foreigner that is not of the children of Israel; but we will pass over to Gibeah.” 13 He said to his servant, “Come and let’s draw near to one of these places; and we will lodge in Gibeah, or in Ramah.” 14 So they passed on and went their way; and the sun went down on them near Gibeah, which belongs to Benjamin. 15 They went over there, to go in to stay in Gibeah. He went in, and sat down in the street of the city; for there was no one who took them into his house to stay. 16 Behold, an old man came from his work out of the field at evening. Now the man was from the hill country of Ephraim, and he lived in Gibeah; but the men of the place were Benjamites. 17 He lifted up his eyes, and saw the wayfaring man in the street of the city; and the old man said, “Where are you going? Where did you come from?” 18 He said to him, “We are passing from Bethlehem Judah to the farther side of the hill country of Ephraim. I am from there, and I went to Bethlehem Judah. I am going to the LORD’s house; and there is no one who has taken me into his house. 19 Yet there is both straw and feed for our donkeys; and there is bread and wine also for me, and for your servant, and for the young man who is with your servants. There is no lack of anything.” 20 The old man said, “Peace be to you! Just let me supply all your needs, but do not sleep in the street.” 21 So he brought him into his house, and gave the donkeys fodder. Then they washed their feet, and ate and drank. 22 As they were making their hearts merry, behold, the men of the city, certain wicked fellows, surrounded the house, beating at the door; and they spoke to the master of the house, the old man, saying, “Bring out the man who came into your house, that we can have sex with him!” 23 The man, the master of the house, went out to them, and said to them, “No, my brothers, please do not act so wickedly; since this man has come into my house, do not do this folly. 24 Behold, here is my virgin daughter and his concubine. I will bring them out now. Humble them, and do with them what seems good to you; but to this man do not do any such folly.” 25 But the men would not listen to him; so the man grabbed his concubine, and brought her out to them; and they had sex with her, and abused her all night until the morning. When the day began to dawn, they let her go. 26 Then the woman came in the dawning of the day, and fell down at the door of the man’s house where her lord was, until it was light. 27 Her lord rose up in the morning and opened the doors of the house, and went out to go his way; and behold, the woman his concubine had fallen down at the door of the house, with her hands on the threshold. 28 He said to her, “Get up, and let’s get going!” but no one answered. Then he took her up on the donkey; and the man rose up, and went to his place. 29 When he had come into his house, he took a knife and cut up his concubine, and divided her, limb by limb, into twelve pieces, and sent her throughout all the borders of Israel. 30 It was so, that all who saw it said, “Such a deed has not been done or seen from the day that the children of Israel came up out of the land of Egypt to this day! Consider it, take counsel, and speak.”

**20** Then all the children of Israel went out, and the congregation was assembled as one man, from Dan even to Beersheba, with the land of Gilead, to the LORD at Mizpah. 2 The chiefs of all the people, even of all the tribes of Israel, presented themselves in the assembly of the people of God, four hundred thousand

footmen who drew sword. 3 (Now the children of Benjamin heard that the children of Israel had gone up to Mizpah.) The children of Israel said, "Tell us, how did this wickedness happen?" 4 The Levite, the husband of the woman who was murdered, answered, "I came into Gibeah that belongs to Benjamin, I and my concubine, to spend the night. 5 The men of Gibeah rose against me, and surrounded the house by night. They intended to kill me and they raped my concubine, and she is dead. 6 I took my concubine and cut her in pieces, and sent her throughout all the country of the inheritance of Israel; for they have committed lewdness and folly in Israel. 7 Behold, you children of Israel, all of you, give here your advice and counsel." 8 All the people arose as one man, saying, "None of us will go to his tent, neither will any of us turn to his house. 9 But now this is the thing which we will do to Gibeah: we will go up against it by lot; 10 and we will take ten men of one hundred throughout all the tribes of Israel, and one hundred of one thousand, and a thousand out of ten thousand to get food for the people, that they may do, when they come to Gibeah of Benjamin, according to all the folly that the men of Gibeah have done in Israel." 11 So all the men of Israel were gathered against the city, knit together as one man. 12 The tribes of Israel sent men through all the tribe of Benjamin, saying, "What wickedness is this that has happened among you? 13 Now therefore deliver up the men, the wicked fellows who are in Gibeah, that we may put them to death and put away evil from Israel." But Benjamin would not listen to the voice of their brothers, the children of Israel. 14 The children of Benjamin gathered themselves together out of the cities to Gibeah, to go out to battle against the children of Israel. 15 The children of Benjamin were counted on that day out of the cities twenty-six thousand men who drew the sword, in addition to the inhabitants of Gibeah, who were counted seven hundred chosen men. 16 Among all these soldiers there were seven hundred chosen men who were left-handed. Every one of them could sling a stone at a hair and not miss. 17 The men of Israel, besides Benjamin, were counted four hundred thousand men who drew sword. All these were men of war. 18 The children of Israel arose, went up to Bethel, and asked counsel of God. They asked, "Who shall go up for

us first to battle against the children of Benjamin?" The LORD said, "Judah first." 19 The children of Israel rose up in the morning and encamped against Gibeah. 20 The men of Israel went out to battle against Benjamin; and the men of Israel set the battle in array against them at Gibeah. 21 The children of Benjamin came out of Gibeah, and on that day destroyed twenty-two thousand of the Israelite men down to the ground. 22 The people, the men of Israel, encouraged themselves, and set the battle again in array in the place where they set themselves in array the first day. 23 The children of Israel went up and wept before the LORD until evening; and they asked of the LORD, saying, "Shall I again draw near to battle against the children of Benjamin my brother?" The LORD said, "Go up against him." 24 The children of Israel came near against the children of Benjamin the second day. 25 Benjamin went out against them out of Gibeah the second day, and destroyed down to the ground of the children of Israel again eighteen thousand men. All these drew the sword. 26 Then all the children of Israel and all the people went up, and came to Bethel, and wept, and sat there before the LORD, and fasted that day until evening; then they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. 27 The children of Israel asked the LORD (for the ark of the covenant of God was there in those days, 28 and Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, stood before it in those days), saying, "Shall I yet again go out to battle against the children of Benjamin my brother, or shall I cease?" The LORD said, "Go up; for tomorrow I will deliver him into your hand." 29 Israel set ambushes all around Gibeah. 30 The children of Israel went up against the children of Benjamin on the third day, and set themselves in array against Gibeah, as at other times. 31 The children of Benjamin went out against the people, and were drawn away from the city; and they began to strike and kill of the people as at other times, in the highways, of which one goes up to Bethel and the other to Gibeah, in the field, about thirty men of Israel. 32 The children of Benjamin said, "They are struck down before us, as at the first." But the children of Israel said, "Let's flee, and draw them away from the city to the highways." 33 All the men of Israel rose up out of their place and set themselves in



array at Baal Tamar. Then the ambushers of Israel broke out of their place, even out of Maareh Geba. **34** Ten thousand chosen men out of all Israel came over against Gibeah, and the battle was severe; but they did not know that disaster was close to them. **35** The LORD struck Benjamin before Israel; and the children of Israel destroyed of Benjamin that day twenty-five thousand one hundred men. All these drew the sword. **36** So the children of Benjamin saw that they were struck, for the men of Israel yielded to Benjamin because they trusted the ambushers whom they had set against Gibeah. **37** The ambushers hurried, and rushed on Gibeah; then the ambushers spread out, and struck all the city with the edge of the sword. **38** Now the appointed sign between the men of Israel and the ambushers was that they should make a great cloud of smoke rise up out of the city. **39** The men of Israel turned in the battle, and Benjamin began to strike and kill of the men of Israel about thirty persons; for they said, "Surely they are struck down before us, as in the first battle." **40** But when the cloud began to arise up out of the city in a pillar of smoke, the Benjamites looked behind them; and behold, the whole city went up in smoke to the sky. **41** The men of Israel turned, and the men of Benjamin were dismayed; for they saw that disaster had come on them. **42** Therefore they turned their backs before the men of Israel to the way of the wilderness, but the battle followed hard after them; and those who came out of the cities destroyed them in the middle of it. **43** They surrounded the Benjamites, chased them, and trod them down at their resting place, as far as near Gibeah toward the sunrise. **44** Eighteen thousand men of Benjamin fell; all these were men of valor. **45** They turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon. They gleaned five thousand men of them in the highways, and followed hard after them to Gidom, and struck two thousand men of them. **46** So that all who fell that day of Benjamin were twenty-five thousand men who drew the sword. All these were men of valor. **47** But six hundred men turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon, and stayed in the rock of Rimmon four months. **48** The men of Israel turned again on the children of Benjamin, and struck them with the edge of the sword—including the entire city, the livestock,

and all that they found. Moreover they set all the cities which they found on fire.

**21** Now the men of Israel had sworn in Mizpah, saying, "None of us will give his daughter to Benjamin as a wife." **2** The people came to Bethel and sat there until evening before God, and lifted up their voices, and wept severely. **3** They said, "The LORD, the God of Israel, why has this happened in Israel, that there should be one tribe lacking in Israel today?" **4** On the next day, the people rose early and built an altar there, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. **5** The children of Israel said, "Who is there among all the tribes of Israel who did not come up in the assembly to the LORD?" For they had made a great oath concerning him who did not come up to the LORD to Mizpah, saying, "He shall surely be put to death." **6** The children of Israel grieved for Benjamin their brother, and said, "There is one tribe cut off from Israel today. **7** How shall we provide wives for those who remain, since we have sworn by the LORD that we will not give them of our daughters to wives?" **8** They said, "What one is there of the tribes of Israel who did not come up to the LORD to Mizpah?" Behold, no one came from Jabesh Gilead to the camp to the assembly. **9** For when the people were counted, behold, there were none of the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead there. **10** The congregation sent twelve thousand of the most valiant men there, and commanded them, saying, "Go and strike the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead with the edge of the sword, with the women and the little ones. **11** This is the thing that you shall do: you shall utterly destroy every male, and every woman who has lain with a man." **12** They found among the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead four hundred young virgins who had not known man by lying with him; and they brought them to the camp to Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan. **13** The whole congregation sent and spoke to the children of Benjamin who were in the rock of Rimmon, and proclaimed peace to them. **14** Benjamin returned at that time; and they gave them the women whom they had saved alive of the women of Jabesh Gilead. There still were not enough for them. **15** The people grieved for Benjamin, because the LORD had made a breach in the tribes of Israel. **16** Then the elders of the congregation said,

“How shall we provide wives for those who remain, since the women are destroyed out of Benjamin?” 17 They said, “There must be an inheritance for those who are escaped of Benjamin, that a tribe not be blotted out from Israel. 18 However, we may not give them wives of our daughters, for the children of Israel had sworn, saying, ‘Cursed is he who gives a wife to Benjamin.’” 19 They said, “Behold, there is a feast of the LORD from year to year in Shiloh, which is on the north of Bethel, on the east side of the highway that goes up from Bethel to Shechem, and on the south of Lebonah.” 20 They commanded the children of Benjamin, saying, “Go and lie in wait in the vineyards, 21 and see, and behold, if the daughters of Shiloh come out to dance in the dances, then come out of the vineyards, and each man catch his wife of the daughters of Shiloh, and go to the land of Benjamin. 22 It shall be, when their fathers or their brothers come to complain to us, that we will say to them, ‘Grant them graciously to us, because we did not take for each man his wife in battle, neither did you give them to them; otherwise you would now be guilty.’” 23 The children of Benjamin did so, and took wives for themselves according to their number, of those who danced, whom they carried off. They went and returned to their inheritance, built the cities, and lived in them. 24 The children of Israel departed from there at that time, every man to his tribe and to his family, and they each went out from there to his own inheritance. 25 In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did that which was right in his own eyes.

# Ruth

**1** In the days when the judges judged, there was a famine in the land. A certain man of Bethlehem Judah went to live in the country of Moab with his wife and his two sons. **2** The name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi. The names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehem Judah. They came into the country of Moab and lived there. **3** Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left with her two sons. **4** They took for themselves wives of the women of Moab. The name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other was Ruth. They lived there about ten years. **5** Mahlon and Chilion both died, and the woman was bereaved of her two children and of her husband. **6** Then she arose with her daughters-in-law, that she might return from the country of Moab; for she had heard in the country of Moab how the LORD had visited his people in giving them bread. **7** She went out of the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her. They went on the way to return to the land of Judah. **8** Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. **9** May the LORD grant you that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband." Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices, and wept. **10** They said to her, "No, but we will return with you to your people." **11** Naomi said, "Go back, my daughters. Why do you want to go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands? **12** Go back, my daughters, go your way; for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say, 'I have hope,' if I should even have a husband tonight, and should also bear sons, **13** would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from having husbands? No, my daughters, for it grieves me seriously for your sakes, for the LORD's hand has gone out against me." **14** They lifted up their voices and wept again; then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth stayed with her. **15** She said, "Behold, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her god. Follow your sister-in-law." **16** Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you, and to return from following

you, for where you go, I will go; and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God my God. **17** Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me." **18** When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her. **19** So they both went until they came to Bethlehem. When they had come to Bethlehem, all the city was excited about them, and they asked, "Is this Naomi?" **20** She said to them, "Do not call me Naomi. Call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. **21** I went out full, and the LORD has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?" **22** So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, with her, who returned out of the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest.

**2** Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech, and his name was Boaz. **2** Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me now go to the field, and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I find favor." She said to her, "Go, my daughter." **3** She went, and came and gleaned in the field after the reapers; and she happened to come to the portion of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech. **4** Behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, "May the LORD be with you." They answered him, "May the LORD bless you." **5** Then Boaz said to his servant who was set over the reapers, "Whose young lady is this?" **6** The servant who was set over the reapers answered, "It is the Moabite lady who came back with Naomi out of the country of Moab. **7** She said, 'Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.' So she came, and has continued even from the morning until now, except that she rested a little in the house." **8** Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Listen, my daughter. Do not go to glean in another field, and do not go from here, but stay here close to my maidens. **9** Let your eyes be on the field that they reap, and go after them. Have not I commanded the young men not to touch you? When you are thirsty, go to the vessels, and drink from that which the young men have drawn." **10**

Then she fell on her face and bowed herself to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your sight, that you should take knowledge of me, since I am a foreigner?" **11** Boaz answered her, "I have been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father, your mother, and the land of your birth, and have come to a people that you did not know before. **12** May the LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given to you from the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge." **13** Then she said, "Let me find favor in your sight, my lord, because you have comforted me, and because you have spoken kindly to your servant, though I am not as one of your servants." **14** At meal time Boaz said to her, "Come here, and eat some bread, and dip your morsel in the vinegar." She sat beside the reapers, and they passed her parched grain. She ate, was satisfied, and left some of it. **15** When she had risen up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. **16** Also pull out some for her from the bundles, and leave it. Let her glean, and do not rebuke her." **17** So she gleaned in the field until evening; and she beat out that which she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. **18** She took it up, and went into the city. Then her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned; and she brought out and gave to her that which she had left after she had enough. **19** Her mother-in-law said to her, "Where have you gleaned today? Where have you worked? Blessed be he who noticed you." She told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz." **20** Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "May he be blessed by the LORD, who has not abandoned his kindness to the living and to the dead." Naomi said to her, "The man is a close relative to us, one of our near kinsmen." **21** Ruth the Moabitess said, "Yes, he said to me, 'You shall stay close to my young men until they have finished all my harvest.'" **22** Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, "It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his maidens, and that they not meet you in any other field." **23** So she stayed close to the maidens of Boaz,

to glean to the end of barley harvest and of wheat harvest; and she lived with her mother-in-law.

**3** Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shall I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you? **2** Now is not Boaz our kinsman, with whose maidens you were? Behold, he will be winnowing barley tonight on the threshing floor. **3** Therefore wash yourself, anoint yourself, get dressed, and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. **4** It shall be, when he lies down, that you shall note the place where he is lying. Then you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down. Then he will tell you what to do." **5** She said to her, "All that you say, I will do." **6** She went down to the threshing floor, and did everything that her mother-in-law told her. **7** When Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. She came softly, uncovered his feet, and lay down. **8** At midnight, the man was startled and turned himself; and behold, a woman lay at his feet. **9** He said, "Who are you?" She answered, "I am Ruth your servant. Therefore spread the corner of your garment over your servant; for you are a near kinsman." **10** He said, "You are blessed by the LORD, my daughter. You have shown more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, because you did not follow young men, whether poor or rich. **11** Now, my daughter, do not be afraid. I will do to you all that you say; for all the city of my people knows that you are a worthy woman. **12** Now it is true that I am a near kinsman. However, there is a kinsman nearer than I. **13** Stay this night, and in the morning, if he will perform for you the part of a kinsman, good. Let him do the kinsman's duty. But if he will not do the duty of a kinsman for you, then I will do the duty of a kinsman for you, as the LORD lives. Lie down until the morning." **14** She lay at his feet until the morning, then she rose up before one could discern another. For he said, "Let it not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor." **15** He said, "Bring the mantle that is on you, and hold it." She held it; and he measured six measures of barley, and laid it on her; then he went into the city. **16** When she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "How did it go, my daughter?" She told her all that the man had done for her. **17** She said, "He gave me these six

measures of barley; for he said, 'Do not go empty to your mother-in-law.'" **18** Then she said, "Wait, my daughter, until you know what will happen; for the man will not rest until he has settled this today."

**4** Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there.

Behold, the near kinsman of whom Boaz spoke came by. Boaz said to him, "Come over here, friend, and sit down!" He came over, and sat down. **2** Boaz took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, "Sit down here," and they sat down. **3** He said to the near kinsman, "Naomi, who has come back out of the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land, which was our brother Elimelech's. **4** I thought I should tell you, saying, 'Buy it before those who sit here, and before the elders of my people.' If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you will not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know. For there is no one to redeem it besides you; and I am after you." He said, "I will redeem it." **5** Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must buy it also from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead on his inheritance." **6** The near kinsman said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I endanger my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption for yourself; for I cannot redeem it."

**7** Now this was the custom in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning exchanging, to confirm all things: a man took off his sandal, and gave it to his neighbor; and this was the way of formalizing transactions in Israel. **8** So the near kinsman said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself," then he took off his sandal. **9** Boaz said to the elders and to all the people, "You are witnesses today, that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, from the hand of Naomi. **10** Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, I have purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead on his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his place. You are witnesses today." **11** All the people who were in the gate, and the elders, said, "We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman who has come into your house like Rachel and like Leah, which both built the house of Israel; and treat you worthily in Ephrathah, and be famous in Bethlehem.

**12** Let your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, of the offspring which the LORD will give you by this young woman." **13** So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and he went in to her, and the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she bore a son. **14** The women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you today without a near kinsman. Let his name be famous in Israel. **15** He shall be to you a restorer of life and sustain you in your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him." **16** Naomi took the child, laid him in her bosom, and became nurse to him. **17** The women, her neighbors, gave him a name, saying, "A son is born to Naomi". They named him Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David. **18** Now this is the history of the generations of Perez: Perez became the father of Hezron, **19** and Hezron became the father of Ram, and Ram became the father of Amminadab, **20** and Amminadab became the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon became the father of Salmon, **21** and Salmon became the father of Boaz, and Boaz became the father of Obed, **22** and Obed became the father of Jesse, and Jesse became the father of David.

# 1 Samuel

**1** Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim, of the hill country of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. **2** He had two wives. The name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. **3** This man went up out of his city from year to year to worship and to sacrifice to the LORD of Armies in Shiloh. The two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, priests to the LORD, were there. **4** When the day came that Elkanah sacrificed, he gave portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and her daughters; **5** but he gave a double portion to Hannah, for he loved Hannah, but the LORD had shut up her womb. **6** Her rival provoked her severely, to irritate her, because the LORD had shut up her womb. **7** So year by year, when she went up to the LORD's house, her rival provoked her. Therefore she wept, and did not eat. **8** Elkanah her husband said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do not you eat? Why is your heart grieved? Am I not better to you than ten sons?" **9** So Hannah rose up after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on his seat by the doorpost of the LORD's temple. **10** She was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly. **11** She vowed a vow, and said, "LORD of Armies, if you will indeed look at the affliction of your servant and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a boy, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come on his head." **12** As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli saw her mouth. **13** Now Hannah spoke in her heart. Only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk. **14** Eli said to her, "How long will you be drunk? Get rid of your wine!" **15** Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit. I have not been drinking wine or strong drink, but I poured out my soul before the LORD. **16** Do not consider your servant a wicked woman; for I have been speaking out of the abundance of my complaint and my provocation." **17** Then Eli answered, "Go in peace; and may the God of Israel grant your petition

that you have asked of him." **18** She said, "Let your servant find favor in your sight." So the woman went her way and ate; and her facial expression was not sad any more. **19** They rose up in the morning early and worshiped the LORD, then returned and came to their house to Ramah. Then Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her. **20** When the time had come, Hannah conceived, and bore a son; and she named him Samuel, saying, "Because I have asked him of the LORD." **21** The man Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and his vow. **22** But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "Not until the child is weaned; then I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and stay there forever." **23** Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems good to you. Wait until you have weaned him; only may the LORD establish his word." So the woman waited and nursed her son until she weaned him. **24** When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bulls, and one ephah of meal, and a container of wine, and brought him to the LORD's house in Shiloh. The child was young. **25** They killed the bull, and brought the child to Eli. **26** She said, "Oh, my lord, as your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood by you here, praying to the LORD. **27** I prayed for this child, and the LORD has given me my petition which I asked of him. **28** Therefore I have also given him to the LORD. As long as he lives he is given to the LORD." He worshiped the LORD there.

**2** Hannah prayed, and said, "My heart exults in the LORD! My horn is exalted in the LORD. My mouth is enlarged over my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation. **2** There is no one as holy as the LORD, for there is no one besides you, nor is there any rock like our God. **3** "Do not keep talking so exceedingly proudly. Do not let arrogance come out of your mouth, for the LORD is a God of knowledge. By him actions are weighed. **4** "The bows of the mighty men are broken. Those who stumbled are armed with strength. **5** Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread. Those who were hungry are satisfied. Yes, the barren has borne seven. She who has many children languishes. **6** "The LORD kills and makes alive. He brings down to Sheol (Sheol h7585) and brings up. **7** The LORD makes poor and makes

rich. He brings low, he also lifts up. **8** He raises up the poor out of the dust. He lifts up the needy from the dunghill to make them sit with princes and inherit the throne of glory. For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's. He has set the world on them. **9** He will keep the feet of his holy ones, but the wicked will be put to silence in darkness; for no man will prevail by strength. **10** Those who strive with the LORD shall be broken to pieces. He will thunder against them in the sky. "The LORD will judge the ends of the earth. He will give strength to his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed." **11** Elkanah went to Ramah to his house. The child served the LORD before Eli the priest. **12** Now the sons of Eli were wicked men. They did not know the LORD. **13** The custom of the priests with the people was that when anyone offered a sacrifice, the priest's servant came while the meat was boiling, with a fork of three teeth in his hand; **14** and he stabbed it into the pan, or kettle, or cauldron, or pot. The priest took all that the fork brought up for himself. They did this to all the Israelites who came there to Shiloh. **15** Yes, before they burned the fat, the priest's servant came, and said to the man who sacrificed, "Give meat to roast for the priest; for he will not accept boiled meat from you, but raw." **16** If the man said to him, "Let the fat be burned first, and then take as much as your soul desires;" then he would say, "No, but you shall give it to me now; and if not, I will take it by force." **17** The sin of the young men was very great before the LORD; for the men despised the LORD's offering. **18** But Samuel ministered before the LORD, being a child, clothed with a linen ephod. **19** Moreover his mother made him a little robe, and brought it to him from year to year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. **20** Eli blessed Elkanah and his wife, and said, "May the LORD give you offspring from this woman for the petition which was asked of the LORD." Then they went to their own home. **21** The LORD visited Hannah, and she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. The child Samuel grew before the LORD. **22** Now Eli was very old; and he heard all that his sons did to all Israel, and how that they slept with the women who served at the door of the Tent of Meeting. **23** He said to them, "Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all these people. **24** No, my sons; for it is not a good report that I hear! You make the LORD's people disobey. **25** If one man sins against another, God will judge him; but if a man sins against the LORD, who will intercede for him?" Notwithstanding, they did not listen to the voice of their father, because the LORD intended to kill them. **26** The child Samuel grew on, and increased in favor both with the LORD and also with men. **27** A man of God came to Eli and said to him, "The LORD says, 'Did I reveal myself to the house of your father when they were in Egypt in bondage to Pharaoh's house?' **28** Did not I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to go up to my altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? Did not I give to the house of your father all the offerings of the children of Israel made by fire? **29** Why do you kick at my sacrifice and at my offering, which I have commanded in my habitation, and honor your sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the best of all the offerings of Israel my people?' **30** "Therefore the LORD, the God of Israel, says, 'I said indeed that your house and the house of your father should walk before me forever.' But now the LORD says, 'Far be it from me; for those who honor me I will honor, and those who despise me will be cursed. **31** Behold, the days come that I will cut off your arm and the arm of your father's house, that there will not be an old man in your house. **32** You will see the affliction of my habitation, in all the wealth which I will give Israel. There shall not be an old man in your house forever. **33** The man of yours whom I do not cut off from my altar will consume your eyes and grieve your heart. All the increase of your house will die in the flower of their age. **34** This will be the sign to you that will come on your two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas: in one day they will both die. **35** I will raise up a faithful priest for myself who will do according to that which is in my heart and in my mind. I will build him a sure house. He will walk before my anointed forever. **36** It will happen that everyone who is left in your house will come and bow down to him for a piece of silver and a loaf of bread, and will say, "Please put me into one of the priests' offices, that I may eat a morsel of bread.'"

**3** The child Samuel ministered to the LORD before Eli. The LORD's word was rare in those days. There were not many visions, then. **2** At that time,

when Eli was laid down in his place (now his eyes had begun to grow dim, so that he could not see), 3 and God's lamp had not yet gone out, and Samuel had laid down in the LORD's temple where God's ark was, 4 The LORD called Samuel. He said, "Here I am." 5 He ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; for you called me." He said, "I did not call. Lie down again." He went and lay down. 6 The LORD called yet again, "Samuel!" Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; for you called me." He answered, "I did not call, my son. Lie down again." 7 Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the LORD's word yet revealed to him. 8 The LORD called Samuel again the third time. He arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; for you called me." Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child. 9 Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down. It shall be, if he calls you, that you shall say, 'Speak, LORD; for your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. 10 The LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak; for your servant hears." 11 The LORD said to Samuel, "Behold, I will do a thing in Israel at which both the ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. 12 In that day I will perform against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from the beginning even to the end. 13 For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knew, because his sons brought a curse on themselves, and he did not restrain them. 14 Therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be removed with sacrifice or offering forever." 15 Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the LORD's house. Samuel was afraid to show Eli the vision. 16 Then Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son!" He said, "Here I am." 17 He said, "What is the thing that he has spoken to you? Please do not hide it from me. God do so to you, and more also, if you hide anything from me of all the things that he spoke to you." 18 Samuel told him every bit, and hid nothing from him. He said, "It is the LORD. Let him do what seems good to him." 19 Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. 20 All Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD. 21 The LORD appeared again in Shiloh;

for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the LORD's word.

**4** The word of Samuel came to all Israel. Now Israel went out against the Philistines to battle, and encamped beside Ebenezer; and the Philistines encamped in Aphek. 2 The Philistines put themselves in array against Israel. When they joined battle, Israel was defeated by the Philistines, who killed about four thousand men of the army in the field. 3 When the people had come into the camp, the elders of Israel said, "Why has the LORD defeated us today before the Philistines? Let's get the ark of the LORD's covenant out of Shiloh and bring it to us, that it may come among us and save us out of the hand of our enemies." 4 So the people sent to Shiloh, and they brought from there the ark of the covenant of the LORD of Armies, who sits above 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 LORD's covenant came into the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, so that the earth resounded. 6 When the Philistines heard the noise of the shout, they said, "What does the noise of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews mean?" They understood that the LORD's ark had come into the camp. 7 The Philistines were afraid, for they said, "God has come into the camp." They said, "Woe to us! For there has not been such a thing before. 8 Woe to us! Who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty gods? These are the gods that struck the Egyptians with all kinds of plagues in the wilderness. 9 Be strong and behave like men, O you Philistines, that you not be servants to the Hebrews, as they have been to you. Strengthen yourselves like men, and fight!" 10 The Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and each man fled to his tent. There was a very great slaughter; for thirty thousand footmen of Israel fell. 11 God's ark was taken; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were slain. 12 A man of Benjamin ran out of the army and came to Shiloh the same day, with his clothes torn and with dirt on his head. 13 When he came, behold, Eli was sitting on his seat by the road watching, for his heart trembled for God's ark. When the man came into the city and told about it, all the city cried out. 14 When Eli heard the noise of the crying, he said, "What does the noise



of this tumult mean?" The man hurried, and came and told Eli. **15** Now Eli was ninety-eight years old. His eyes were set, so that he could not see. **16** The man said to Eli, "I am he who came out of the army, and I fled today out of the army." He said, "How did the matter go, my son?" **17** He who brought the news answered, "Israel has fled before the Philistines, and there has been also a great slaughter among the people. Your two sons also, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and God's ark has been captured." **18** When he made mention of God's ark, Eli fell from off his seat backward by the side of the gate; and his neck broke, and he died, for he was an old man and heavy. He had judged Israel forty years. **19** His daughter-in-law, Phinehas' wife, was with child, near to giving birth. When she heard the news that God's ark was taken and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she bowed herself and gave birth; for her pains came on her. **20** About the time of her death the women who stood by her said to her, "Do not be afraid, for you have given birth to a son." But she did not answer, neither did she regard it. **21** She named the child Ichabod, saying, "The glory has departed from Israel!" because God's ark was taken, and because of her father-in-law and her husband. **22** She said, "The glory has departed from Israel; for God's ark has been taken."

**5** Now the Philistines had taken God's ark, and they brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. **2** The Philistines took God's ark, and brought it into the house of Dagon and set it by Dagon. **3** When the people of Ashdod arose early on the next day, behold, Dagon had fallen on his face to the ground before the LORD's ark. They took Dagon and set him in his place again. **4** When they arose early on the following morning, behold, Dagon had fallen on his face to the ground before the LORD's ark; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands were cut off on the threshold. Only Dagon's torso was intact. **5** Therefore neither the priests of Dagon nor any who come into Dagon's house step on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod to this day. **6** But the LORD's hand was heavy on the people of Ashdod, and he destroyed them and struck them with tumors, even Ashdod and its borders. **7** When the men of Ashdod saw that it was so, they said, "The ark of the

God of Israel shall not stay with us, for his hand is severe on us and on Dagon our god." **8** They sent therefore and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines, and said, "What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel?" They answered, "Let the ark of the God of Israel be carried over to Gath." They carried the ark of the God of Israel there. **9** It was so, that after they had carried it there, the LORD's hand was against the city with a very great confusion; and he struck the men of the city, both small and great, so that tumors broke out on them. **10** So they sent God's ark to Ekron. As God's ark came to Ekron, the Ekronites cried out, saying, "They have brought the ark of the God of Israel here to us, to kill us and our people." **11** They sent therefore and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines, and they said, "Send the ark of the God of Israel away, and let it go again to its own place, that it not kill us and our people." For there was a deadly panic throughout all the city. The hand of God was very heavy there. **12** The men who did not die were struck with the tumors; and the cry of the city went up to heaven.

**6** The LORD's ark was in the country of the Philistines seven months. **2** The Philistines called for the priests and the diviners, saying, "What shall we do with the LORD's ark? Show us how we should send it to its place." **3** They said, "If you send away the ark of the God of Israel, do not send it empty; but by all means return a trespass offering to him. Then you will be healed, and it will be known to you why his hand is not removed from you." **4** Then they said, "What should the trespass offering be which we shall return to him?" They said, "Five golden tumors and five golden mice, for the number of the lords of the Philistines; for one plague was on you all, and on your lords. **5** Therefore you shall make images of your tumors and images of your mice that mar the land; and you shall give glory to the God of Israel. Perhaps he will release his hand from you, from your gods, and from your land. **6** Why then do you harden your hearts as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts? When he had worked wonderfully among them, did not they let the people go, and they departed? **7** Now therefore take and prepare yourselves a new cart and two milk cows on which there has come no yoke; and tie the cows to the cart, and bring their

calves home from them; 8 and take the LORD's ark and lay it on the cart. Put the jewels of gold, which you return him for a trespass offering, in a box by its side; and send it away, that it may go. 9 Behold, if it goes up by the way of its own border to Beth Shemesh, then he has done us this great evil; but if not, then we shall know that it is not his hand that struck us. It was a chance that happened to us." 10 The men did so, and took two milk cows and tied them to the cart, and shut up their calves at home. 11 They put the LORD's ark on the cart, and the box with the golden mice and the images of their tumors. 12 The cows took the straight way by the way to Beth Shemesh. They went along the highway, lowing as they went, and did not turn away to the right hand or to the left; and the lords of the Philistines went after them to the border of Beth Shemesh. 13 The people of Beth Shemesh were reaping their wheat harvest in the valley; and they lifted up their eyes and saw the ark, and rejoiced to see it. 14 The cart came into the field of Joshua of Beth Shemesh, and stood there, where there was a great stone. Then they split the wood of the cart and offered up the cows for a burnt offering to the LORD. 15 The Levites took down the LORD's ark and the box that was with it, in which the jewels of gold were, and put them on the great stone; and the men of Beth Shemesh offered burnt offerings and sacrificed sacrifices the same day to the LORD. 16 When the five lords of the Philistines had seen it, they returned to Ekron the same day. 17 These are the golden tumors which the Philistines returned for a trespass offering to the LORD: for Ashdod one, for Gaza one, for Ashkelon one, for Gath one, for Ekron one; 18 and the golden mice, according to the number of all the cities of the Philistines belonging to the five lords, both of fortified cities and of country villages, even to the great stone on which they set down the LORD's ark. That stone remains to this day in the field of Joshua of Beth Shemesh. 19 He struck of the men of Beth Shemesh, because they had looked into the LORD's ark, he struck fifty thousand seventy of the men. Then the people mourned, because the LORD had struck the people with a great slaughter. 20 The men of Beth Shemesh said, "Who is able to stand before the LORD, this holy God? To whom shall he go up from us?" 21 They sent messengers to the

inhabitants of Kiriath Jearim, saying, "The Philistines have brought back the LORD's ark. Come down and bring it up to yourselves."

**7** The men of Kiriath Jearim came and took the LORD's ark, and brought it into Abinadab's house on the hill, and consecrated Eleazar his son to keep the LORD's ark. 2 From the day that the ark stayed in Kiriath Jearim, the time was long—for it was twenty years; and all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD. 3 Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, "If you are returning to the LORD with all your heart, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you, and direct your hearts to the LORD, and serve him only; and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines." 4 Then the children of Israel removed the Baals and the Ashtaroth, and served the LORD only. 5 Samuel said, "Gather all Israel to Mizpah, and I will pray to the LORD for you." 6 They gathered together to Mizpah, and drew water, and poured it out before the LORD, and fasted on that day, and said there, "We have sinned against the LORD." Samuel judged the children of Israel in Mizpah. 7 When the Philistines heard that the children of Israel were gathered together at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. When the children of Israel heard it, they were afraid of the Philistines. 8 The children of Israel said to Samuel, "Do not stop crying to the LORD our God for us, that he will save us out of the hand of the Philistines." 9 Samuel took a suckling lamb, and offered it for a whole burnt offering to the LORD. Samuel cried to the LORD for Israel, and the LORD answered him. 10 As Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines came near to battle against Israel; but the LORD thundered with a great thunder on that day on the Philistines and confused them; and they were struck down before Israel. 11 The men of Israel went out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, and struck them until they came under Beth Kar. 12 Then Samuel took a stone and set it between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, "The LORD helped us until now." 13 So the Philistines were subdued, and they stopped coming within the border of Israel. The LORD's hand was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. 14 The cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to

Israel, from Ekron even to Gath; and Israel recovered its border out of the hand of the Philistines. There was peace between Israel and the Amorites. 15 Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. 16 He went from year to year in a circuit to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah; and he judged Israel in all those places. 17 His return was to Ramah, for his house was there, and he judged Israel there; and he built an altar to the LORD there.

**8** When Samuel was old, he made his sons judges over Israel. 2 Now the name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah. They were judges in Beersheba. 3 His sons did not walk in his ways, but turned away after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice. 4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together and came to Samuel to Ramah. 5 They said to him, "Behold, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations." 6 But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." Samuel prayed to the LORD. 7 The LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in all that they tell you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me as the king over them. 8 According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day, in that they have forsaken me and served other gods, so they also do to you. 9 Now therefore, listen to their voice. However, you shall protest solemnly to them, and shall show them the way of the king who will reign over them." 10 Samuel told all the LORD's words to the people who asked him for a king. 11 He said, "This will be the way of the king who shall reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them as his servants, for his chariots and to be his horsemen; and they will run before his chariots. 12 He will appoint them to him for captains of thousands and captains of fifties; and he will assign some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest; and to make his instruments of war and the instruments of his chariots. 13 He will take your daughters to be perfumers, to be cooks, and to be bakers. 14 He will take your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves, even your best, and give them to his servants. 15 He will take one tenth of your seed and of your vineyards, and give it to his officers and

to his servants. 16 He will take your male servants, your female servants, your best young men, and your donkeys, and assign them to his own work. 17 He will take one tenth of your flocks; and you will be his servants. 18 You will cry out in that day because of your king whom you will have chosen for yourselves; and the LORD will not answer you in that day." 19 But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; and they said, "No, but we will have a king over us, 20 that we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles." 21 Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of the LORD. 22 The LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to their voice, and make them a king." Samuel said to the men of Israel, "Everyone go to your own city."

**9** Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name was Kish the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Becorath, the son of Aphiah, the son of a Benjamite, a mighty man of valor. 2 He had a son whose name was Saul, an impressive young man; and there was not among the children of Israel a more handsome person than he. From his shoulders and upward he was taller than any of the people. 3 The donkeys of Kish, Saul's father, were lost. Kish said to Saul his son, "Now take one of the servants with you, and arise, go look for the donkeys." 4 He passed through the hill country of Ephraim, and passed through the land of Shalishah, but they did not find them. Then they passed through the land of Shaalim, and they were not there. Then he passed through the land of the Benjamites, but they did not find them. 5 When they had come to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant who was with him, "Come! Let's return, lest my father stop caring about the donkeys and be anxious for us." 6 The servant said to him, "Behold now, there is a man of God in this city, and he is a man who is held in honor. All that he says surely happens. Now let's go there. Perhaps he can tell us which way to go." 7 Then Saul said to his servant, "But behold, if we go, what should we bring the man? For the bread is spent in our sacks, and there is not a present to bring to the man of God. What do we have?" 8 The servant answered Saul again and said, "Behold, I have in my hand the fourth part of a shekel of silver. I will give that to the

man of God, to tell us our way.” 9 (In earlier times in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, he said, “Come! Let’s go to the seer;” for he who is now called a prophet was before called a seer.) 10 Then Saul said to his servant, “Well said. Come! Let’s go.” So they went to the city where the man of God was. 11 As they went up the ascent to the city, they found young maidens going out to draw water, and said to them, “Is the seer here?” 12 They answered them and said, “He is. Behold, he is before you. Hurry now, for he has come today into the city; for the people have a sacrifice today in the high place. 13 As soon as you have come into the city, you will immediately find him before he goes up to the high place to eat; for the people will not eat until he comes, because he blesses the sacrifice. Afterwards those who are invited eat. Now therefore go up; for at this time you will find him.” 14 They went up to the city. As they came within the city, behold, Samuel came out toward them to go up to the high place. 15 Now the LORD had revealed to Samuel a day before Saul came, saying, 16 “Tomorrow about this time I will send you a man out of the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him to be prince over my people Israel. He will save my people out of 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 said to him, “Behold, the man of whom I spoke to you! He will have authority over my people.” 18 Then Saul approached Samuel in the gateway, and said, “Please tell me where the seer’s house is.” 19 Samuel answered Saul and said, “I am the seer. Go up before me to the high place, for you are to eat with me today. In the morning I will let you go and will tell you all that is in your heart. 20 As for your donkeys who were lost three days ago, do not set your mind on them, for they have been found. For whom does all Israel desire? Is it not you and all your father’s house?” 21 Saul answered, “Am I not a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? And my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then do you speak to me like this?” 22 Samuel took Saul and his servant and brought them into the guest room, and made them sit in the best place among those who were invited, who were about thirty persons. 23 Samuel said to the cook, “Bring the portion which I

gave you, of which I said to you, ‘Set it aside.’” 24 The cook took up the thigh, and that which was on it, and set it before Saul. Samuel said, “Behold, that which has been reserved! Set it before yourself and eat; because it has been kept for you for the appointed time, for I said, ‘I have invited the people.’” So Saul ate with Samuel that day. 25 When they had come down from the high place into the city, he talked with Saul on the housetop. 26 They arose early; and about daybreak, Samuel called to Saul on the housetop, saying, “Get up, that I may send you away.” Saul arose, and they both went outside, he and Samuel, together. 27 As they were going down at the end of the city, Samuel said to Saul, “Tell the servant to go on ahead of us.” He went ahead, then Samuel said, “But stand still first, that I may cause you to hear God’s message.”

**10** Then Samuel took the vial of oil and poured it on his head, then kissed him and said, “Has not the LORD anointed you to be prince over his inheritance? 2 When you have departed from me today, then you will find two men by Rachel’s tomb, on the border of Benjamin at Zelzah. They will tell you, ‘The donkeys which you went to look for have been found; and behold, your father has stopped caring about the donkeys and is anxious for you, saying, “What shall I do for my son?”’ 3 “Then you will go on forward from there, and you will come to the oak of Tabor. Three men will meet you there going up to God to Bethel: one carrying three young goats, and another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a container of wine. 4 They will greet you and give you two loaves of bread, which you shall receive from their hand. 5 “After that you will come to the hill of God, where the garrison of the Philistines is; and it will happen, when you have come there to the city, that you will meet a band of prophets coming down from the high place with a lute, a tambourine, a pipe, and a harp before them; and they will be prophesying. 6 Then the LORD’s Spirit will come mightily on you, then you will prophesy with them and will be turned into another man. 7 Let it be, when these signs have come to you, that you do what is appropriate for the occasion; for God is with you. 8 “Go down ahead of me to Gilgal; and behold, I will come down to you to offer burnt offerings and to sacrifice sacrifices of

peace offerings. Wait seven days, until I come to you and show you what you are to do.” 9 It was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart; and all those signs happened that day. 10 When they came there to the hill, behold, a band of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came mightily on him, and he prophesied among them. 11 When all who knew him before saw that, behold, he prophesied with the prophets, then the people said to one another, “What is this that has come to the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?” 12 One from the same place answered, “Who is their father?” Therefore it became a proverb, “Is Saul also among the prophets?” 13 When he had finished prophesying, he came to the high place. 14 Saul’s uncle said to him and to his servant, “Where did you go?” He said, “To seek the donkeys. When we saw that they were not found, we came to Samuel.” 15 Saul’s uncle said, “Please tell me what Samuel said to you.” 16 Saul said to his uncle, “He told us plainly that the donkeys were found.” But concerning the matter of the kingdom, of which Samuel spoke, he did not tell him. 17 Samuel called the people together to the LORD to Mizpah; 18 and he said to the children of Israel, “The LORD, the God of Israel, says ‘I brought Israel up out of Egypt and I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all the kingdoms that oppressed you.’ 19 But you have today rejected your God, who himself saves you out of all your calamities and your distresses; and you have said to him, ‘No! Set a king over us!’ Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and by your thousands.” 20 So Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, and the tribe of Benjamin was chosen. 21 He brought the tribe of Benjamin near by their families and the family of the Matrites was chosen. Then Saul the son of Kish was chosen; but when they looked for him, he could not be found. 22 Therefore they asked of the LORD further, “Is there yet a man to come here?” The LORD answered, “Behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage.” 23 They ran and got him there. When he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward. 24 Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see him whom the LORD has chosen, that there is no one like him among all

the people?” All the people shouted and said, “Long live the king!” 25 Then Samuel told the people the regulations of the kingdom, and wrote it in a book and laid it up before the LORD. Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house. 26 Saul also went to his house in Gibeah; and the army went with him, whose hearts God had touched. 27 But certain worthless fellows said, “How could this man save us?” They despised him, and brought him no tribute. But he held his peace.

**11** Then Nahash the Ammonite came up and encamped against Jabesh Gilead; and all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, “Make a covenant with us, and we will serve you.” 2 Nahash the Ammonite said to them, “On this condition I will make it with you, that all your right eyes be gouged out. I will make this dishonor all Israel.” 3 The elders of Jabesh said to him, “Give us seven days, that we may send messengers to all the borders of Israel; and then, if there is no one to save us, we will come out to you.” 4 Then the messengers came to Gibeah of Saul, and spoke these words in the ears of the people, then all the people lifted up their voice and wept. 5 Behold, Saul came following the oxen out of the field; and Saul said, “What ails the people that they weep?” They told him the words of the men of Jabesh. 6 God’s Spirit came mightily on Saul when he heard those words, and his anger burned hot. 7 He took a yoke of oxen and cut them in pieces, then sent them throughout all the borders of Israel by the hand of messengers, saying, “Whoever does not come out after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done to his oxen.” The dread of the LORD fell on the people, and they came out as one man. 8 He counted them in Bezek; and the children of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand. 9 They said to the messengers who came, “Tell the men of Jabesh Gilead, ‘Tomorrow, by the time the sun is hot, you will be rescued.’” The messengers came and told the men of Jabesh; and they were glad. 10 Therefore the men of Jabesh said, “Tomorrow we will come out to you, and you shall do with us all that seems good to you.” 11 On the next day, Saul put the people in three companies; and they came into the middle of the camp in the morning watch, and struck the Ammonites until the heat of the day. Those

who remained were scattered, so that no two of them were left together. **12** The people said to Samuel, "Who is he who said, 'Shall Saul reign over us?' Bring those men, that we may put them to death!" **13** Saul said, "No man shall be put to death today; for today the LORD has rescued Israel." **14** Then Samuel said to the people, "Come! Let's go to Gilgal, and renew the kingdom there." **15** All the people went to Gilgal; and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal. There they offered sacrifices of peace offerings before the LORD; and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

**12** Samuel said to all Israel, "Behold, I have listened to your voice in all that you said to me, and have made a king over you. **2** Now, behold, the king walks before you. I am old and gray-headed. Behold, my sons are with you. I have walked before you from my youth to this day. **3** Here I am. Witness against me before the LORD and before his anointed. Whose ox have I taken? Whose donkey have I taken? Whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed? Of whose hand have I taken a bribe to make me blind my eyes? I will restore it to you." **4** They said, "You have not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither have you taken anything from anyone's hand." **5** He said to them, "The LORD is witness against you, and his anointed is witness today, that you have not found anything in my hand." They said, "He is witness." **6** Samuel said to the people, "It is the LORD who appointed Moses and Aaron, and that brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt. **7** Now therefore stand still, that I may plead with you before the LORD concerning all the righteous acts of the LORD, which he did to you and to your fathers. **8** "When Jacob had come into Egypt, and your fathers cried to the LORD, then the LORD sent Moses and Aaron, who brought your fathers out of Egypt, and made them to dwell in this place. **9** But they forgot the LORD their God; and he sold them into the hand of Sisera, captain of the army of Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab; and they fought against them. **10** They cried to the LORD, and said, 'We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD and have served the Baals and the Ashtaroth; but now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, and we will serve you.' **11** The LORD

sent Jerubbaal, Bedan, Jephthah, and Samuel, and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side; and you lived in safety. **12** "When you saw that Nahash the king of the children of Ammon came against you, you said to me, 'No, but a king shall reign over us,' when the LORD your God was your king. **13** Now therefore see the king whom you have chosen and whom you have asked for. Behold, the LORD has set a king over you. **14** If you will fear the LORD, and serve him, and listen to his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then both you and also the king who reigns over you are followers of the LORD your God. **15** But if you will not listen to the LORD's voice, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then the LORD's hand will be against you, as it was against your fathers. **16** "Now therefore stand still and see this great thing, which the LORD will do before your eyes. **17** Is not it wheat harvest today? I will call to the LORD, that he may send thunder and rain; and you will know and see that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the LORD's sight, in asking for a king." **18** So Samuel called to the LORD, and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day. Then all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel. **19** All the people said to Samuel, "Pray for your servants to the LORD your God, that we not die; for we have added to all our sins this evil, to ask for a king." **20** Samuel said to the people, "Do not be afraid. You have indeed done all this evil; yet do not turn away from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart. **21** Do not turn away to go after vain things which cannot profit or deliver, for they are vain. **22** For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you a people for himself. **23** Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will instruct you in the good and the right way. **24** Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things he has done for you. **25** But if you keep doing evil, you will be consumed, both you and your king."

**13** Saul was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned over Israel forty-two years. **2** Saul chose for himself three thousand men of Israel,

of which two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and in the Mount of Bethel, and one thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin. He sent the rest of the people to their own tents. **3** Jonathan struck the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, "Let the Hebrews hear!" **4** All Israel heard that Saul had struck the garrison of the Philistines, and also that Israel was considered an abomination to the Philistines. The people were gathered together after Saul to Gilgal. **5** The Philistines assembled themselves together to fight with Israel: thirty thousand chariots, six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the seashore in multitude. They came up and encamped in Michmash, eastward of Beth Aven. **6** When the men of Israel saw that they were in trouble (for the people were distressed), then the people hid themselves in caves, in thickets, in rocks, in tombs, and in pits. **7** Now some of the Hebrews had gone over the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead; but as for Saul, he was yet in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling. **8** He stayed seven days, according to the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the people were scattering from him. **9** Saul said, "Bring the burnt offering to me here, and the peace offerings." He offered the burnt offering. **10** It came to pass that as soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might greet him. **11** Samuel said, "What have you done?" Saul said, "Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines assembled themselves together at Michmash, **12** therefore I said, 'Now the Philistines will come down on me to Gilgal, and I have not entreated the favor of the LORD.' I forced myself therefore, and offered the burnt offering." **13** Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which he commanded you; for now the LORD would have established your kingdom on Israel forever. **14** But now your kingdom will not continue. The LORD has sought for himself a man after his own heart, and the LORD has appointed him to be prince over his people, because you have

not kept that which the LORD commanded you." **15** Samuel arose, and went from Gilgal to Gibeah of Benjamin. Saul counted the people who were present with him, about six hundred men. **16** Saul, and Jonathan his son, and the people who were present with them, stayed in Geba of Benjamin; but the Philistines encamped in Michmash. **17** The raiders came out of the camp of the Philistines in three companies: one company turned to the way that leads to Ophrah, to the land of Shual; **18** another company turned the way to Beth Horon; and another company turned the way of the border that looks down on the valley of Zeboim toward the wilderness. **19** Now there was no blacksmith found throughout all the land of Israel, for the Philistines said, "Lest the Hebrews make themselves swords or spears"; **20** but all the Israelites went down to the Philistines, each man to sharpen his own plowshare, mattock, ax, and sickle. **21** The price was one payim each to sharpen mattocks, plowshares, pitchforks, axes, and goads. **22** So it came to pass in the day of battle that neither sword nor spear was found in the hand of any of the people who were with Saul and Jonathan; but Saul and Jonathan his son had them. **23** The garrison of the Philistines went out to the pass of Michmash.

**14** Now it happened on a day that Jonathan the son of Saul said to the young man who bore his armor, "Come! Let's go over to the Philistines' garrison that is on the other side." But he did not tell his father. **2** Saul stayed in the uttermost part of Gibeah under the pomegranate tree which is in Migron; and the people who were with him were about six hundred men, **3** including Ahijah the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli the priest of the LORD in Shiloh, wearing an ephod. The people did not know that Jonathan was gone. **4** Between the passes, by which Jonathan sought to go over to the Philistines' garrison, there was a rocky crag on the one side and a rocky crag on the other side; and the name of the one was Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh. **5** The one crag rose up on the north in front of Michmash, and the other on the south in front of Geba. **6** Jonathan said to the young man who bore his armor, "Come! Let's go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised. It may be that the LORD will work for us, for there is no

restraint on the LORD to save by many or by few.” 7 the men of Israel who had hidden themselves in the hill country of Ephraim, when they heard that the Philistines fled, even they also followed hard after them in the battle. 23 So the LORD saved Israel that day; and the battle passed over by Beth Aven. 24 The men of Israel were distressed that day; for Saul had adjured the people, saying, “Cursed is the man who eats any food until it is evening, and I am avenged of my enemies.” So none of the people tasted food. 25 All the people came into the forest; and there was honey on the ground. 26 When the people had come to the forest, behold, honey was dripping, but no one put his hand to his mouth, for the people feared the oath. 27 But Jonathan did not hear when his father commanded the people with the oath. Therefore he put out the end of the rod that was in his hand and dipped it in the honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his eyes brightened. 28 Then one of the people answered, and said, “Your father directly commanded the people with an oath, saying, ‘Cursed is the man who eats food today.’” So the people were faint. 29 Then Jonathan said, “My father has troubled the land. Please look how my eyes have brightened because I tasted a little of this honey. 30 How much more, if perhaps the people had eaten freely today of the plunder of their enemies which they found? For now there has been no great slaughter among the Philistines.” 31 They struck the Philistines that day from Michmash to Aijalon. The people were very faint; 32 and the people pounced on the plunder, and took sheep, cattle, and calves, and killed them on the ground; and the people ate them with the blood. 33 Then they told Saul, saying, “Behold, the people are sinning against the LORD, in that they eat meat with the blood.” He said, “You have dealt treacherously. Roll a large stone to me today!” 34 Saul said, “Disperse yourselves among the people, and tell them, ‘Every man bring me here his ox, and every man his sheep, and kill them here, and eat; and do not sin against the LORD in eating meat with the blood.’” All the people brought every man his ox with him that night, and killed them there. 35 Saul built an altar to the LORD. This was the first altar that he built to the LORD. 36 Saul said, “Let’s go down after the Philistines by night, and take plunder among them until the morning light. Let’s not leave a man of



them." They said, "Do whatever seems good to you." Then the priest said, "Let's draw near here to God." 37 Saul asked counsel of God: "Shall I go down after the Philistines? Will you deliver them into the hand of Israel?" But he did not answer him that day. 38 Saul said, "Draw near here, all you chiefs of the people, and know and see in whom this sin has been today. 39 For as the LORD lives, who saves Israel, though it is in Jonathan my son, he shall surely die." But there was not a man among all the people who answered him. 40 Then he said to all Israel, "You be on one side, and I and Jonathan my son will be on the other side." The people said to Saul, "Do what seems good to you." 41 Therefore Saul said to the LORD, the God of Israel, "Show the right." Jonathan and Saul were chosen, but the people escaped. 42 Saul said, "Cast lots between me and Jonathan my son." Jonathan was selected. 43 Then Saul said to Jonathan, "Tell me what you have done!" Jonathan told him, and said, "I certainly did taste a little honey with the end of the rod that was in my hand; and behold, I must die." 44 Saul said, "God do so and more also; for you shall surely die, Jonathan." 45 The people said to Saul, "Shall Jonathan die, who has worked this great salvation in Israel? Far from it! As the LORD lives, there shall not one hair of his head fall to the ground, for he has worked with God today!" So the people rescued Jonathan, so he did not die. 46 Then Saul went up from following the Philistines; and the Philistines went to their own place. 47 Now when Saul had taken the kingdom over Israel, he fought against all his enemies on every side: against Moab, and against the children of Ammon, and against Edom, and against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines. Wherever he turned himself, he defeated them. 48 He did valiantly and struck the Amalekites, and delivered Israel out of the hands of those who plundered them. 49 Now the sons of Saul were Jonathan, Ishvi, and Malchishua; and the names of his two daughters were these: the name of the firstborn Merab, and the name of the younger Michal. 50 The name of Saul's wife was Ahinoam the daughter of Ahimaaz. The name of the captain of his army was Abner the son of Ner, Saul's uncle. 51 Kish was the father of Saul, and Ner the father of Abner was the son of Abiel. 52 There was severe war against the Philistines all the days of Saul;

and when Saul saw any mighty man or any valiant man, he took him into his service.

**15** Samuel said to Saul, "The LORD sent me to anoint you to be king over his people, over Israel. Now therefore listen to the voice of the LORD's words. 2 The LORD of Armies says, 'I remember what Amalek did to Israel, how he set himself against him on the way when he came up out of Egypt. 3 Now go and strike Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them; but kill both man and woman, infant and nursing baby, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'" 4 Saul summoned the people, and counted them in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen and ten thousand men of Judah. 5 Saul came to the city of Amalek, and set an ambush in the valley. 6 Saul said to the Kenites, "Go, depart, go down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them; for you showed kindness to all the children of Israel when they came up out of Egypt." So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites. 7 Saul struck the Amalekites, from Havilah as you go to Shur, which is before Egypt. 8 He took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. 9 But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, of the cattle, of the fat calves, of the lambs, and all that was good, and were not willing to utterly destroy them; but everything that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly. 10 Then the LORD's word came to Samuel, saying, 11 "It grieves me that I have set up Saul to be king, for he has turned back from following me, and has not performed my commandments." Samuel was angry; and he cried to the LORD all night. 12 Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning; and Samuel was told, saying, "Saul came to Carmel, and behold, he set up a monument for himself, turned, passed on, and went down to Gilgal." 13 Samuel came to Saul; and Saul said to him, "You are blessed by the LORD! I have performed the commandment of the LORD." 14 Samuel said, "Then what does this bleating of the sheep in my ears and the lowing of the cattle which I hear mean?" 15 Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the cattle, to sacrifice to the LORD your God. We have utterly destroyed the rest." 16 Then Samuel

said to Saul, "Stay, and I will tell you what the LORD said to me last night." He said to him, "Say on." 17 Samuel said, "Though you were little in your own sight, were not you made the head of the tribes of Israel? The LORD anointed you king over Israel; 18 and the LORD sent you on a journey, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.' 19 Why then did not you obey the LORD's voice, but took the plunder, and did that which was evil in the LORD's sight?" 20 Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the LORD's voice, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. 21 But the people took of the plunder, sheep and cattle, the best of the devoted things, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal." 22 Samuel said, "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the LORD's voice? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. 23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as idolatry and teraphim. Because you have rejected the LORD's word, he has also rejected you from being king." 24 Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned; for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. 25 Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD." 26 Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you; for you have rejected the LORD's word, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel." 27 As Samuel turned around to go away, Saul grabbed the skirt of his robe, and it tore. 28 Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours who is better than you. 29 Also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent; for he is not a man, that he should repent." 30 Then he said, "I have sinned; yet please honor me now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and come back with me, 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 Agag the king of the Amalekites here to me!" Agag came to him cheerfully. Agag said, "Surely the bitterness of death is past."

33 Samuel said, "As your sword has made women childless, so your mother will be childless among women!" Then Samuel cut Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal. 34 Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul. 35 Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death, but Samuel mourned for Saul. The LORD grieved that he had made Saul king over Israel.

**16** The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided a king for myself among his sons." 2 Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." The LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' 3 Call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. You shall anoint to me him whom I name to you." 4 Samuel did that which the LORD spoke, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" 5 He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." He sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice. 6 When they had come, he looked at Eliab, and said, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him." 7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his face, or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for I do not see as man sees. For man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." 8 Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "The LORD has not chosen this one, either." 9 Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. He said, "The LORD has not chosen this one, either." 10 Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." 11 Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your children here?" He said, "There remains yet the youngest. Behold, he is keeping the sheep." Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." 12 He sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with a handsome face and good appearance. The LORD said, "Arise! Anoint him, for this is he." 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the middle of his

brothers. Then the LORD's Spirit came mightily on David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up and went to Ramah. **14** Now the LORD's Spirit departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him. **15** Saul's servants said to him, "See now, an evil spirit from God troubles you. **16** Let our lord now command your servants who are in front of you to seek out a man who is a skillful player on the harp. Then when the evil spirit from God is on you, he will play with his hand, and you will be well." **17** Saul said to his servants, "Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring him to me." **18** Then one of the young men answered and said, "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the LORD is with him." **19** Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, "Send me David your son, who is with the sheep." **20** Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a container of wine, and a young goat, and sent them by David his son to Saul. **21** David came to Saul and stood before him. He loved him greatly; and he became his armor bearer. **22** Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Please let David stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight." **23** When the spirit from God was on Saul, David took the harp and played with his hand; so Saul was refreshed and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

**17** Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle; and they were gathered together at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and Azekah in Ephesdammim. **2** Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and encamped in the valley of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines. **3** The Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side: and there was a valley between them. **4** A champion out of the camp of the Philistines named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span went out. **5** He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he wore a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. **6** He had bronze shin armor on his legs and a bronze javelin between his shoulders. **7** The staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron.

His shield bearer went before him. **8** He stood and cried to the armies of Israel, and said to them, "Why have you come out to set your battle in array? Am I not a Philistine, and you servants to Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. **9** If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then will we be your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you will be our servants and serve us." **10** The Philistine said, "I defy the armies of Israel today! Give me a man, that we may fight together!" **11** When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid. **12** Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehem Judah, whose name was Jesse; and he had eight sons. The man was an elderly old man in the days of Saul. **13** The three oldest sons of Jesse had gone after Saul to the battle; and the names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. **14** David was the youngest; and the three oldest followed Saul. **15** Now David went back and forth from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem. **16** The Philistine came near morning and evening, and presented himself forty days. **17** Jesse said to David his son, "Now take for your brothers an ephah of this parched grain and these ten loaves, and carry them quickly to the camp to your brothers; **18** and bring these ten cheeses to the captain of their thousand; and see how your brothers are doing, and bring back news." **19** Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. **20** David rose up early in the morning and left the sheep with a keeper, and took the provisions and went, as Jesse had commanded him. He came to the place of the wagons as the army which was going out to the fight shouted for the battle. **21** Israel and the Philistines put the battle in array, army against army. **22** David left his baggage in the hand of the keeper of the baggage and ran to the army, and came and greeted his brothers. **23** As he talked with them, behold, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines, and said the same words; and David heard them. **24** All the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were terrified. **25** The men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? He has

surely come up to defy Israel. The king will give great riches to the man who kills him, and will give him his daughter, and will make his father's house tax-free in Israel." 26 David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, "What shall be done to the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" 27 The people answered him in this way, saying, "So shall it be done to the man who kills him." 28 Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger burned against David, and he said, "Why have you come down? With whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the evil of your heart; for you have come down that you might see the battle." 29 David said, "What have I now done? Is there not a cause?" 30 He turned away from him toward another, and spoke like that again; and the people answered him again the same way. 31 When the words were heard which David spoke, they rehearsed them before Saul; and he sent for him. 32 David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." 33 Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth." 34 David said to Saul, "Your servant was keeping his father's sheep; and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, 35 I went out after him, and struck him, and rescued it out of his mouth. When he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, struck him, and killed him. 36 Your servant struck both the lion and the bear. This uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God." 37 David said, "The LORD, who delivered me out of the paw of the lion and out of the paw of the bear, will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine." Saul said to David, "Go! The LORD will be with you." 38 Saul dressed David with his clothing. He put a helmet of bronze on his head, and he clad him with a coat of mail. 39 David strapped his sword on his clothing and he tried to move, for he had not tested it. David said to Saul, "I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them." Then David took them off. 40 He took his staff in his hand, and chose for himself five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag which he had. His sling was in his hand; and he came near to the Philistine. 41 The Philistine walked and came near to David; and the man who bore the shield went before him. 42 When the Philistine looked around and saw David, he disdained him; for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and had a good looking face. 43 The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" The Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the sky and to the animals of the field." 45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin; but I come to you in the name of the LORD of Armies, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 Today, the LORD will deliver you into my hand. I will strike you and take your head from off you. I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines today to the birds of the sky and to the wild animals of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, 47 and that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand." 48 When the Philistine arose, and walked and came near to meet David, David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. 49 David put his hand in his bag, took a stone and slung it, and struck the Philistine in his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth. 50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him; but there was no sword in David's hand. 51 Then David ran, stood over the Philistine, took his sword, drew it out of its sheath, killed him, and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. 52 The men of Israel and of Judah arose and shouted, and pursued the Philistines as far as Gai and to the gates of Ekron. The wounded of the Philistines fell down by the way to Shaaraim, even to Gath and to Ekron. 53 The children of Israel returned from chasing after the Philistines, and they plundered their camp. 54 David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his armor in his tent. 55 When Saul saw David go out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the captain of the army,

"Abner, whose son is this youth?" Abner said, "As your soul lives, O king, I cannot tell." 56 The king said, "Inquire whose son the young man is!" 57 As David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand. 58 Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, you young man?" David answered, "I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."

**18** When he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. 2 Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father's house any more. 3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. 4 Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David with his clothing, even including his sword, his bow, and his sash. 5 David went out wherever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely; and Saul set him over the men of war. It was good in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants. 6 As they came, when David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul with tambourines, with joy, and with instruments of music. 7 The women sang to one another as they played, and said, "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." 8 Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, "They have credited David with ten thousands, and they have only credited me with thousands. What can he have more but the kingdom?" 9 Saul watched David from that day and forward. 10 On the next day, an evil spirit from God came mightily on Saul, and he prophesied in the middle of the house. David played with his hand, as he did day by day. Saul had his spear in his hand; 11 and Saul threw the spear, for he said, "I will pin David to the wall!" David escaped from his presence twice. 12 Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and had departed from Saul. 13 Therefore Saul removed him from his presence, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people. 14 David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him. 15 When Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he stood in awe of him.

16 But all Israel and Judah loved David; for he went out and came in before them. 17 Saul said to David, "Behold, my elder daughter Merab. I will give her to you as wife. Only be valiant for me, and fight the LORD's battles." For Saul said, "Do not let my hand be on him, but let the hand of the Philistines be on him." 18 David said to Saul, "Who am I, and what is my life, or my father's family in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?" 19 But at the time when Merab, Saul's daughter, should have been given to David, she was given to Adriel the Meholathite as wife. 20 Michal, Saul's daughter, loved David; and they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. 21 Saul said, I will give her to him, that she may be a snare to him and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him. Therefore Saul said to David a second time, "You shall today be my son-in-law." 22 Saul commanded his servants, "Talk with David secretly, and say, 'Behold, the king has delight in you, and all his servants love you. Now therefore be the king's son-in-law.'" 23 Saul's servants spoke those words in the ears of David. David said, "Does it seem to you a light thing to be the king's son-in-law, since I am a poor man and little known?" 24 The servants of Saul told him, saying, "David spoke like this." 25 Saul said, "Tell David, 'The king desires no dowry except one hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to be avenged of the king's enemies.'" Now Saul thought he would make David fall by the hand of the Philistines. 26 When his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son-in-law. Before the deadline, 27 David arose and went, he and his men, and killed two hundred men of the Philistines. Then David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full number to the king, that he might be the king's son-in-law. Then Saul gave him Michal his daughter as wife. 28 Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David; and Michal, Saul's daughter, loved him. 29 Saul was even more afraid of David; and Saul was David's enemy continually. 30 Then the princes of the Philistines went out; and as often as they went out, David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul, so that his name was highly esteemed.

**19** Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David. But

Jonathan, Saul's son, greatly delighted in David. 2 Jonathan told David, saying, "Saul my father seeks to kill you. Now therefore, please take care of yourself in the morning, live in a secret place, and hide yourself. 3 I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will talk with my father about you; and if I see anything, I will tell you." 4 Jonathan spoke good of David to Saul his father, and said to him, "Do not let the king sin against his servant, against David; because he has not sinned against you, and because his works have been very good toward you; 5 for he put his life in his hand and struck the Philistine, and the LORD worked a great victory for all Israel. You saw it and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood, to kill David without a cause?" 6 Saul listened to the voice of Jonathan; and Saul swore, "As the LORD lives, he shall not be put to death." 7 Jonathan called David, and Jonathan showed him all those things. Then Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as before. 8 There was war again. David went out and fought with the Philistines, and killed them with a great slaughter; and they fled before him. 9 An evil spirit from the LORD was on Saul as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand; and David was playing music with his hand. 10 Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he slipped away out of Saul's presence; and he stuck the spear into the wall. David fled and escaped that night. 11 Saul sent messengers to David's house to watch him and to kill him in the morning. Michal, David's wife, told him, saying, "If you do not save your life tonight, tomorrow you will be killed." 12 So Michal let David down through the window. He went away, fled, and escaped. 13 Michal took the teraphim and laid it in the bed, and put a pillow of goats' hair at its head and covered it with clothes. 14 When Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, "He is sick." 15 Saul sent the messengers to see David, saying, "Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may kill him." 16 When the messengers came in, behold, the teraphim was in the bed, with the pillow of goats' hair at its head. 17 Saul said to Michal, "Why have you deceived me like this and let my enemy go, so that he has escaped?" Michal answered Saul, "He said to me, 'Let me go! Why should I kill you?'" 18 Now David fled and escaped, and came to Samuel

at Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. He and Samuel went and lived in Naioth. 19 Saul was told, saying, "Behold, David is at Naioth in Ramah." 20 Saul sent messengers to seize David; and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as head over them, God's Spirit came on Saul's messengers, and they also prophesied. 21 When Saul was told, he sent other messengers, and they also prophesied. Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they also prophesied. 22 Then he also went to Ramah, and came to the great well that is in Secu: and he asked, "Where are Samuel and David?" One said, "Behold, they are at Naioth in Ramah." 23 He went there to Naioth in Ramah. Then God's Spirit came on him also, and he went on, and prophesied, until he came to Naioth in Ramah. 24 He also stripped off his clothes. He also prophesied before Samuel and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Therefore they say, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

**20** David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and came and said to Jonathan, "What have I done? What is my iniquity? What is my sin before your father, that he seeks my life?" 2 He said to him, "Far from it; you will not die. Behold, my father does nothing either great or small, but that he discloses it to me. Why would my father hide this thing from me? It is not so." 3 David swore moreover, and said, "Your father knows well that I have found favor in your eyes; and he says, 'Do not let Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved;' but truly as the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, there is but a step between me and death." 4 Then Jonathan said to David, "Whatever your soul desires, I will even do it for you." 5 David said to Jonathan, "Behold, tomorrow is the new moon, and I should not fail to dine with the king; but let me go, that I may hide myself in the field to the third day at evening. 6 If your father misses me at all, then say, 'David earnestly asked leave of me that he might run to Bethlehem, his city; for it is the yearly sacrifice there for all the family.' 7 If he says, 'It is well,' your servant shall have peace; but if he is angry, then know that evil is determined by him. 8 Therefore deal kindly with your servant, for you have brought your servant into a covenant of the LORD with you; but if there is iniquity in me, kill me yourself, for why

should you bring me to your father?" 9 Jonathan said, "Far be it from you; for if I should at all know that evil were determined by my father to come on you, then would not I tell you that?" 10 Then David said to Jonathan, "Who will tell me if your father answers you roughly?" 11 Jonathan said to David, "Come! Let's go out into the field." They both went out into the field. 12 Jonathan said to David, "By the LORD, the God of Israel, when I have sounded out my father about this time tomorrow, or the third day, behold, if there is good toward David, will not I then send to you and disclose it to you? 13 The LORD do so to Jonathan and more also, should it please my father to do you evil, if I do not disclose it to you and send you away, that you may go in peace. May the LORD be with you as he has been with my father. 14 You shall not only show me the loving kindness of the LORD while I still live, that I not die; 15 but you shall also not cut off your kindness from my house forever, no, not when the LORD has cut off every one of the enemies of David from the surface of the earth." 16 So Jonathan made a covenant with David's house, saying, "The LORD will require it at the hand of David's enemies." 17 Jonathan caused David to swear again, for the love that he had to him; for he loved him as he loved his own soul. 18 Then Jonathan said to him, "Tomorrow is the new moon, and you will be missed, because your seat will be empty. 19 When you have stayed three days, go down quickly and come to the place where you hid yourself when this started, and remain by the stone Ezel. 20 I will shoot three arrows on its side, as though I shot at a mark. 21 Behold, I will send the boy, saying, 'Go, find the arrows!' If I tell the boy, 'Behold, the arrows are on this side of you. Take them;' then come, for there is peace to you and no danger, as the LORD lives. 22 But if I say this to the boy, 'Behold, the arrows are beyond you,' then go your way, for the LORD has sent you away. 23 Concerning the matter which you and I have spoken of, behold, the LORD is between you and me forever." 24 So David hid himself in the field. When the new moon had come, the king sat himself down to eat food. 25 The king sat on his seat, as at other times, even on the seat by the wall; and Jonathan stood up, and Abner sat by Saul's side, but David's place was empty. 26 Nevertheless Saul did not say anything that day, for he thought, "Something has happened to him. He is not clean. Surely he is not clean." 27 On the next day after the new moon, the second day, David's place was empty. Saul said to Jonathan his son, "Why did not the son of Jesse come to eat, either yesterday, or today?" 28 Jonathan answered Saul, "David earnestly asked permission of me to go to Bethlehem. 29 He said, 'Please let me go, for our family has a sacrifice in the city. My brother has commanded me to be there. Now, if I have found favor in your eyes, please let me go away and see my brothers.' Therefore he has not come to the king's table." 30 Then Saul's anger burned against Jonathan, and he said to him, "You son of a perverse rebellious woman, do not I know that you have chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame, and to the shame of your mother's nakedness? 31 For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, you will not be established, nor will your kingdom. Therefore now send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die!" 32 Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said to him, "Why should he be put to death? What has he done?" 33 Saul cast his spear at him to strike him. By this Jonathan knew that his father was determined to put David to death. 34 So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and ate no food the second day of the month; for he was grieved for David, because his father had treated him shamefully. 35 In the morning, Jonathan went out into the field at the time appointed with David, and a little boy with him. 36 He said to his boy, "Run, find now the arrows which I shoot." As the boy ran, he shot an arrow beyond him. 37 When the boy had come to the place of the arrow which Jonathan had shot, Jonathan cried after the boy, and said, "Is not the arrow beyond you?" 38 Jonathan cried after the boy, "Go fast! Hurry! Do not delay!" Jonathan's boy gathered up the arrows, and came to his master. 39 But the boy did not know anything. Only Jonathan and David knew the matter. 40 Jonathan gave his weapons to his boy, and said to him, "Go, carry them to the city." 41 As soon as the boy was gone, David arose out of the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times. They kissed one another and wept with one another, and David wept the most. 42 Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, because we have both

sworn in the LORD's name, saying, 'The LORD is between me and you, and between my offspring and your offspring, forever.'" He arose and departed; and Jonathan went into the city.

**21** Then David came to Nob to Ahimelech the priest. Ahimelech came to meet David trembling, and said to him, "Why are you alone, and no man with you?" **2** David said to Ahimelech the priest, "The king has commanded me to do something, and has said to me, 'Let no one know anything about the business about which I send you, and what I have commanded you. I have sent the young men to a certain place.' **3** Now therefore what is under your hand? Please give me five loaves of bread in my hand, or whatever is available." **4** The priest answered David, and said, "I have no common bread, but there is holy bread; if only the young men have kept themselves from women." **5** David answered the priest, and said to him, "Truly, women have been kept from us as usual these three days. When I came out, the vessels of the young men were holy, though it was only a common journey. How much more then today shall their vessels be holy?" **6** So the priest gave him holy bread; for there was no bread there but the show bread that was taken from before the LORD, to be replaced with hot bread in the day when it was taken away. **7** Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the LORD; and his name was Doeg the Edomite, the best of the herdsmen who belonged to Saul. **8** David said to Ahimelech, "Is not there here under your hand spear or sword? For I have not brought my sword or my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste." **9** The priest said, "Behold, the sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the valley of Elah, is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you would like to take that, take it, for there is no other except that here." David said, "There is none like that. Give it to me." **10** David arose and fled that day for fear of Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath. **11** The servants of Achish said to him, "Is not this David the king of the land? Did not they sing to one another about him in dances, saying, 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands?'" **12** David laid up these words in his heart, and was

very afraid of Achish the king of Gath. **13** He changed his behavior before them and pretended to be insane in their hands, and scribbled on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle fall down on his beard. **14** Then Achish said to his servants, "Look, you see the man is insane. Why then have you brought him to me? **15** Do I lack madmen, that you have brought this fellow to play the madman in my presence? Should this fellow come into my house?"

**22** David therefore departed from there and escaped to Adullam's cave. When his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him. **2** Everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered themselves to him; and he became captain over them. There were with him about four hundred men. **3** David went from there to Mizpeh of Moab; and he said to the king of Moab, "Please let my father and my mother come out to you, until I know what God will do for me." **4** He brought them before the king of Moab; and they lived with him all the time that David was in the stronghold. **5** The prophet Gad said to David, "Do not stay in the stronghold. Depart, and go into the land of Judah." Then David departed, and came into the forest of Hereth. **6** Saul heard that David was discovered, with the men who were with him. Now Saul was sitting in Gibeah, under the tamarisk tree in Ramah, with his spear in his hand, and all his servants were standing around him. **7** Saul said to his servants who stood around him, "Hear now, you Benjamites! Will the son of Jesse give everyone of you fields and vineyards? Will he make you all captains of thousands and captains of hundreds? **8** Is that why all of you have conspired against me, and there is no one who discloses to me when my son makes a treaty with the son of Jesse, and there is none of you who is sorry for me, or discloses to me that my son has stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as it is today?" **9** Then Doeg the Edomite, who stood by the servants of Saul, answered and said, "I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub. **10** He inquired of the LORD for him, gave him food, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine." **11** Then the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house,



the priests who were in Nob; and they all came to the king. **12** Saul said, "Hear now, you son of Ahitub." He answered, "Here I am, my lord." **13** Saul said to him, "Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, in that you have given him bread, and a sword, and have inquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as it is today?" **14** Then Ahimelech answered the king, and said, "Who among all your servants is so faithful as David, who is the king's son-in-law, captain of your body guard, and honored in your house? **15** Have I today begun to inquire of God for him? Be it far from me! Do not let the king impute anything to his servant, nor to all the house of my father; for your servant knew nothing of all this, less or more." **16** The king said, "You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father's house." **17** The king said to the guard who stood about him, "Turn and kill the priests of the LORD, because their hand also is with David, and because they knew that he fled and did not disclose it to me." But the servants of the king would not put out their hand to fall on the priests of the LORD. **18** The king said to Doeg, "Turn and attack the priests!" Doeg the Edomite turned, and he attacked the priests, and he killed on that day eighty-five people who wore a linen ephod. **19** He struck Nob, the city of the priests, with the edge of the sword—both men and women, children and nursing babies, and cattle, donkeys, and sheep, with the edge of the sword. **20** One of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled after David. **21** Abiathar told David that Saul had slain the LORD's priests. **22** David said to Abiathar, "I knew on that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul. I am responsible for the death of all the persons of your father's house. **23** Stay with me. Do not be afraid, for he who seeks my life seeks your life. You will be safe with me."

**23** David was told, "Behold, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah, and are robbing the threshing floors." **2** Therefore David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I go and strike these Philistines?" The LORD said to David, "Go strike the Philistines, and save Keilah." **3** David's men said to him, "Behold, we are afraid here in Judah. How much more then if we go to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?" **4** Then David inquired of the LORD yet again. The LORD answered him, and said, "Arise, go down to Keilah; for I will deliver the Philistines into your hand." **5** David and his men went to Keilah and fought with the Philistines, and brought away their livestock, and killed them with a great slaughter. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah. **6** When Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David to Keilah, he came down with an ephod in his hand. **7** Saul was told that David had come to Keilah. Saul said, "God has delivered him into my hand, for he is shut in by entering into a town that has gates and bars." **8** Saul summoned all the people to war, to go down to Keilah to besiege David and his men. **9** David knew that Saul was devising mischief against him. He said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod here." **10** Then David said, "O LORD, the God of Israel, your servant has surely heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah to destroy the city for my sake. **11** Will the men of Keilah deliver me up into his hand? Will Saul come down, as your servant has heard? LORD, the God of Israel, I beg you, tell your servant." The LORD said, "He will come down." **12** Then David said, "Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul?" The LORD said, "They will deliver you up." **13** Then David and his men, who were about six hundred, arose and departed out of Keilah and went wherever they could go. Saul was told that David had escaped from Keilah; and he gave up going there. **14** David stayed in the wilderness in the strongholds, and remained in the hill country in the wilderness of Ziph. Saul sought him every day, but God did not deliver him into his hand. **15** David saw that Saul had come out to seek his life. David was in the wilderness of Ziph in the woods. **16** Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David into the woods, and strengthened his hand in God. **17** He said to him, "Do not be afraid, for the hand of Saul my father will not find you; and you will be king over Israel, and I will be next to you; and Saul my father knows that also." **18** They both made a covenant before the LORD. Then David stayed in the woods and Jonathan went to his house. **19** Then the Ziphites came up to Saul to Gibeah, saying, "Does not David hide himself with us in the strongholds in the woods, in the hill of Hachilah, which is on the south of the desert?" **20** Now therefore, O king, come

down. According to all the desire of your soul to come down; and our part will be to deliver him up into the king's hand." 21 Saul said, "You are blessed by the LORD, for you have had compassion on me. 22 Please go make yet more sure, and know and see his place where his haunt is, and who has seen him there; for I have been told that he is very cunning. 23 See therefore, and take knowledge of all the lurking places where he hides himself; and come again to me with certainty, and I will go with you. It shall happen, if he is in the land, that I will search him out among all the thousands of Judah." 24 They arose, and went to Ziph before Saul; but David and his men were in the wilderness of Maon, in the Arabah on the south of the desert. 25 Saul and his men went to seek him. When David was told, he went down to the rock, and stayed in the wilderness of Maon. When Saul heard that, he pursued David in the wilderness of Maon. 26 Saul went on this side of the mountain, and David and his men on that side of the mountain; and David hurried to get away for fear of Saul, for Saul and his men surrounded David and his men to take them. 27 But a messenger came to Saul, saying, "Hurry and come, for the Philistines have made a raid on the land!" 28 So Saul returned from pursuing David, and went against the Philistines. Therefore they called that place Sela Hammahlekoth. 29 David went up from there and lived in the strongholds of En Gedi.

**24** When Saul had returned from following the Philistines, he was told, "Behold, David is in the wilderness of En Gedi." 2 Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and went to seek David and his men on the rocks of the wild goats. 3 He came to the sheep pens by the way, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were staying in the innermost parts of the cave. 4 David's men said to him, "Behold, the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it shall seem good to you.'" Then David arose and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe secretly. 5 Afterward, David's heart struck him because he had cut off Saul's skirt. 6 He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, since he is the LORD's anointed." 7 So

David checked his men with these words, and did not allow them to rise against Saul. Saul rose up out of the cave, and went on his way. 8 David also arose afterward, and went out of the cave and cried after Saul, saying, "My lord the king!" When Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the earth, and showed respect. 9 David said to Saul, "Why do you listen to men's words, saying, 'Behold, David seeks to harm you'? 10 Behold, today your eyes have seen how the LORD had delivered you today into my hand in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you. I said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD's anointed.' 11 Moreover, my father, behold, yes, see the skirt of your robe in my hand; for in that I cut off the skirt of your robe and did not kill you, know and see that there is neither evil nor disobedience in my hand. I have not sinned against you, though you hunt for my life to take it. 12 May the LORD judge between me and you, and may the LORD avenge me of you; but my hand will not be on you. 13 As the proverb of the ancients says, 'Out of the wicked comes wickedness;' but my hand will not be on you. 14 Against whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom do you pursue? A dead dog? A flea? 15 May the LORD therefore be judge, and give sentence between me and you, and see, and plead my cause, and deliver me out of your hand." 16 It came to pass, when David had finished speaking these words to Saul, that Saul said, "Is that your voice, my son David?" Saul lifted up his voice and wept. 17 He said to David, "You are more righteous than I; for you have done good to me, whereas I have done evil to you. 18 You have declared today how you have dealt well with me, because when the LORD had delivered me up into your hand, you did not kill me. 19 For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go away unharmed? Therefore may the LORD reward you good for that which you have done to me today. 20 Now, behold, I know that you will surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand. 21 Swear now therefore to me by the LORD that you will not cut off my offspring after me, and that you will not destroy my name out of my father's house." 22 David swore to Saul. Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

**25** Samuel died; and all Israel gathered themselves together and mourned for him, and buried him at his house at Ramah. Then David arose and went down to the wilderness of Paran. **2** There was a man in Maon whose possessions were in Carmel; and the man was very great. He had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats; and he was shearing his sheep in Carmel. **3** Now the name of the man was Nabal; and the name of his wife Abigail. This woman was intelligent and had a beautiful face; but the man was surly and evil in his doings. He was of the house of Caleb. **4** David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep. **5** David sent ten young men; and David said to the young men, "Go up to Carmel, and go to Nabal, and greet him in my name. **6** Tell him, 'Long life to you! Peace be to you! Peace be to your house! Peace be to all that you have! **7** Now I have heard that you have shearers. Your shepherds have now been with us, and we did not harm them. Nothing was missing from them all the time they were in Carmel. **8** Ask your young men, and they will tell you. Therefore let the young men find favor in your eyes, for we come on a good day. Please give whatever comes to your hand to your servants and to your son David.'" **9** When David's young men came, they spoke to Nabal all those words in the name of David, and waited. **10** Nabal answered David's servants and said, "Who is David? Who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants who break away from their masters these days. **11** Shall I then take my bread, my water, and my meat that I have killed for my shearers, and give it to men who I do not know where they come from?" **12** So David's young men turned on their way and went back, and came and told him all these words. **13** David said to his men, "Every man put on his sword!" Every man put on his sword. David also put on his sword. About four hundred men followed David, and two hundred stayed by the baggage. **14** But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, "Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to greet our master; and he insulted them. **15** But the men were very good to us, and we were not harmed, and we did not miss anything as long as we went with them, when we were in the fields. **16** They were a wall to us both by night and by day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep. **17** Now therefore know and consider what you will do; for evil is determined against our master and against all his house, for he is such a worthless fellow that one cannot speak to him." **18** Then Abigail hurried and took two hundred loaves of bread, two containers of wine, five sheep ready dressed, five seahs of parched grain, one hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on donkeys. **19** She said to her young men, "Go on before me. Behold, I am coming after you." But she did not tell her husband, Nabal. **20** As she rode on her donkey, and came down hidden by the mountain, behold, David and his men came down toward her, and she met them. **21** Now David had said, "Surely in vain I have kept all that this fellow has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that pertained to him. He has returned me evil for good. **22** God do so to the enemies of David, and more also, if I leave of all that belongs to him by the morning light so much as one who urinates on a wall." **23** When Abigail saw David, she hurried and got off her donkey, and fell before David on her face and bowed herself to the ground. **24** She fell at his feet and said, "On me, my lord, on me be the blame! Please let your servant speak in your ears. Hear the words of your servant. **25** Please do not let my lord pay attention to this worthless fellow, Nabal, for as his name is, so is he. Nabal is his name, and folly is with him; but I, your servant, did not see my lord's young men whom you sent. **26** Now therefore, my lord, as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, since the LORD has withheld you from blood guiltiness and from avenging yourself with your own hand, now therefore let your enemies and those who seek evil to my lord be as Nabal. **27** Now this present which your servant has brought to my lord, let it be given to the young men who follow my lord. **28** Please forgive the trespass of your servant. For the LORD will certainly make my lord a sure house, because my lord fights the LORD's battles. Evil will not be found in you all your days. **29** Though men may rise up to pursue you and to seek your soul, yet the soul of my lord will be bound in the bundle of life with the LORD your God. He will sling out the souls of your enemies as from a sling's pocket. **30** It will come to pass, when the LORD has done to my lord according to all the

good that he has spoken concerning you, and has appointed you prince over Israel, 31 that this shall be no grief to you, nor offense of heart to my lord, either that you have shed blood without cause, or that my lord has avenged himself. When the LORD has dealt well with my lord, then remember your servant.” 32 David said to Abigail, “Blessed is the LORD, the God of Israel, who sent you today to meet me! 33 Blessed is your discretion, and blessed are you, who have kept me today from blood guiltiness, and from avenging myself with my own hand. 34 For indeed, as the LORD the God of Israel lives, who has withheld me from harming you, unless you had hurried and come to meet me, surely there would not have been left to Nabal by the morning light so much as one who urinates on a wall.” 35 So David received from her hand that which she had brought him. Then he said to her, “Go up in peace to your house. Behold, I have listened to your voice and have granted your request.” 36 Abigail came to Nabal; and behold, he held a feast in his house like the feast of a king. Nabal’s heart was merry within him, for he was very drunk. Therefore she told him nothing until the morning light. 37 In the morning, when the wine had gone out of Nabal, his wife told him these things; and his heart died within him, and he became as a stone. 38 About ten days later, the LORD struck Nabal, so that he died. 39 When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, “Blessed is the LORD, who has pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and has kept back his servant from evil. The LORD has returned the evildoing of Nabal on his own head.” David sent and spoke concerning Abigail, to take her to himself as wife. 40 When David’s servants had come to Abigail to Carmel, they spoke to her, saying, “David has sent us to you, to take you to him as wife.” 41 She arose and bowed herself with her face to the earth, and said, “Behold, your servant is a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord.” 42 Abigail hurriedly arose and rode on a donkey with her five maids who followed her; and she went after the messengers of David, and became his wife. 43 David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel; and they both became his wives. 44 Now Saul had given Michal his daughter, David’s wife, to Palti the son of Laish, who was of Gallim.

**26** The Ziphites came to Saul to Gibeah, saying, “Does not David hide himself in the hill of Hachilah, which is before the desert?” 2 Then Saul arose and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph. 3 Saul encamped in the hill of Hachilah, which is before the desert, by the way. But David stayed in the wilderness, and he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness. 4 David therefore sent out spies, and understood that Saul had certainly come. 5 Then David arose and came to the place where Saul had encamped; and David saw the place where Saul lay, with Abner the son of Ner, the captain of his army. Saul lay within the place of the wagons, and the people were encamped around him. 6 Then David answered and said to Ahimelech the Hittite, and to Abishai the son of Zeruiah, brother of Joab, saying, “Who will go down with me to Saul to the camp?” Abishai said, “I will go down with you.” 7 So David and Abishai came to the people by night; and, behold, Saul lay sleeping within the place of the wagons, with his spear stuck in the ground at his head; and Abner and the people lay around him. 8 Then Abishai said to David, “God has delivered up your enemy into your hand today. Now therefore please let me strike him with the spear to the earth at one stroke, and I will not strike him the second time.” 9 David said to Abishai, “Do not destroy him, for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD’s anointed, and be guiltless?” 10 David said, “As the LORD lives, the LORD will strike him; or his day shall come to die, or he shall go down into battle and perish. 11 The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD’s anointed; but now please take the spear that is at his head and the jar of water, and let’s go.” 12 So David took the spear and the jar of water from Saul’s head, and they went away. No man saw it, or knew it, nor did any awake; for they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the LORD had fallen on them. 13 Then David went over to the other side, and stood on the top of the mountain far away, a great space being between them; 14 and David cried to the people, and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, “Do not you answer, Abner?” Then Abner answered, “Who are you who calls to the king?” 15 David said to Abner, “Are not you a man? Who is

like you in Israel? Why then have you not kept watch over your lord the king? For one of the people came in to destroy your lord the king. **16** This thing is not good that you have done. As the LORD lives, you are worthy to die, because you have not kept watch over your lord, the LORD's anointed. Now see where the king's spear is, and the jar of water that was at his head." **17** Saul recognized David's voice, and said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" David said, "It is my voice, my lord, O king." **18** He said, "Why does my lord pursue his servant? For what have I done? What evil is in my hand?" **19** Now therefore, please let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If it is so that the LORD has stirred you up against me, let him accept an offering. But if it is the children of men, they are cursed before the LORD; for they have driven me out today that I should not cling to the LORD's inheritance, saying, 'Go, serve other gods!' **20** Now therefore, do not let my blood fall to the earth away from the presence of the LORD; for the king of Israel has come out to seek a flea, as when one hunts a partridge in the mountains." **21** Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David; for I will no more do you harm, because my life was precious in your eyes today. Behold, I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly." **22** David answered, "Behold the spear, O king! Let one of the young men come over and get it. **23** The LORD will render to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness; because the LORD delivered you into my hand today, and I would not stretch out my hand against the LORD's anointed. **24** Behold, as your life was respected today in my eyes, so let my life be respected in the LORD's eyes, and let him deliver me out of all oppression." **25** Then Saul said to David, "You are blessed, my son David. You will both do mightily, and will surely prevail." So David went his way, and Saul returned to his place.

**27** David said in his heart, "I will now perish one day by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than that I should escape into the land of the Philistines; and Saul will despair of me, to seek me any more in all the borders of Israel. So I will escape out of his hand." **2** David arose and passed over, he and the six hundred men who were with him, to Achish the son of Maach, king of Gath. **3** David lived with

Achish at Gath, he and his men, every man with his household, even David with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess and Abigail the Carmelitess, Nabal's wife. **4** Saul was told that David had fled to Gath, so he stopped looking for him. **5** David said to Achish, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, let them give me a place in one of the cities in the country, that I may dwell there. For why should your servant dwell in the royal city with you?" **6** Then Achish gave him Ziklag that day: therefore Ziklag belongs to the kings of Judah to this day. **7** The number of the days that David lived in the country of the Philistines was a full year and four months. **8** David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites, the Girzites, and the Amalekites; for those were the inhabitants of the land who were of old, on the way to Shur, even to the land of Egypt. **9** David struck the land, and saved no man or woman alive, and took away the sheep, the cattle, the donkeys, the camels, and the clothing. Then he returned, and came to Achish. **10** Achish said, "Against whom have you made a raid today?" David said, "Against the South of Judah, against the South of the Jerahmeelites, and against the South of the Kenites." **11** David saved neither man nor woman alive to bring them to Gath, saying, "Lest they should tell about us, saying, 'David did this, and this has been his way all the time he has lived in the country of the Philistines.'" **12** Achish believed David, saying, "He has made his people Israel utterly to abhor him. Therefore he will be my servant forever."

**28** In those days, the Philistines gathered their armies together for warfare, to fight with Israel. Achish said to David, "Know assuredly that you will go out with me in the army, you and your men." **2** David said to Achish, "Therefore you will know what your servant can do." Achish said to David, "Therefore I will make you my bodyguard forever." **3** Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in Ramah, even in his own city. Saul had sent away those who had familiar spirits and the wizards out of the land. **4** The Philistines gathered themselves together, and came and encamped in Shunem; and Saul gathered all Israel together, and they encamped in Gilboa. **5** When Saul saw the army of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly. **6** When Saul inquired of the LORD,

the LORD did not answer him by dreams, by Urim, or by prophets. 7 Then Saul said to his servants, "Seek for me a woman who has a familiar spirit, that I may go to her and inquire of her." His servants said to him, "Behold, there is a woman who has a familiar spirit at Endor." 8 Saul disguised himself and put on other clothing, and went, he and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night. Then he said, "Please consult for me by the familiar spirit, and bring me up whomever I shall name to you." 9 The woman said to him, "Behold, you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off those who have familiar spirits and the wizards out of the land. Why then do you lay a snare for my life, to cause me to die?" 10 Saul swore to her by the LORD, saying, "As the LORD lives, no punishment will happen to you for this thing." 11 Then the woman said, "Whom shall I bring up to you?" He said, "Bring Samuel up for me." 12 When the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice; and the woman spoke to Saul, saying, "Why have you deceived me? For you are Saul!" 13 The king said to her, "Do not be afraid! What do you see?" The woman said to Saul, "I see a god coming up out of the earth." 14 He said to her, "What does he look like?" She said, "An old man comes up. He is covered with a robe." Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he bowed with his face to the ground, and showed respect. 15 Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me, to bring me up?" Saul answered, "I am very distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God has departed from me, and answers me no more, by prophets, or by dreams. Therefore I have called you, that you may make known to me what I shall do." 16 Samuel said, "Why then do you ask me, since the LORD has departed from you and has become your adversary? 17 The LORD has done to you as he spoke by me. The LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, even to David. 18 Because you did not obey the LORD's voice, and did not execute his fierce wrath on Amalek, therefore the LORD has done this thing to you today. 19 Moreover the LORD will deliver Israel also with you into the hand of the Philistines; and tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The LORD will deliver the army of Israel also into the hand of the Philistines." 20 Then Saul fell immediately his full

length on the earth, and was terrified, because of Samuel's words. There was no strength in him, for he had eaten no bread all day long or all night long. 21 The woman came to Saul and saw that he was very troubled, and said to him, "Behold, your servant has listened to your voice, and I have put my life in my hand, and have listened to your words which you spoke to me. 22 Now therefore, please listen also to the voice of your servant, and let me set a morsel of bread before you. Eat, that you may have strength when you go on your way." 23 But he refused, and said, "I will not eat." But his servants, together with the woman, constrained him; and he listened to their voice. So he arose from the earth and sat on the bed. 24 The woman had a fattened calf in the house. She hurried and killed it; and she took flour and kneaded it, and baked unleavened bread of it. 25 She brought it before Saul and before his servants, and they ate. Then they rose up and went away that night.

**29** Now the Philistines gathered together all their armies to Aphek; and the Israelites encamped by the spring which is in Jezreel. 2 The lords of the Philistines passed on by hundreds and by thousands; and David and his men passed on in the rear with Achish. 3 Then the princes of the Philistines said, "What about these Hebrews?" Achish said to the princes of the Philistines, "Is not this David, the servant of Saul the king of Israel, who has been with me these days, or rather these years? I have found no fault in him since he fell away until today." 4 But the princes of the Philistines were angry with him; and the princes of the Philistines said to him, "Make the man return, that he may go back to his place where you have appointed him, and let him not go down with us to battle, lest in the battle he become an adversary to us. For with what should this fellow reconcile himself to his lord? Should it not be with the heads of these men?" 5 Is not this David, of whom people sang to one another in dances, saying, 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands?'" 6 Then Achish called David and said to him, "As the LORD lives, you have been upright, and your going out and your coming in with me in the army is good in my sight; for I have not found evil in you since the day of your coming to me to this day. Nevertheless, the lords do not favor you. 7 Therefore now return, and

go in peace, that you not displease the lords of the Philistines.” 8 David said to Achish, “But what have I done? What have you found in your servant so long as I have been before you to this day, that I may not go and fight against the enemies of my lord the king?” 9 Achish answered David, “I know that you are good in my sight, as an angel of God. Notwithstanding, the princes of the Philistines have said, ‘He shall not go up with us to the battle.’ 10 Therefore now rise up early in the morning with the servants of your lord who have come with you; and as soon as you are up early in the morning and have light, depart.” 11 So David rose up early, he and his men, to depart in the morning, to return into the land of the Philistines; and the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

**30** When David and his men had come to Ziklag on the third day, the Amalekites had made a raid on the South and on Ziklag, and had struck Ziklag and burned it with fire, 2 and had taken captive the women and all who were in it, both small and great. They did not kill any, but carried them off and went their way. 3 When David and his men came to the city, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, their sons, and their daughters were taken captive. 4 Then David and the people who were with him lifted up their voice and wept until they had no more power to weep. 5 David’s two wives were taken captive, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite. 6 David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the souls of all the people were grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters; but David strengthened himself in the LORD his God. 7 David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelech, “Please bring the ephod here to me.” Abiathar brought the ephod to David. 8 David inquired of the LORD, saying, “If I pursue after this troop, will I overtake them?” He answered him, “Pursue, for you will surely overtake them, and will without fail recover all.” 9 So David went, he and the six hundred men who were with him, and came to the brook Besor, where those who were left behind stayed. 10 But David pursued, he and four hundred men; for two hundred stayed behind, who were so faint that they could not go over the brook Besor. 11 They found an Egyptian in the field, and brought him to David, and gave him bread, and he ate; and they

gave him water to drink. 12 They gave him a piece of a cake of figs and two clusters of raisins. When he had eaten, his spirit came again to him; for he had eaten no bread, and drank no water for three days and three nights. 13 David asked him, “To whom do you belong? Where are you from?” He said, “I am a young man of Egypt, servant to an Amalekite; and my master left me, because three days ago I got sick. 14 We made a raid on the South of the Cherethites, and on that which belongs to Judah, and on the South of Caleb; and we burned Ziklag with fire.” 15 David said to him, “Will you bring me down to this troop?” He said, “Swear to me by God that you will not kill me and not deliver me up into the hands of my master, and I will bring you down to this troop.” 16 When he had brought him down, behold, they were spread around over all the ground, eating, drinking, and dancing, because of all the great plunder that they had taken out of the land of the Philistines, and out of the land of Judah. 17 David struck them from the twilight even to the evening of the next day. Not a man of them escaped from there, except four hundred young men who rode on camels and fled. 18 David recovered all that the Amalekites had taken, and David rescued his two wives. 19 There was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither plunder, nor anything that they had taken. David brought them all back. 20 David took all the flocks and the herds, which they drove before those other livestock, and said, “This is David’s plunder.” 21 David came to the two hundred men, who were so faint that they could not follow David, whom also they had made to stay at the brook Besor; and they went out to meet David, and to meet the people who were with him. When David came near to the people, he greeted them. 22 Then all the wicked men and worthless fellows of those who went with David answered and said, “Because they did not go with us, we will not give them anything of the plunder that we have recovered, except to every man his wife and his children, that he may lead them away and depart.” 23 Then David said, “Do not do so, my brothers, with that which the LORD has given to us, who has preserved us, and delivered the troop that came against us into our hand. 24 Who will listen to you in this matter? For as his share is who goes

down to the battle, so shall his share be who stays with the baggage. They shall share alike." 25 It was so from that day forward that he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel to this day. 26 When David came to Ziklag, he sent some of the plunder to the elders of Judah, even to his friends, saying, "Behold, a present for you from the plunder of the LORD's enemies." 27 He sent it to those who were in Bethel, to those who were in Ramoth of the South, to those who were in Jattir, 28 to those who were in Aroer, to those who were in Siphmoth, to those who were in Eshtemoa, 29 to those who were in Racal, to those who were in the cities of the Jerahmeelites, to those who were in the cities of the Kenites, 30 to those who were in Hormah, to those who were in Borashan, to those who were in Athach, 31 to those who were in Hebron, and to all the places where David himself and his men used to stay.

**31** Now the Philistines fought against Israel; and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell down slain on Mount Gilboa. 2 The Philistines overtook Saul and his sons; and the Philistines killed Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua, the sons of Saul. 3 The battle went hard against Saul, and the archers overtook him; and he was greatly distressed by reason of the archers. 4 Then Saul said to his armor bearer, "Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through and abuse me!" But his armor bearer would not, for he was terrified. Therefore Saul took his sword and fell on it. 5 When his armor bearer saw that Saul was dead, he likewise fell on his sword, and died with him. 6 So Saul died with his three sons, his armor bearer, and all his men that same day together. 7 When the men of Israel who were on the other side of the valley, and those who were beyond the Jordan, saw that the men of Israel fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they abandoned the cities and fled; and the Philistines came and lived in them. 8 On the next day, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa. 9 They cut off his head, stripped off his armor, and sent into the land of the Philistines all around, to carry the news to the house of their idols and to the people. 10

They put his armor in the house of the Ashtaroth, and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth Shan. 11 When the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul, 12 all the valiant men arose, went all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth Shan; and they came to Jabesh and burned them there. 13 They took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree in Jabesh, and fasted seven days.



## 2 Samuel

**1** After the death of Saul, when David had returned from the slaughter of the Amalekites, and David had stayed two days in Ziklag, **2** on the third day, behold, a man came out of the camp from Saul, with his clothes torn and earth on his head. When he came to David, he fell to the earth and showed respect. **3** David said to him, "Where do you come from?" He said to him, "I have escaped out of the camp of Israel." **4** David said to him, "How did it go? Please tell me." He answered, "The people have fled from the battle, and many of the people also have fallen and are dead. Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also." **5** David said to the young man who told him, "How do you know that Saul and Jonathan his son are dead?" **6** The young man who told him said, "As I happened by chance on Mount Gilboa, behold, Saul was leaning on his spear; and behold, the chariots and the horsemen followed close behind him. **7** When he looked behind him, he saw me and called to me. I answered, 'Here I am.' **8** He said to me, 'Who are you?' I answered him, 'I am an Amalekite.' **9** He said to me, 'Please stand beside me, and kill me, for anguish has taken hold of me because my life lingers in me.' **10** So I stood beside him and killed him, because I was sure that he could not live after he had fallen. I took the crown that was on his head and the bracelet that was on his arm, and have brought them here to my lord." **11** Then David took hold on his clothes and tore them; and all the men who were with him did likewise. **12** They mourned, wept, and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the LORD, and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword. **13** David said to the young man who told him, "Where are you from?" He answered, "I am the son of a foreigner, an Amalekite." **14** David said to him, "Why were you not afraid to stretch out your hand to destroy the LORD's anointed?" **15** David called one of the young men and said, "Go near, and cut him down!" He struck him so that he died. **16** David said to him, "Your blood be on your head, for your mouth has testified against you, saying, 'I have slain the LORD's anointed.'" **17** David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son **18** (and he commanded them

to teach the children of Judah the song of the bow; behold, it is written in the book of Jashar): **19** "Your glory, Israel, was slain on your high places! How the mighty have fallen! **20** Do not tell it in Gath. Do not publish it in the streets of Ashkelon, lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph. **21** You mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew or rain on you, and no fields of offerings; for there the shield of the mighty was defiled and cast away, the shield of Saul was not anointed with oil. **22** From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, Jonathan's bow did not turn back. Saul's sword did not return empty. **23** Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives. In their death, they were not divided. They were swifter than eagles. They were stronger than lions. **24** You daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you delicately in scarlet, who put ornaments of gold on your clothing. **25** How the mighty have fallen in the middle of the battle! Jonathan was slain on your high places. **26** I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan. You have been very pleasant to me. Your love to me was wonderful, surpassing the love of women. **27** How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war have perished!"

**2** After this, David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?" The LORD said to him, "Go up." David said, "Where shall I go up?" He said, "To Hebron." **2** So David went up there with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite. **3** David brought up his men who were with him, every man with his household. They lived in the cities of Hebron. **4** The men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. They told David, "The men of Jabesh Gilead were those who buried Saul." **5** David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh Gilead, and said to them, "Blessed are you by the LORD, that you have shown this kindness to your lord, even to Saul, and have buried him. **6** Now may the LORD show loving kindness and truth to you. I also will reward you for this kindness, because you have done this thing. **7** Now therefore let your hands be strong, and be valiant; for Saul your lord is dead, and also the house of Judah have anointed me king over them." **8** Now Abner the son of Ner, captain of

Saul's army, had taken Ishbosheth the son of Saul and brought him over to Mahanaim. 9 He made him king over Gilead, over the Ashurites, over Jezreel, over Ephraim, over Benjamin, and over all Israel. 10 Ishbosheth, Saul's son, was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and he reigned two years. But the house of Judah followed David. 11 The time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months. 12 Abner the son of Ner, and the servants of Ishbosheth the son of Saul, went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon. 13 Joab the son of Zeruiah and David's servants went out, and met them by the pool of Gibeon; and they sat down, the one on the one side of the pool and the other on the other side of the pool. 14 Abner said to Joab, "Please let the young men arise and compete before us!" Joab said, "Let them arise!" 15 Then they arose and went over by number: twelve for Benjamin and for Ishbosheth the son of Saul, and twelve of David's servants. 16 They each caught his opponent by the head and thrust his sword in his fellow's side; so they fell down together. Therefore that place in Gibeon was called Helkath Hazzurim. 17 The battle was very severe that day; and Abner was beaten, and the men of Israel, before David's servants. 18 The three sons of Zeruiah were there: Joab, Abishai, and Asahel. Asahel was as light of foot as a wild gazelle. 19 Asahel pursued Abner. He did not turn to the right hand or to the left from following Abner. 20 Then Abner looked behind him and said, "Is that you, Asahel?" He answered, "It is." 21 Abner said to him, "Turn away to your right hand or to your left, and grab one of the young men, and take his armor." But Asahel would not turn away from following him. 22 Abner said again to Asahel, "Turn away from following me. Why should I strike you to the ground? How then could I look Joab your brother in the face?" 23 However, he refused to turn away. Therefore Abner with the back end of the spear struck him in the body, so that the spear came out behind him; and he fell down there and died in the same place. As many as came to the place where Asahel fell down and died stood still. 24 But Joab and Abishai pursued Abner. The sun went down when they had come to the hill of Ammah, that lies before Giah by the way of the wilderness of Gibeon. 25 The children of

Benjamin gathered themselves together after Abner and became one band, and stood on the top of a hill. 26 Then Abner called to Joab, and said, "Shall the sword devour forever? Do not you know that it will be bitterness in the latter end? How long will it be then, before you ask the people to return from following their brothers?" 27 Joab said, "As God lives, if you had not spoken, surely then in the morning the people would have gone away, and not each followed his brother." 28 So Joab blew the trumpet; and all the people stood still and pursued Israel no more, and they fought no more. 29 Abner and his men went all that night through the Arabah; and they passed over the Jordan, and went through all Bithron, and came to Mahanaim. 30 Joab returned from following Abner; and when he had gathered all the people together, nineteen men of David's and Asahel were missing. 31 But David's servants had struck Benjamin Abner's men so that three hundred sixty men died. 32 They took up Asahel and buried him in the tomb of his father, which was in Bethlehem. Joab and his men went all night, and the day broke on them at Hebron.

**3** Now there was long war between Saul's house and David's house. David grew stronger and stronger, but Saul's house grew weaker and weaker. 2 Sons were born to David in Hebron. His firstborn was Amnon, of Ahinoam the Jezreelitess; 3 and his second, Chileab, of Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite; and the third, Absalom the son of Maacah the daughter of Talmi king of Geshur; 4 and the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; and the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital; 5 and the sixth, Ithream, of Eglah, David's wife. These were born to David in Hebron. 6 While there was war between Saul's house and David's house, Abner made himself strong in Saul's house. 7 Now Saul had a concubine, whose name was Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah; and Ishbosheth said to Abner, "Why have you gone in to my father's concubine?" 8 Then Abner was very angry about Ishbosheth's words, and said, "Am I a dog's head that belongs to Judah? Today I show kindness to your father Saul's house, to his brothers, and to his friends, and have not delivered you into the hand of David; and yet you charge me today with a fault concerning this woman! 9 God do so to Abner, and more also, if, as the LORD has sworn to

David, I do not do even so to him: 10 to transfer the kingdom from Saul's house, and to set up David's throne over Israel and over Judah, from Dan even to Beersheba." 11 He could not answer Abner another word, because he was afraid of him. 12 Abner sent messengers to David on his behalf, saying, "Whose is the land?" and saying, "Make your alliance with me, and behold, my hand will be with you to bring all Israel around to you." 13 David said, "Good. I will make a treaty with you, but one thing I require of you. That is, you will not see my face unless you first bring Michal, Saul's daughter, when you come to see my face." 14 David sent messengers to Ishbosheth, Saul's son, saying, "Deliver me my wife Michal, whom I was given to marry for one hundred foreskins of the Philistines." 15 Ishbosheth sent and took her from her husband, Paltiel the son of Laish. 16 Her husband went with her, weeping as he went, and followed her to Bahurim. Then Abner said to him, "Go! Return!" and he returned. 17 Abner had communication with the elders of Israel, saying, "In times past, you sought for David to be king over you. 18 Now then do it! For the LORD has spoken of David, saying, 'By the hand of my servant David, I will save my people Israel out of the hand of the Philistines, and out of the hand of all their enemies.'" 19 Abner also spoke in the ears of Benjamin; and Abner went also to speak in the ears of David in Hebron all that seemed good to Israel and to the whole house of Benjamin. 20 So Abner came to David to Hebron, and twenty men with him. David made Abner and the men who were with him a feast. 21 Abner said to David, "I will arise and go, and will gather all Israel to my lord the king, that they may make a covenant with you, and that you may reign over all that your soul desires." David sent Abner away; and he went in peace. 22 Behold, David's servants and Joab came from a raid and brought in a great plunder with them; but Abner was not with David in Hebron, for he had sent him away, and he had gone in peace. 23 When Joab and all the army who was with him had come, they told Joab, "Abner the son of Ner came to the king, and he has sent him away, and he has gone in peace." 24 Then Joab came to the king and said, "What have you done? Behold, Abner came to you. Why is it that you have sent him away, and he is already gone? 25 You know Abner the son of Ner. He came to deceive you, and to know your going out and your coming in, and to know all that you do." 26 When Joab had come out from David, he sent messengers after Abner, and they brought him back from the well of Sirah; but David did not know it. 27 When Abner had returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside into the middle of the gate to speak with him quietly, and struck him there in the body, so that he died for the blood of Asahel his brother. 28 Afterward, when David heard it, he said, "I and my kingdom are guiltless before the LORD forever of the blood of Abner the son of Ner. 29 Let it fall on the head of Joab and on all his father's house. Let there not fail from the house of Joab one who has a discharge, or who is a leper, or who leans on a staff, or who falls by the sword, or who lacks bread." 30 So Joab and Abishai his brother killed Abner, because he had killed their brother Asahel at Gibeon in the battle. 31 David said to Joab and to all the people who were with him, "Tear your clothes, and clothe yourselves with sackcloth, and mourn in front of Abner." King David followed the bier. 32 They buried Abner in Hebron; and the king lifted up his voice and wept at Abner's grave; and all the people wept. 33 The king lamented for Abner, and said, "Should Abner die as a fool dies? 34 Your hands were not bound, and your feet were not put into fetters. As a man falls before the children of iniquity, so you fell." All the people wept again over him. 35 All the people came to urge David to eat bread while it was yet day; but David swore, saying, "God do so to me, and more also, if I taste bread or anything else, until the sun goes down." 36 All the people took notice of it, and it pleased them, as whatever the king did pleased all the people. 37 So all the people and all Israel understood that day that it was not of the king to kill Abner the son of Ner. 38 The king said to his servants, "Do not you know that a prince and a great man has fallen today in Israel? 39 I am weak today, though anointed king. These men, the sons of Zeruiah are too hard for me. May the LORD reward the evildoer according to his wickedness."

**4** When Saul's son heard that Abner was dead in Hebron, his hands became feeble, and all the Israelites were troubled. 2 Saul's son had two men

who were captains of raiding bands. The name of one was Baanah and the name of the other Rechab, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, of the children of Benjamin (for Beeroth also is considered a part of Benjamin; 3 and the Beerothites fled to Gittaim, and have lived as foreigners there until today). 4 Now Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son who was lame in his feet. He was five years old when the news came about Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel; and his nurse picked him up and fled. As she hurried to flee, he fell and became lame. His name was Mephibosheth. 5 The sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, went out and came at about the heat of the day to the house of Ishbosheth as he took his rest at noon. 6 They came there into the middle of the house as though they would have fetched wheat, and they struck him in the body; and Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped. 7 Now when they came into the house as he lay on his bed in his bedroom, they struck him, killed him, beheaded him, and took his head, and went by the way of the Arabah all night. 8 They brought the head of Ishbosheth to David to Hebron, and said to the king, "Behold, the head of Ishbosheth, the son of Saul, your enemy, who sought your life! The LORD has avenged my lord the king today of Saul and of his offspring." 9 David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said to them, "As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my soul out of all adversity, 10 when someone told me, 'Behold, Saul is dead,' thinking that he brought good news, I seized him and killed him in Ziklag, which was the reward I gave him for his news. 11 How much more, when wicked men have slain a righteous person in his own house on his bed, should I not now require his blood from your hand, and rid the earth of you?" 12 David commanded his young men, and they killed them, cut off their hands and their feet, and hanged them up beside the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ishbosheth and buried it in Abner's grave in Hebron.

**5** Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and spoke, saying, "Behold, we are your bone and your flesh. 2 In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led Israel out and in. The LORD said to you, 'You will be shepherd of my people Israel, and you will be prince over Israel.'" 3 So all

the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them in Hebron before the LORD; and they anointed David king over Israel. 4 David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. 5 In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah. 6 The king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who spoke to David, saying, "The blind and the lame will keep you out of here," thinking, "David cannot come in here." 7 Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion. This is David's city. 8 David said on that day, "Whoever strikes the Jebusites, let him go up to the watercourse and strike those lame and blind, who are hated by David's soul." Therefore they say, "The blind and the lame cannot come into the house." 9 David lived in the stronghold, and called it David's city. David built around from Millo and inward. 10 David grew greater and greater, for the LORD, the God of Armies, was with him. 11 Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, with cedar trees, carpenters, and masons; and they built David a house. 12 David perceived that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for his people Israel's sake. 13 David took more concubines and wives for himself out of Jerusalem, after he had come from Hebron; and more sons and daughters were born to David. 14 These are the names of those who were born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, 15 Ibhaz, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia, 16 Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet. 17 When the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines went up to seek David, but David heard about it and went down to the stronghold. 18 Now the Philistines had come and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim. 19 David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will you deliver them into my hand?" The LORD said to David, "Go up; for I will certainly deliver the Philistines into your hand." 20 David came to Baal Perazim, and David struck them there. Then he said, "The LORD has broken my enemies before me, like the breach of waters." Therefore he called the name of that place Baal Perazim. 21 They left their images there, and

David and his men took them away. **22** The Philistines came up yet again and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim. **23** When David inquired of the LORD, he said, "You shall not go up. Circle around behind them, and attack them in front of the mulberry trees. **24** When you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees, then stir yourself up; for then the LORD has gone out before you to strike the army of the Philistines." **25** David did so, as the LORD commanded him, and struck the Philistines all the way from Geba to Gezer.

**6** David again gathered together all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. **2** David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale Judah, to bring up from there God's ark, which is called by the Name, even the name of the LORD of Armies who sits above the cherubim. **3** They set God's ark on a new cart, and brought it out of Abinadab's house that was on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart. **4** They brought it out of Abinadab's house which was in the hill, with God's ark; and Ahio went before the ark. **5** David and all the house of Israel played before the LORD with all kinds of instruments made of cypress wood, with harps, with stringed instruments, with tambourines, with castanets, and with cymbals. **6** When they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached for God's ark and took hold of it, for the cattle stumbled. **7** The LORD's anger burned against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error; and he died there by God's ark. **8** David was displeased because the LORD had broken out against Uzzah; and he called that place Perez Uzzah to this day. **9** David was afraid of the LORD that day; and he said, "How could the LORD's ark come to me?" **10** So David would not move the LORD's ark to be with him in David's city; but David carried it aside into Obed-Edom the Gittite's house. **11** The LORD's ark remained in Obed-Edom the Gittite's house three months; and the LORD blessed Obed-Edom and all his house. **12** King David was told, "The LORD has blessed the house of Obed-Edom, and all that belongs to him, because of God's ark." So David went and brought up God's ark from the house of Obed-Edom into David's city with joy. **13** When those who bore the LORD's ark had gone six paces, he sacrificed

an ox and a fattened calf. **14** David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was clothed in a linen ephod. **15** So David and all the house of Israel brought up the LORD's ark with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet. **16** As the LORD's ark came into David's city, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out through the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart. **17** They brought in the LORD's ark, and set it in its place in the middle of the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. **18** When David had finished offering the burnt offering and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of Armies. **19** He gave to all the people, even among the whole multitude of Israel, both to men and women, to everyone a portion of bread, dates, and raisins. So all the people departed, each to his own house. **20** Then David returned to bless his household. Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, "How glorious the king of Israel was today, who uncovered himself today in the eyes of his servants' maids, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!" **21** David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me above your father, and above all his house, to appoint me prince over the people of the LORD, over Israel. Therefore I will celebrate before the LORD. **22** I will be yet more undignified than this, and will be worthless in my own sight. But the maids of whom you have spoken will honor me." **23** Michal the daughter of Saul had no child to the day of her death.

**7** When the king lived in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies all around, **2** the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but God's ark dwells within curtains." **3** Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you." **4** That same night, the LORD's word came to Nathan, saying, **5** "Go and tell my servant David, 'The LORD says, "Should you build me a house for me to dwell in?" **6** For I have not lived in a house since the day that I brought the children of Israel up out of Egypt, even to this day, but have moved around in a tent and in a tabernacle. **7** In all places in which I have walked with

all the children of Israel, did I say a word to anyone from the tribes of Israel whom I commanded to be shepherd of my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?'" 8 Now therefore tell my servant David this: 'The LORD of Armies says, "I took you from the sheep pen, from following the sheep, to be prince over my people, over Israel. 9 I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you. I will make you a great name, like the name of the great ones who are in the earth. 10 I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in their own place and be moved no more. The children of wickedness will not afflict them any more, as at the first, 11 and as from the day that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel. I will cause you to rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD tells you that the LORD will make you a house. 12 When your days are fulfilled and you sleep with your fathers, I will set up your offspring after you, who will proceed out of your 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. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the stripes of the children of men; 15 but my loving kindness will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before you. 16 Your house and your kingdom will be made sure forever before you. Your throne will be established forever.'" 17 Nathan spoke to David all these words, and according to all this vision. 18 Then David the king went in and sat before the LORD; and he said, "Who am I, Lord GOD, and what is my house, that you have brought me this far? 19 This was yet a small thing in your eyes, Lord GOD, but you have spoken also of your servant's house for a great while to come; and this among men, Lord GOD! 20 What more can David say to you? For you know your servant, Lord GOD. 21 For your word's sake, and according to your own heart, you have worked all this greatness, to make your servant know it. 22 Therefore you are great, LORD God. For there is no one like you, neither is there any God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears. 23 What one nation in the earth is like your people, even like Israel, whom God went to redeem to himself for a

people, and to make himself a name, and to do great things for you, and awesome things for your land, before your people, whom you redeemed to yourself out of Egypt, from the nations and their gods? 24 You established for yourself your people Israel to be your people forever; and you, LORD, became their God. 25 "Now, LORD God, the word that you have spoken concerning your servant, and concerning his house, confirm it forever, and do as you have spoken. 26 Let your name be magnified forever, saying, 'The LORD of Armies is God over Israel; and the house of your servant David will be established before you.' 27 For you, LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, have revealed to your servant, saying, 'I will build you a house.' Therefore your servant has found in his heart to pray this prayer to you. 28 "Now, O Lord GOD, you are God, and your words are truth, and you have promised this good thing to your servant. 29 Now therefore, let it please you to bless the house of your servant, that it may continue forever before you; for you, Lord GOD, have spoken it. Let the house of your servant be blessed forever with your blessing."

**8** After this, David struck the Philistines and subdued them; and David took the bridle of the mother city out of the hand of the Philistines. 2 He defeated Moab, and measured them with the line, making them to lie down on the ground; and he measured two lines to put to death, and one full line to keep alive. The Moabites became servants to David, and brought tribute. 3 David also struck Hadadezer the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to recover his dominion at the River. 4 David took from him one thousand seven hundred horsemen and twenty thousand footmen. David hamstringed the chariot horses, but reserved enough of them for one hundred chariots. 5 When the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadadezer king of Zobah, David struck twenty two thousand men of the Syrians. 6 Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus; and the Syrians became servants to David, and brought tribute. The LORD gave victory to David wherever he went. 7 David took the shields of gold that were on the servants of Hadadezer, and brought them to Jerusalem. 8 From Bethah and from Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, King David took a great quantity of bronze. 9 When Toi king of Hamath heard that David had struck all the army of Hadadezer, 10

then Toi sent Joram his son to King David to greet him and to bless him, because he had fought against Hadadezer and struck him; for Hadadezer had wars with Toi. Joram brought with him vessels of silver, vessels of gold, and vessels of bronze. **11** King David also dedicated these to the LORD, with the silver and gold that he dedicated of all the nations which he subdued— **12** of Syria, of Moab, of the children of Ammon, of the Philistines, of Amalek, and of the plunder of Hadadezer, son of Rehob, king of Zobah. **13** David earned a reputation when he returned from striking down eighteen thousand men of the Syrians in the Valley of Salt. **14** He put garrisons in Edom. Throughout all Edom, he put garrisons, and all the Edomites became servants to David. The LORD gave victory to David wherever he went. **15** David reigned over all Israel; and David executed justice and righteousness for all his people. **16** Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the army, Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder, **17** Zadok the son of Ahitub and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar were priests, Seraiah was scribe, **18** Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were chief ministers.

**9** David said, "Is there yet any who is left of Saul's house, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" **2** There was of Saul's house a servant whose name was Ziba, and they called him to David; and the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" He said, "I am your servant." **3** The king said, "Is there not yet any of Saul's house, that I may show the kindness of God to him?" Ziba said to the king, "Jonathan still has a son, who is lame in his feet." **4** The king said to him, "Where is he?" Ziba said to the king, "Behold, he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, in Lo Debar." **5** Then King David sent and brought him out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo Debar. **6** Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, fell on his face, and showed respect. David said, "Mephibosheth?" He answered, "Behold, your servant!" **7** David said to him, "Do not be afraid, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your father. You will eat bread at my table continually." **8** He bowed down, and said, "What is your servant, that you should look at such a dead

dog as I am?" **9** Then the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "All that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master's son. **10** Till the land for him—you, your sons, and your servants. Bring in the harvest, that your master's son may have bread to eat; but Mephibosheth your master's son will always eat bread at my table." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. **11** Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king commands his servant, so your servant will do." So Mephibosheth ate at the king's table like one of the king's sons. **12** Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Mica. All who lived in Ziba's house were servants to Mephibosheth. **13** So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he ate continually at the king's table. He was lame in both his feet.

**10** After this, the king of the children of Ammon died, and Hanun his son reigned in his place. **2** David said, "I will show kindness to Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father showed kindness to me." So David sent by his servants to comfort him concerning his father. David's servants came into the land of the children of Ammon. **3** But the princes of the children of Ammon said to Hanun their lord, "Do you think that David honors your father, in that he has sent comforters to you? Has not David sent his servants to you to search the city, to spy it out, and to overthrow it?" **4** So Hanun took David's servants, shaved off one half of their beards, and cut off their garments in the middle, even to their buttocks, and sent them away. **5** When they told David this, he sent to meet them, for the men were greatly ashamed. The king said, "Wait at Jericho until your beards have grown, and then return." **6** When the children of Ammon saw that they had become odious to David, the children of Ammon sent and hired the Syrians of Beth Rehob and the Syrians of Zobah, twenty thousand footmen, and the king of Maacah with one thousand men, and the men of Tob twelve thousand men. **7** When David heard of it, he sent Joab and all the army of the mighty men. **8** The children of Ammon came out, and put the battle in array at the entrance of the gate. The Syrians of Zobah and of Rehob and the men of Tob and Maacah were by themselves in the field. **9** Now when Joab saw that the battle was set against him before and behind, he chose of all the choice men of

Israel and put them in array against the Syrians. **10** The rest of the people he committed into the hand of Abishai his brother; and he put them in array against the children of Ammon. **11** He said, "If the Syrians are too strong for me, then you shall help me; but if the children of Ammon are too strong for you, then I will come and help you. **12** Be courageous, and let's be strong for our people and for the cities of our God; and may the LORD do what seems good to him." **13** So Joab and the people who were with him came near to the battle against the Syrians, and they fled before him. **14** When the children of Ammon saw that the Syrians had fled, they likewise fled before Abishai, and entered into the city. Then Joab returned from the children of Ammon and came to Jerusalem. **15** When the Syrians saw that they were defeated by Israel, they gathered themselves together. **16** Hadadezer sent and brought out the Syrians who were beyond the River; and they came to Helam, with Shobach the captain of the army of Hadadezer at their head. **17** David was told that; and he gathered all Israel together, passed over the Jordan, and came to Helam. The Syrians set themselves in array against David and fought with him. **18** The Syrians fled before Israel; and David killed seven hundred charioteers of the Syrians and forty thousand horsemen, and struck Shobach the captain of their army, so that he died there. **19** When all the kings who were servants to Hadadezer saw that they were defeated before Israel, they made peace with Israel and served them. So the Syrians were afraid to help the children of Ammon any more.

**11** At the return of the year, at the time when kings go out, David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed at Jerusalem. **2** At evening, David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. From the roof, he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to look at. **3** David sent and inquired after the woman. One said, "Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, Uriah the Hittite's wife?" **4** David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in to him, and he lay with her (for she was purified from her uncleanness); and she returned to her house. **5**

The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, and said, "I am with child." **6** David sent to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." Joab sent Uriah to David. **7** When Uriah had come to him, David asked him how Joab did, and how the people fared, and how the war prospered. **8** David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." Uriah departed out of the king's house, and a gift from the king was sent after him. **9** But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. **10** When they had told David, saying, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "Have not you come from a journey? Why did not you go down to your house?" **11** Uriah said to David, "The ark, Israel, and Judah, are staying in tents; and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open field. Shall I then go into my house to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing!" **12** David said to Uriah, "Stay here today also, and tomorrow I will let you depart." So Uriah stayed in Jerusalem that day and the next day. **13** When David had called him, he ate and drank before him; and he made him drunk. At evening, he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but did not go down to his house. **14** In the morning, David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. **15** He wrote in the letter, saying, "Send Uriah to the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck and die." **16** When Joab kept watch on the city, he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew that valiant men were. **17** The men of the city went out and fought with Joab. Some of the people fell, even of David's servants; and Uriah the Hittite died also. **18** Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war; **19** and he commanded the messenger, saying, "When you have finished telling all the things concerning the war to the king, **20** it shall be that, if the king's wrath arise, and he asks you, 'Why did you go so near to the city to fight? Did not you know that they would shoot from the wall? **21** Who struck Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Did not a woman cast an upper millstone on him from the wall, so that he died at Thebez? Why did you go so near the wall?' then you shall say, 'Your servant Uriah the Hittite is also dead.'" **22** So the messenger



went, and came and showed David all that Joab had sent him for. **23** The messenger said to David, "The men prevailed against us, and came out to us into the field; and we were on them even to the entrance of the gate. **24** The shooters shot at your servants from off the wall; and some of the king's servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is also dead." **25** Then David said to the messenger, "Tell Joab, 'Do not let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another. Make your battle stronger against the city, and overthrow it.' Encourage him." **26** When Uriah's wife heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. **27** When the mourning was past, David sent and took her home to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

**12** The LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, "There were two men in one city: the one rich, and the other poor. **2** The rich man had very many flocks and herds, **3** but the poor man had nothing, except one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and raised. It grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food, drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was like a daughter to him. **4** A traveler came to the rich man, and he did not want to take of his own flock and of his own herd to prepare for the wayfaring man who had come to him, but took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him." **5** David's anger burned hot against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die! **6** He must restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing and because he had no pity!" **7** Nathan said to David, "You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. **8** I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that would have been too little, I would have added to you many more such things. **9** Why have you despised the LORD's word, to do that which is evil in his sight? You have struck Uriah the Hittite with the sword, have taken his wife to be your wife, and have slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon. **10** Now therefore

the sword will never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken Uriah the Hittite's wife to be your wife.' **11** "This is what the LORD says: 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he will lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. **12** For you did this secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.'" **13** David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin. You will not die. **14** However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the LORD's enemies to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you will surely die." **15** Then Nathan departed to his house. The LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and he was very sick. **16** David therefore begged God for the child; and David fasted, and went in and lay all night on the ground. **17** The elders of his house arose beside him, to raise him up from the earth; but he would not, and he did not eat bread with them. **18** On the seventh day, the child died. David's servants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, "Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spoke to him and he did not listen to our voice. How will he then harm himself if we tell him that the child is dead?" **19** But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David perceived that the child was dead; and David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" They said, "He is dead." **20** Then David arose from the earth, and washed and anointed himself, and changed his clothing; and he came into the LORD's house, and worshiped. Then he came to his own house; and when he requested, they set bread before him and he ate. **21** Then his servants said to him, "What is this that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive, but when the child was dead, you rose up and ate bread." **22** He said, "While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who knows whether the LORD will not be gracious to me, that the child may live?' **23** But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me." **24** David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in to her, and lay with her. She bore a son, and he called his name

Solomon. The LORD loved him; 25 and he sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet, and he named him Jedidiah, for the LORD's sake. 26 Now Joab fought against Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and took the royal city. 27 Joab sent messengers to David, and said, "I have fought against Rabbah. Yes, I have taken the city of waters. 28 Now therefore gather the rest of the people together, and encamp against the city and take it; lest I take the city, and it be called by my name." 29 David gathered all the people together and went to Rabbah, and fought against it and took it. 30 He took the crown of their king from off his head; and its weight was a talent of gold, and in it were precious stones; and it was set on David's head. He brought a great quantity of plunder out of the city. 31 He brought out the people who were in it, and put them to work under saws, under iron picks, under axes of iron, and made them go to the brick kiln; and he did so to all the cities of the children of Ammon. Then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

**13** After this, Absalom the son of David had a beautiful sister, whose name was Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her. 2 Amnon was so troubled that he became sick because of his sister Tamar, for she was a virgin, and it seemed hard to Amnon to do anything to her. 3 But Amnon had a friend whose name was Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother; and Jonadab was a very subtle man. 4 He said to him, "Why, son of the king, are you so sad from day to day? Will not you tell me?" Amnon said to him, "I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister." 5 Jonadab said to him, "Lay down on your bed and pretend to be sick. When your father comes to see you, tell him, 'Please let my sister Tamar come and give me bread to eat, and prepare the food in my sight, that I may see it and eat it from her hand.'" 6 So Amnon lay down and faked being sick. When the king came to see him, Amnon said to the king, "Please let my sister Tamar come and make me a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat from her hand." 7 Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, "Go now to your brother Amnon's house, and prepare food for him." 8 So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house; and he was lying down. She took dough, kneaded it, made cakes in his sight, and baked the cakes. 9 She took the pan and poured them out before him, but he

refused to eat. Amnon said, "Have all men leave me." Then every man went out from him. 10 Amnon said to Tamar, "Bring the food into the room, that I may eat from your hand." Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought them into the room to Amnon her brother. 11 When she had brought them near to him to eat, he took hold of her and said to her, "Come, lie with me, my sister!" 12 She answered him, "No, my brother, do not force me! For no such thing ought to be done in Israel. Do not you do this folly! 13 As for me, where would I carry my shame? And as for you, you will be as one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, please speak to the king; for he will not withhold me from you." 14 However, he would not listen to her voice; but being stronger than she, he forced her and lay with her. 15 Then Amnon hated her with exceedingly great hatred; for the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. Amnon said to her, "Arise, be gone!" 16 She said to him, "Not so, because this great wrong in sending me away is worse than the other that you did to me!" But he would not listen to her. 17 Then he called his servant who ministered to him, and said, "Now put this woman out from me, and bolt the door after her." 18 She had a garment of various colors on her, for the king's daughters who were virgins dressed in such robes. Then his servant brought her out and bolted the door after her. 19 Tamar put ashes on her head, and tore her garment of various colors that was on her; and she laid her hand on her head and went her way, crying aloud as she went. 20 Absalom her brother said to her, "Has Amnon your brother been with you? But now hold your peace, my sister. He is your brother. Do not take this thing to heart." So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house. 21 But when King David heard of all these things, he was very angry. 22 Absalom spoke to Amnon neither good nor bad; for Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar. 23 After two full years, Absalom had sheep shearers in Baal Hazor, which is beside Ephraim; and Absalom invited all the king's sons. 24 Absalom came to the king and said, "See now, your servant has sheep shearers. Please let the king and his servants go with your servant." 25 The king said to Absalom, "No, my son, let's not all go, lest we be

burdensome to you." He pressed him; however he would not go, but blessed him. 26 Then Absalom said, "If not, please let my brother Amnon go with us." The king said to him, "Why should he go with you?" 27 But Absalom pressed him, and he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him. 28 Absalom commanded his servants, saying, "Mark now, when Amnon's heart is merry with wine; and when I tell you, 'Strike Amnon,' then kill him. Do not be afraid. Have not I commanded you? Be courageous, and be valiant!" 29 The servants of Absalom did to Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and every man got up on his mule and fled. 30 While they were on the way, the news came to David, saying, "Absalom has slain all the king's sons, and there is not one of them left!" 31 Then the king arose, and tore his garments, and lay on the earth; and all his servants stood by with their clothes torn. 32 Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother, answered, "Do not let my lord suppose that they have killed all the young men, the king's sons, for Amnon only is dead; for by the appointment of Absalom this has been determined from the day that he forced his sister Tamar. 33 Now therefore do not let my lord the king take the thing to his heart, to think that all the king's sons are dead; for only Amnon is dead." 34 But Absalom fled. The young man who kept the watch lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, many people were coming by way of the hillside behind him. 35 Jonadab said to the king, "Behold, the king's sons are coming! It is as your servant said." 36 As soon as he had finished speaking, behold, the king's sons came, and lifted up their voices and wept. The king also and all his servants wept bitterly. 37 But Absalom fled and went to Talmai the son of Ammihur, king of Geshur. David mourned for his son every day. 38 So Absalom fled and went to Geshur, and was there three years. 39 King David longed to go out to Absalom, for he was comforted concerning Amnon, since he was dead.

**14** Now Joab the son of Zeruiah perceived that the king's heart was toward Absalom. 2 Joab sent to Tekoa and brought a wise woman from there, and said to her, "Please act like a mourner, and put on mourning clothing, please, and do not anoint yourself with oil; but be as a woman who has mourned a long time for the dead. 3 Go in to the king and speak like this to him." So Joab put the words in her mouth. 4 When the woman of Tekoa spoke to the king, she fell on her face to the ground, showed respect, and said, "Help, O king!" 5 The king said to her, "What ails you?" She answered, "Truly I am a widow, and my husband is dead. 6 Your servant had two sons; and they both fought together in the field, and there was no one to part them, but the one struck the other and killed him. 7 Behold, the whole family has risen against your servant, and they say, 'Deliver him who struck his brother, that we may kill him for the life of his brother whom he killed, and so destroy the heir also.' Thus they would quench my coal which is left, and would leave to my husband neither name nor remainder on the surface of the earth." 8 The king said to the woman, "Go to your house, and I will give a command concerning you." 9 The woman of Tekoa said to the king, "My lord, O king, may the iniquity be on me, and on my father's house; and may the king and his throne be guiltless." 10 The king said, "Whoever says anything to you, bring him to me, and he will not bother you any more." 11 Then she said, "Please let the king remember the LORD your God, that the avenger of blood destroy not any more, lest they destroy my son." He said, "As the LORD lives, not one hair of your son shall fall to the earth." 12 Then the woman said, "Please let your servant speak a word to my lord the king." He said, "Say on." 13 The woman said, "Why then have you devised such a thing against the people of God? For in speaking this word the king is as one who is guilty, in that the king does not bring home again his banished one. 14 For we must die, and are like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither does God take away life, but devises means, that he who is banished not be an outcast from him. 15 Now therefore, seeing that I have come to speak this word to my lord the king, it is because the people have made me afraid. Your servant said, 'I will now speak to the king; it may be that the king will perform the request of his servant.' 16 For the king will hear, to deliver his servant out of the hand of the man who would destroy me and my son together out of the inheritance of God. 17 Then your servant said, 'Please let the word of my lord the king bring rest; for

as an angel of God, so is my lord the king to discern good and bad. May the LORD, your God, be with you.” 18 Then the king answered the woman, “Please do not hide anything from me that I ask you.” The woman said, “Let my lord the king now speak.” 19 The king said, “Is the hand of Joab with you in all this?” The woman answered, “As your soul lives, my lord the king, no one can turn to the right hand or to the left from anything that my lord the king has spoken; for your servant Joab urged me, and he put all these words in the mouth of your servant. 20 Your servant Joab has done this thing to change the face of the matter. My lord is wise, according to the wisdom of an angel of God, to know all things that are in the earth.” 21 The king said to Joab, “Behold now, I have granted this thing. Go therefore, and bring the young man Absalom back.” 22 Joab fell to the ground on his face, showed respect, and blessed the king. Joab said, “Today your servant knows that I have found favor in your sight, my lord, O king, in that the king has performed the request of his servant.” 23 So Joab arose and went to Geshur, and brought Absalom to Jerusalem. 24 The king said, “Let him return to his own house, but let him not see my face.” So Absalom returned to his own house, and did not see the king's face. 25 Now in all Israel there was no one to be so much praised as Absalom for his beauty. From the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was no defect in him. 26 When he cut the hair of his head (now it was at every year's end that he cut it; because it was heavy on him, therefore he cut it), he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels, after the king's weight. 27 Three sons were born to Absalom, and one daughter, whose name was Tamar. She was a woman with a beautiful face. 28 Absalom lived two full years in Jerusalem, and he did not see the king's face. 29 Then Absalom sent for Joab, to send him to the king, but he would not come to him. Then he sent again a second time, but he would not come. 30 Therefore he said to his servants, “Behold, Joab's field is near mine, and he has barley there. Go and set it on fire.” So Absalom's servants set the field on fire. 31 Then Joab arose and came to Absalom to his house, and said to him, “Why have your servants set my field on fire?” 32 Absalom answered Joab, “Behold, I sent to you, saying, ‘Come here, that I may

send you to the king, to say, ‘Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me to be there still. Now therefore, let me see the king's face; and if there is iniquity in me, let him kill me.’” 33 So Joab came to the king and told him; and when he had called for Absalom, he came to the king and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king; and the king kissed Absalom.

**15** After this, Absalom prepared a chariot and horses for himself, and fifty men to run before him. 2 Absalom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate. When any man had a suit which should come to the king for judgment, then Absalom called to him, and said, “What city are you from?” He said, “Your servant is of one of the tribes of Israel.” 3 Absalom said to him, “Behold, your matters are good and right; but there is no man deputized by the king to hear you.” 4 Absalom said moreover, “Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man who has any suit or cause might come to me, and I would do him justice!” 5 It was so, that when any man came near to bow down to him, he stretched out his hand, took hold of him, and kissed him. 6 Absalom did this sort of thing to all Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel. 7 At the end of forty years, Absalom said to the king, “Please let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed to the LORD, in Hebron. 8 For your servant vowed a vow while I stayed at Geshur in Syria, saying, ‘If the LORD shall indeed bring me again to Jerusalem, then I will serve the LORD.’” 9 The king said to him, “Go in peace.” So he arose and went to Hebron. 10 But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, “As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then you shall say, ‘Absalom is king in Hebron!’” 11 Two hundred men went with Absalom out of Jerusalem, who were invited, and went in their simplicity; and they did not know anything. 12 Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, from his city, even from Giloh, while he was offering the sacrifices. The conspiracy was strong, for the people increased continually with Absalom. 13 A messenger came to David, saying, “The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom.” 14 David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, “Arise! Let's flee, or else none of us will escape from

Absalom. Hurry to depart, lest he overtake us quickly and bring down evil on us, and strike the city with the edge of the sword." 15 The king's servants said to the king, "Behold, your servants are ready to do whatever my lord the king chooses." 16 The king went out, and all his household after him. The king left ten women, who were concubines, to keep the house. 17 The king went out, and all the people after him; and they stayed in Beth Merhak. 18 All his servants passed on beside him; and all the Cherethites, and all the Pelethites, and all the Gittites, six hundred men who came after him from Gath, passed on before the king. 19 Then the king said to Ittai the Gittite, "Why do you also go with us? Return, and stay with the king; for you are a foreigner and also an exile. Return to your own place. 20 Whereas you came but yesterday, should I today make you go up and down with us, since I go where I may? Return, and take back your brothers. Mercy and truth be with you." 21 Ittai answered the king and said, "As the LORD lives, and as my lord the king lives, surely in what place my lord the king is, whether for death or for life, your servant will be there also." 22 David said to Ittai, "Go and pass over." Ittai the Gittite passed over, and all his men, and all the little ones who were with him. 23 All the country wept with a loud voice, and all the people passed over. The king also himself passed over the brook Kidron, and all the people passed over toward the way of the wilderness. 24 Behold, Zadok also came, and all the Levites with him, bearing the ark of the covenant of God; and they set down God's ark; and Abiathar went up until all the people finished passing out of the city. 25 The king said to Zadok, "Carry God's ark back into the city. If I find favor in the LORD's eyes, he will bring me again, and show me both it and his habitation; 26 but if he says, 'I have no delight in you,' behold, here I am. Let him do to me as seems good to him." 27 The king said also to Zadok the priest, "Are not you a seer? Return into the city in peace, and your two sons with you, Ahimaaz your son and Jonathan the son of Abiathar. 28 Behold, I will stay at the fords of the wilderness until word comes from you to inform me." 29 Zadok therefore and Abiathar carried God's ark to Jerusalem again; and they stayed there. 30 David went up by the ascent of the Mount of Olives, and wept as he went up; and he had his head

covered and went barefoot. All the people who were with him each covered his head, and they went up, weeping as they went up. 31 Someone told David, saying, "Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom." David said, "LORD, please turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness." 32 When David had come to the top, where God was worshiped, behold, Hushai the Archite came to meet him with his tunic torn and earth on his head. 33 David said to him, "If you pass on with me, then you will be a burden to me; 34 but if you return to the city, and tell Absalom, 'I will be your servant, O king. As I have been your father's servant in time past, so I will now be your servant; then will you defeat for me the counsel of Ahithophel.' 35 Do not you have Zadok and Abiathar the priests there with you? Therefore whatever you hear out of the king's house, tell it to Zadok and Abiathar the priests. 36 Behold, they have there with them their two sons, Ahimaaz, Zadok's son, and Jonathan, Abiathar's son. Send to me everything that you shall hear by them." 37 So Hushai, David's friend, came into the city; and Absalom came into Jerusalem.

**16** When David was a little past the top, behold, Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth met him with a couple of donkeys saddled, and on them two hundred loaves of bread, and one hundred clusters of raisins, and one hundred summer fruits, and a container of wine. 2 The king said to Ziba, "What do you mean by these?" Ziba said, "The donkeys are for the king's household to ride on; and the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat; and the wine, that those who are faint in the wilderness may drink." 3 The king said, "Where is your master's son?" Ziba said to the king, "Behold, he is staying in Jerusalem; for he said, 'Today the house of Israel will restore me the kingdom of my father.'" 4 Then the king said to Ziba, "Behold, all that belongs to Mephibosheth is yours." Ziba said, "I bow down. Let me find favor in your sight, my lord, O king." 5 When King David came to Bahurim, behold, a man of the family of Saul's house came out, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera. He came out and cursed as he came. 6 He cast stones at David and at all the servants of King David, and all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left. 7 Shimei said when he cursed, "Be gone, be gone, you man of blood,

and wicked fellow! **8** The LORD has returned on you all the blood of Saul's house, in whose place you have reigned! The LORD has delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom your son! Behold, you are caught by your own mischief, because you are a man of blood!" **9** Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Please let me go over and take off his head." **10** The king said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? Because he curses, and because the LORD has said to him, 'Curse David,' who then shall say, 'Why have you done so?'" **11** David said to Abishai and to all his servants, "Behold, my son, who came out of my bowels, seeks my life. How much more this Benjamite, now? Leave him alone, and let him curse; for the LORD has invited him. **12** It may be that the LORD will look on the wrong done to me, and that the LORD will repay me good for the cursing of me today." **13** So David and his men went by the way; and Shimei went along on the hillside opposite him and cursed as he went, threw stones at him, and threw dust. **14** The king and all the people who were with him arrived weary; and he refreshed himself there. **15** Absalom and all the people, the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem, and Ahithophel with him. **16** When Hushai the Archite, David's friend, had come to Absalom, Hushai said to Absalom, "Long live the king! Long live the king!" **17** Absalom said to Hushai, "Is this your kindness to your friend? Why did not you go with your friend?" **18** Hushai said to Absalom, "No; but whomever the LORD and this people and all the men of Israel have chosen, I will be his, and I will stay with him. **19** Again, whom should I serve? Should not I serve in the presence of his son? As I have served in your father's presence, so I will be in your presence." **20** Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, "Give your counsel what we shall do." **21** Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Go in to your father's concubines that he has left to keep the house. Then all Israel will hear that you are abhorred by your father. Then the hands of all who are with you will be strong." **22** So they spread a tent for Absalom on the top of the house, and Absalom went in to his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel. **23** The counsel of Ahithophel, which he gave in those days, was as if a man inquired at the

inner sanctuary of God. All the counsel of Ahithophel was like this both with David and with Absalom.

**17** Moreover Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Let me now choose twelve thousand men, and I will arise and pursue after David tonight. **2** I will come on him while he is weary and exhausted, and will make him afraid. All the people who are with him will flee. I will strike the king only, **3** and I will bring back all the people to you. The man whom you seek is as if all returned. All the people shall be in peace." **4** The saying pleased Absalom well, and all the elders of Israel. **5** Then Absalom said, "Now call Hushai the Archite also, and let's hear likewise what he says." **6** When Hushai had come to Absalom, Absalom spoke to him, saying, "Ahithophel has spoken like this. Shall we do what he says? If not, speak up." **7** Hushai said to Absalom, "The counsel that Ahithophel has given this time is not good." **8** Hushai said moreover, "You know your father and his men, that they are mighty men, and they are fierce in their minds, like a bear robbed of her cubs in the field. Your father is a man of war, and will not lodge with the people. **9** Behold, he is now hidden in some pit, or in some other place. It will happen, when some of them have fallen at the first, that whoever hears it will say, 'There is a slaughter among the people who follow Absalom!' **10** Even he who is valiant, whose heart is as the heart of a lion, will utterly melt; for all Israel knows that your father is a mighty man, and those who are with him are valiant men. **11** But I counsel that all Israel be gathered together to you, from Dan even to Beersheba, as the sand that is by the sea for multitude; and that you go to battle in your own person. **12** So we will come on him in some place where he will be found, and we will light on him as the dew falls on the ground, then we will not leave so much as one of him and of all the men who are with him. **13** Moreover, if he has gone into a city, then all Israel will bring ropes to that city, and we will draw it into the river, until there is not one small stone found there." **14** Absalom and all the men of Israel said, "The counsel of Hushai the Archite is better than the counsel of Ahithophel." For the LORD had ordained to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel, to the intent that the LORD might bring evil on Absalom. **15** Then Hushai said to Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, "Ahithophel counseled

Absalom and the elders of Israel that way; and I have counseled this way. **16** Now therefore send quickly, and tell David, saying, 'Do not lodge tonight at the fords of the wilderness, but by all means pass over, lest the king be swallowed up, and all the people who are with him.'" **17** Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz were staying by En Rogel; and a female servant used to go and report to them, and they went and told King David; for they could not risk being seen coming into the city. **18** But a boy saw them, and told Absalom. Then they both went away quickly and came to the house of a man in Bahurim, who had a well in his court; and they went down there. **19** The woman took and spread the covering over the well's mouth, and spread out crushed grain on it; and nothing was known. **20** Absalom's servants came to the woman to the house; and they said, "Where are Ahimaaz and Jonathan?" The woman said to them, "They have gone over the brook of water." When they had sought and could not find them, they returned to Jerusalem. **21** After they had departed, they came up out of the well and went and told King David; and they said to David, "Arise and pass quickly over the water; for thus has Ahithophel counseled against you." **22** Then David arose, and all the people who were with him, and they passed over the Jordan. By the morning light there lacked not one of them who had not gone over the Jordan. **23** When Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his donkey, arose, and went home to his city, set his house in order, and hanged himself; and he died, and was buried in the tomb of his father. **24** Then David came to Mahanaim. Absalom passed over the Jordan, he and all the men of Israel with him. **25** Absalom set Amasa over the army instead of Joab. Now Amasa was the son of a man whose name was Ithra the Israelite, who went in to Abigail the daughter of Nahash, sister to Zeruihah, Joab's mother. **26** Israel and Absalom encamped in the land of Gilead. **27** When David had come to Mahanaim, Shobi the son of Nahash of Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and Machir the son of Ammiel of Lodebar, and Barzillai the Gileadite of Rogelim, **28** brought beds, basins, earthen vessels, wheat, barley, meal, parched grain, beans, lentils, roasted grain, **29** honey, butter, sheep, and cheese of the herd, for David and for the people who were with him to eat;

for they said, "The people are hungry, weary, and thirsty in the wilderness."

**18** David counted the people who were with him, and set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds over them. **2** David sent the people out, a third part under the hand of Joab, and a third part under the hand of Abishai the son of Zeruihah, Joab's brother, and a third part under the hand of Ittai the Gittite. The king said to the people, "I will also surely go out with you myself." **3** But the people said, "You shall not go out, for if we flee away, they will not care for us, neither if half of us die, will they care for us. But you are worth ten thousand of us. Therefore now it is better that you are ready to help us out of the city." **4** The king said to them, "I will do what seems best to you." The king stood beside the gate, and all the people went out by hundreds and by thousands. **5** The king commanded Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom." All the people heard when the king commanded all the captains concerning Absalom. **6** So the people went out into the field against Israel; and the battle was in the forest of Ephraim. **7** The people of Israel were struck there before David's servants, and there was a great slaughter there that day of twenty thousand men. **8** For the battle was there spread over the surface of all the country, and the forest devoured more people that day than the sword devoured. **9** Absalom happened to meet David's servants. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak; and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was hanging between the sky and earth; and the mule that was under him went on. **10** A certain man saw it, and told Joab, and said, "Behold, I saw Absalom hanging in an oak." **11** Joab said to the man who told him, "Behold, you saw it, and why did not you strike him there to the ground? I would have given you ten pieces of silver and a sash." **12** The man said to Joab, "Though I should receive a thousand pieces of silver in my hand, I still would not stretch out my hand against the king's son; for in our hearing the king commanded you and Abishai and Ittai, saying, 'Beware that no one touch the young man Absalom.'" **13** Otherwise, if I had dealt falsely against his life (and there is no matter hidden from the king), then you

yourself would have set yourself against me.” 14 Then Joab said, “I am not going to wait like this with you.” He took three darts in his hand and thrust them through Absalom’s heart while he was still alive in the middle of the oak. 15 Ten young men who bore Joab’s armor surrounded and struck Absalom, and killed him. 16 Joab blew the trumpet, and the people returned from pursuing after Israel; for Joab held the people back. 17 They took Absalom and cast him into a great pit in the forest, and raised over him a very great heap of stones. Then all Israel fled, each to his own tent. 18 Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and reared up for himself the pillar which is in the king’s valley, for he said, “I have no son to keep my name in memory.” He called the pillar after his own name. It is called Absalom’s monument, to this day. 19 Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said, “Let me now run and carry the king news, how the LORD has avenged him of his enemies.” 20 Joab said to him, “You must not be the bearer of news today, but you must carry news another day. But today you must carry no news, because the king’s son is dead.” 21 Then Joab said to the Cushite, “Go, tell the king what you have seen!” The Cushite bowed himself to Joab, and ran. 22 Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said yet again to Joab, “But come what may, please let me also run after the Cushite.” Joab said, “Why do you want to run, my son, since you will have no reward for the news?” 23 “But come what may,” he said, “I will run.” He said to him, “Run!” Then Ahimaaz ran by the way of the Plain, and outran the Cushite. 24 Now David was sitting between the two gates; and the watchman went up to the roof of the gate to the wall, and lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, a man running alone. 25 The watchman shouted and told the king. The king said, “If he is alone, there is news in his mouth.” He came closer and closer. 26 The watchman saw another man running; and the watchman called to the gatekeeper and said, “Behold, a man running alone!” The king said, “He also brings news.” 27 The watchman said, “I think the running of the first one is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok.” The king said, “He is a good man, and comes with good news.” 28 Ahimaaz called, and said to the king, “All is well.” He bowed himself before the king with his face to the earth, and said, “Blessed

is the LORD your God, who has delivered up the men who lifted up their hand against my lord the king!” 29 The king said, “Is it well with the young man Absalom?” Ahimaaz answered, “When Joab sent the king’s servant, even me your servant, I saw a great tumult, but I do not know what it was.” 30 The king said, “Come and stand here.” He came and stood still. 31 Behold, the Cushite came. The Cushite said, “Good news for my lord the king, for the LORD has avenged you today of all those who rose up against you.” 32 The king said to the Cushite, “Is it well with the young man Absalom?” The Cushite answered, “May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise up against you to do you harm, be as that young man is.” 33 The king was much moved, and went up to the room over the gate and wept. As he went, he said, “My son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! I wish I had died instead of you, Absalom, my son, my son!”

**19** Joab was told, “Behold, the king weeps and mourns for Absalom.” 2 The victory that day was turned into mourning among all the people, for the people heard it said that day, “The king grieves for his son.” 3 The people sneaked into the city that day, as people who are ashamed steal away when they flee in battle. 4 The king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice, “My son Absalom, Absalom, my son, my son!” 5 Joab came into the house to the king, and said, “Today you have shamed the faces of all your servants who today have saved your life, and the lives of your sons and of your daughters, and the lives of your wives, and the lives of your concubines; 6 in that you love those who hate you and hate those who love you. For you have declared today that princes and servants are nothing to you. For today I perceive that if Absalom had lived and we had all died today, then it would have pleased you well. 7 Now therefore arise, go out and speak to comfort your servants; for I swear by the LORD, if you do not go out, not a man will stay with you this night. That would be worse to you than all the evil that has happened to you from your youth until now.” 8 Then the king arose and sat in the gate. The people were all told, “Behold, the king is sitting in the gate.” All the people came before the king. Now Israel had fled every man to his tent. 9 All the people were at



strife throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "The king delivered us out of the hand of our enemies, and he saved us out of the hand of the Philistines; and now he has fled out of the land from Absalom. 10 Absalom, whom we anointed over us, is dead in battle. Now therefore why do not you speak a word of bringing the king back?" 11 King David sent to Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, saying, "Speak to the elders of Judah, saying, 'Why are you the last to bring the king back to his house, since the speech of all Israel has come to the king, to return him to his house? 12 You are my brothers. You are my bone and my flesh. Why then are you the last to bring back the king?' 13 Say to Amasa, 'Are not you my bone and my flesh? God do so to me, and more also, if you are not captain of the army before me continually instead of Joab.'" 14 He bowed the heart of all the men of Judah, even as one man, so that they sent to the king, saying, "Return, you and all your servants." 15 So the king returned, and came to the Jordan. Judah came to Gilgal, to go to meet the king, to bring the king over the Jordan. 16 Shimei the son of Gera, the Benjamite, who was of Bahurim, hurried and came down with the men of Judah to meet King David. 17 There were a thousand men of Benjamin with him, and Ziba the servant of Saul's house, and his fifteen sons and his twenty servants with him; and they went through the Jordan in the presence of the king. 18 A ferry boat went to bring over the king's household, and to do what he thought good. Shimei the son of Gera fell down before the king when he had come over the Jordan. 19 He said to the king, "Do not let my lord impute iniquity to me, or remember that which your servant did perversely the day that my lord the king went out of Jerusalem, that the king should take it to his heart. 20 For your servant knows that I have sinned. Therefore behold, I have come today as the first of all the house of Joseph to go down to meet my lord the king." 21 But Abishai the son of Zeruiah answered, "Should not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the LORD's anointed?" 22 David said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah, that you should be adversaries to me today? Shall any man be put to death today in Israel? For do not I know that I am king over Israel today?" 23 The king said to Shimei, "You will not die." The king swore to him. 24 Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king; and he had neither groomed his feet, nor trimmed his beard, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he came home in peace. 25 When he had come to Jerusalem to meet the king, the king said to him, "Why did not you go with me, Mephibosheth?" 26 He answered, "My lord, O king, my servant deceived me. For your servant said, 'I will saddle a donkey for myself, that I may ride on it and go with the king;' because your servant is lame. 27 He has slandered your servant to my lord the king, but my lord the king is as an angel of God. Therefore do what is good in your eyes. 28 For all my father's house were but dead men before my lord the king; yet you set your servant among those who ate at your own table. What right therefore have I yet that I should appeal any more to the king?" 29 The king said to him, "Why do you speak any more of your matters? I say, you and Ziba divide the land." 30 Mephibosheth said to the king, "Yes, let him take all, because my lord the king has come in peace to his own house." 31 Barzillai the Gileadite came down from Rogelim; and he went over the Jordan with the king to conduct him over the Jordan. 32 Now Barzillai was a very aged man, even eighty years old. He had provided the king with sustenance while he stayed at Mahanaim, for he was a very great man. 33 The king said to Barzillai, "Come over with me, and I will sustain you with me in Jerusalem." 34 Barzillai said to the king, "How many are the days of the years of my life, that I should go up with the king to Jerusalem? 35 I am eighty years old, today. Can I discern between good and bad? Can your servant taste what I eat or what I drink? Can I hear the voice of singing men and singing women any more? Why then should your servant be a burden to my lord the king? 36 Your servant will just go over the Jordan with the king. Why should the king repay me with such a reward? 37 Please let your servant turn back again, that I may die in my own city, by the grave of my father and my mother. But behold, your servant Chimham; let him go over with my lord the king; and do to him what shall seem good to you." 38 The king answered, "Chimham shall go over with me, and I will do to him that which shall seem good to you. Whatever you request of me, that I will do for you." 39 All the people went over

the Jordan, and the king went over. Then the king kissed Barzillai and blessed him; and he returned to his own place. **40** So the king went over to Gilgal, and Chimham went over with him. All the people of Judah brought the king over, and also half the people of Israel. **41** Behold, all the men of Israel came to the king, and said to the king, "Why have our brothers the men of Judah stolen you away, and brought the king and his household, over the Jordan, and all David's men with him?" **42** All the men of Judah answered the men of Israel, "Because the king is a close relative to us. Why then are you angry about this matter? Have we eaten at all at the king's cost? Or has he given us any gift?" **43** The men of Israel answered the men of Judah, and said, "We have ten parts in the king, and we have also more claim to David than you. Why then did you despise us, that our advice should not be first had in bringing back our king?" The words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel.

**20** There happened to be there a wicked fellow, whose name was Sheba the son of Bichri, a Benjamite; and he blew the trumpet, and said, "We have no portion in David, neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse. Every man to his tents, Israel!" **2** So all the men of Israel went up from following David, and followed Sheba the son of Bichri; but the men of Judah joined with their king, from the Jordan even to Jerusalem. **3** David came to his house at Jerusalem; and the king took the ten women his concubines, whom he had left to keep the house, and put them in custody and provided them with sustenance, but did not go in to them. So they were shut up to the day of their death, living in widowhood. **4** Then the king said to Amasa, "Call me the men of Judah together within three days, and be here present." **5** So Amasa went to call the men of Judah together, but he stayed longer than the set time which had been appointed to him. **6** David said to Abishai, "Now Sheba the son of Bichri will do us more harm than Absalom did. Take your lord's servants and pursue after him, lest he get himself fortified cities, and escape out of our sight." **7** Joab's men went out after him with the Cherethites, the Pelethites, and all the mighty men; and they went out of Jerusalem to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri. **8** When they were at the great stone

which is in Gibeon, Amasa came to meet them. Joab was clothed in his apparel of war that he had put on, and on it was a sash with a sword fastened on his waist in its sheath; and as he went along it fell out. **9** Joab said to Amasa, "Is it well with you, my brother?" Joab took Amasa by the beard with his right hand to kiss him. **10** But Amasa took no heed to the sword that was in Joab's hand. So he struck him with it in the body and shed out his bowels to the ground, and did not strike him again; and he died. Joab and Abishai his brother pursued Sheba the son of Bichri. **11** One of Joab's young men stood by him, and said, "He who favors Joab, and he who is for David, let him follow Joab!" **12** Amasa lay wallowing in his blood in the middle of the highway. When the man saw that all the people stood still, he carried Amasa out of the highway into the field, and cast a garment over him when he saw that everyone who came by him stood still. **13** When he was removed out of the highway, all the people went on after Joab to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri. **14** He went through all the tribes of Israel to Abel, to Beth Maacah, and all the Berites. They were gathered together, and went also after him. **15** They came and besieged him in Abel of Beth Maacah, and they cast up a mound against the city, and it stood against the rampart; and all the people who were with Joab battered the wall to throw it down. **16** Then a wise woman cried out of the city, "Hear, hear! Please say to Joab, 'Come near here, that I may speak with you.'" **17** He came near to her; and the woman said, "Are you Joab?" He answered, "I am." Then she said to him, "Hear the words of your servant." He answered, "I am listening." **18** Then she spoke, saying, "They used to say in old times, 'They shall surely ask counsel at Abel,' and so they settled a matter. **19** I am among those who are peaceable and faithful in Israel. You seek to destroy a city and a mother in Israel. Why will you swallow up the LORD's inheritance?" **20** Joab answered, "Far be it, far be it from me, that I should swallow up or destroy. **21** The matter is not so. But a man of the hill country of Ephraim, Sheba the son of Bichri by name, has lifted up his hand against the king, even against David. Just deliver him, and I will depart from the city." The woman said to Joab, "Behold, his head will be thrown to you over the wall." **22** Then the woman went to all

the people in her wisdom. They cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri, and threw it out to Joab. He blew the trumpet, and they were dispersed from the city, every man to his tent. Then Joab returned to Jerusalem to the king. **23** Now Joab was over all the army of Israel, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and over the Pelethites, **24** Adoram was over the men subject to forced labor, Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was the recorder, **25** Sheva was scribe, Zadok and Abiathar were priests, **26** and Ira the Jairite was chief minister to David.

**21** There was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year; and David sought the face of the LORD. The LORD said, "It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he put the Gibeonites to death." **2** The king called the Gibeonites and said to them (now the Gibeonites were not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites, and the children of Israel had sworn to them; and Saul sought to kill them in his zeal for the children of Israel and Judah); **3** and David said to the Gibeonites, "What should I do for you? And with what should I make atonement, that you may bless the LORD's inheritance?" **4** The Gibeonites said to him, "It is no matter of silver or gold between us and Saul or his house; neither is it for us to put any man to death in Israel." He said, "I will do for you whatever you say." **5** They said to the king, "The man who consumed us and who plotted against us, that we should be destroyed from remaining in any of the borders of Israel, **6** let seven men of his sons be delivered to us, and we will hang them up to the LORD in Gibeah of Saul, the chosen of the LORD." The king said, "I will give them." **7** But the king spared Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, because of the LORD's oath that was between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul. **8** But the king took the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bore to Saul, Armoni and Mephibosheth; and the five sons of Merab the daughter of Saul, whom she bore to Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite. **9** He delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites; and they hanged them on the mountain before the LORD, and all seven of them fell together. They were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first days, at the beginning of barley harvest. **10** Rizpah the daughter

of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it for herself on the rock, from the beginning of harvest until water poured on them from the sky. She allowed neither the birds of the sky to rest on them by day, nor the animals of the field by night. **11** David was told what Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, the concubine of Saul, had done. **12** So David went and took the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son from the men of Jabesh Gilead, who had stolen them from the street of Beth Shan, where the Philistines had hanged them in the day that the Philistines killed Saul in Gilboa; **13** and he brought up from there the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son. They also gathered the bones of those who were hanged. **14** They buried the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son in the country of Benjamin in Zela, in the tomb of Kish his father; and they performed all that the king commanded. After that, God answered prayer for the land. **15** The Philistines had war again with Israel; and David went down, and his servants with him, and fought against the Philistines. David grew faint; **16** and Ishbibenob, who was of the sons of the giant, the weight of whose spear was three hundred shekels of bronze in weight, he being armed with a new sword, thought he would kill David. **17** But Abishai the son of Zeruiah helped him, and struck the Philistine and killed him. Then the men of David swore to him, saying, "Do not go out with us to battle any more, so that you do not quench the lamp of Israel." **18** After this, there was again war with the Philistines at Gob. Then Sibbecai the Hushathite killed Saph, who was of the sons of the giant. **19** There was again war with the Philistines at Gob, and Elhanan the son of Jaare-Oregim the Bethlehemite killed Goliath the Gittite's brother, the staff of whose spear was like a weaver's beam. **20** There was again war at Gath, where there was a man of great stature, who had six fingers on every hand and six toes on every foot, twenty-four in number, and he also was born to the giant. **21** When he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimei, David's brother, killed him. **22** These four were born to the giant in Gath; and they fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants.

**22** David spoke to the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the

hand of Saul, 2 and he said: "The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, even mine; 3 God is my rock in whom I take refuge; my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge. My savior, you save me from violence. 4 I call on the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies. 5 For the waves of death surrounded me. The floods of ungodliness made me afraid. 6 The cords of Sheol (Sheol h7585) were around me. The snares of death caught me. 7 In my distress, I called on the LORD. Yes, I called to my God. He heard my voice out of his temple. My cry came into his ears. 8 Then the earth shook and trembled. The foundations of heaven quaked and were shaken, because he was angry. 9 Smoke went up out of his nostrils. Consuming fire came out of his mouth. Coals were kindled by it. 10 He bowed the heavens also, and came down. Thick darkness was under his feet. 11 He rode on a cherub, and flew. Yes, he was seen on the wings of the wind. 12 He made darkness a shelter around himself, gathering of waters, and thick clouds of the skies. 13 At the brightness before him, coals of fire were kindled. 14 The LORD thundered from heaven. The Most High uttered his voice. 15 He sent out arrows and scattered them, lightning and confused them. 16 Then the channels of the sea appeared. The foundations of the world were laid bare by the LORD's rebuke, at the blast of the breath of his nostrils. 17 He sent from on high and he took me. He drew me out of many waters. 18 He delivered me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me. 19 They came on me in the day of my calamity, but the LORD was my support. 20 He also brought me out into a large place. He delivered me, because he delighted in me. 21 The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness. He rewarded me according to the cleanness of my hands. 22 For I have kept the LORD's ways, and have not wickedly departed from my God. 23 For all his ordinances were before me. As for his statutes, I did not depart from them. 24 I was also perfect toward him. I kept myself from my iniquity. 25 Therefore the LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness, According to my cleanness in his eyesight. 26 With the merciful you will show yourself merciful. With the perfect man you will

show yourself perfect. 27 With the pure you will show yourself pure. With the crooked you will show yourself shrewd. 28 You will save the afflicted people, but your eyes are on the arrogant, that you may bring them down. 29 For you are my lamp, LORD. The LORD will light up my darkness. 30 For by you, I run against a troop. By my God, I leap over a wall. 31 As for God, his way is perfect. The LORD's word is tested. He is a shield to all those who take refuge in him. 32 For who is God, besides the LORD? Who is a rock, besides our God? 33 God is my strong fortress. He makes my way perfect. 34 He makes his feet like hinds' feet, and sets me on my high places. 35 He teaches my hands to war, so that my arms bend a bow of bronze. 36 You have also given me the shield of your salvation. Your gentleness has made me great. 37 You have enlarged my steps under me. My feet have not slipped. 38 I have pursued my enemies and destroyed them. I did not turn again until they were consumed. 39 I have consumed them, and struck them through, so that they cannot arise. Yes, they have fallen under my feet. 40 For you have armed me with strength for the battle. You have subdued under me those who rose up against me. 41 You have also made my enemies turn their backs to me, that I might cut off those who hate me. 42 They looked, but there was no one to save; even to the LORD, but he did not answer them. 43 Then I beat them as small as the dust of the earth. I crushed them as the mire of the streets, and spread them abroad. 44 You also have delivered me from the strivings of my people. You have kept me to be the head of the nations. A people whom I have not known will serve me. 45 The foreigners will submit themselves to me. As soon as they hear of me, they will obey me. 46 The foreigners will fade away, and will come trembling out of their close places. 47 The LORD lives! Blessed be my rock! Exalted be God, the rock of my salvation, 48 even the God who executes vengeance for me, who brings down peoples under me, 49 who brings me away from my enemies. Yes, you lift me up above those who rise up against me. You deliver me from the violent man. 50 Therefore I will give thanks to you, LORD, among the nations, and will sing praises to your name. 51 He gives great deliverance to his king, and shows loving kindness to

his anointed, to David and to his offspring, forever more.”

**23** Now these are the last words of David. David the son of Jesse says, the man who was raised on high says, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the sweet psalmist of Israel: **2** “The LORD’s Spirit spoke by me. His word was on my tongue. **3** The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spoke to me, ‘One who rules over men righteously, who rules in the fear of God, **4** shall be as the light of the morning when the sun rises, a morning without clouds, when the tender grass springs out of the earth, through clear shining after rain.’ **5** Is not my house so with God? Yet he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure, for it is all my salvation and all my desire. Will not he make it grow? **6** But all the ungodly will be as thorns to be thrust away, because they cannot be taken with the hand. **7** The man who touches them must be armed with iron and the staff of a spear. They will be utterly burned with fire in their place.” **8** These are the names of the mighty men whom David had: Josheb Basshebeth a Tahchemonite, chief of the captains; he was called Adino the Eznite, who killed eight hundred at one time. **9** After him was Eleazar the son of Dodai the son of an Ahohite, one of the three mighty men with David when they defied the Philistines who were there gathered together to battle, and the men of Israel had gone away. **10** He arose and struck the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand froze to the sword; and the LORD worked a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to take plunder. **11** After him was Shammah the son of Agee a Hararite. The Philistines had gathered together into a troop where there was a plot of ground full of lentils; and the people fled from the Philistines. **12** But he stood in the middle of the plot and defended it, and killed the Philistines; and the LORD worked a great victory. **13** Three of the thirty chief men went down, and came to David in the harvest time to the cave of Adullam; and the troop of the Philistines was encamped in the valley of Rephaim. **14** David was then in the stronghold; and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem. **15** David said longingly, “Oh that someone would give me water to drink from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the

gate!” **16** The three mighty men broke through the army of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate and took it and brought it to David; but he would not drink of it, but poured it out to the LORD. **17** He said, “Be it far from me, LORD, that I should do this! Is not this the blood of the men who risked their lives to go?” Therefore he would not drink it. The three mighty men did these things. **18** Abishai, the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruiah, was chief of the three. He lifted up his spear against three hundred and killed them, and had a name among the three. **19** Was not he most honorable of the three? Therefore he was made their captain. However he was not included as one of the three. **20** Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man of Kabzeel, who had done mighty deeds, killed the two sons of Ariel of Moab. He also went down and killed a lion in the middle of a pit in a time of snow. **21** He killed a huge Egyptian, and the Egyptian had a spear in his hand; but he went down to him with a staff and plucked the spear out of the Egyptian’s hand, and killed him with his own spear. **22** Benaiah the son of Jehoiada did these things, and had a name among the three mighty men. **23** He was more honorable than the thirty, but he did not attain to the three. David set him over his guard. **24** Asahel the brother of Joab was one of the thirty: Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem, **25** Shammah the Harodite, Elikah the Harodite, **26** Helez the Paltite, Ira the son of Ikesh the Tekoite, **27** Abiezer the Anathothite, Mebunnai the Hushathite, **28** Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai the Netophathite, **29** Heleb the son of Baanah the Netophathite, Ittai the son of Ribai of Gibeath of the children of Benjamin, **30** Benaiah a Pirathonite, Hiddai of the brooks of Gaash. **31** Abialbon the Arbathite, Azmaveth the Barhumite, **32** Eliahba the Shaalbonite, the sons of Jashen, Jonathan, **33** Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam the son of Sharar the Ararite, **34** Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai, the son of the Maacathite, Eliam the son of Athithophel the Gilonite, **35** Hezro the Carmelite, Paarai the Arbite, **36** Igal the son of Nathan of Zobah, Bani the Gadite, **37** Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite, armor bearers to Joab the son of Zeruiah, **38** Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite, **39** and Uriah the Hittite: thirty-seven in all.

**24** Again the LORD's anger burned against Israel, and he moved David against them, saying, "Go, count Israel and Judah." **2** The king said to Joab the captain of the army, who was with him, "Now go back and forth through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan even to Beersheba, and count the people, that I may know the sum of the people." **3** Joab said to the king, "Now may the LORD your God add to the people, however many they may be, one hundred times; and may the eyes of my lord the king see it. But why does my lord the king delight in this thing?" **4** Notwithstanding, the king's word prevailed against Joab and against the captains of the army. Joab and the captains of the army went out from the presence of the king to count the people of Israel. **5** They passed over the Jordan and encamped in Aror, on the right side of the city that is in the middle of the valley of Gad, and to Jazer; **6** then they came to Gilead and to the land of Tahtim Hodshi; and they came to Dan Jaan and around to Sidon, **7** and came to the stronghold of Tyre, and to all the cities of the Hivites and of the Canaanites; and they went out to the south of Judah, at Beersheba. **8** So when they had gone back and forth through all the land, they came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days. **9** Joab gave up the sum of the counting of the people to the king; and there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant men who drew the sword, and the men of Judah were five hundred thousand men. **10** David's heart struck him after he had counted the people. David said to the LORD, "I have sinned greatly in that which I have done. But now, the LORD, put away, I beg you, the iniquity of your servant; for I have done very foolishly." **11** When David rose up in the morning, the LORD's word came to the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, **12** "Go and speak to David, 'The LORD says, "I offer you three things. Choose one of them, that I may do it to you.'"" **13** So Gad came to David, and told him, saying, "Shall seven years of famine come to you in your land? Or will you flee three months before your foes while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days' pestilence in your land? Now answer, and consider what answer I shall return to him who sent me." **14** David said to Gad, "I am in distress. Let us fall now into the LORD's hand, for his mercies are great. Let me not fall into man's hand." **15** So the LORD sent a pestilence on Israel from the morning even to the appointed time; and seventy thousand men died of the people from Dan even to Beersheba. **16** When the angel stretched out his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD relented of the disaster, and said to the angel who destroyed the people, "It is enough. Now withdraw your hand." The LORD's angel was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. **17** David spoke to the LORD when he saw the angel who struck the people, and said, "Behold, I have sinned, and I have done perversely; but these sheep, what have they done? Please let your hand be against me, and against my father's house." **18** Gad came that day to David and said to him, "Go up, build an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite." **19** David went up according to the saying of Gad, as the LORD commanded. **20** Araunah looked out, and saw the king and his servants coming on toward him. Then Araunah went out and bowed himself before the king with his face to the ground. **21** Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?" David said, "To buy your threshing floor, to build an altar to the LORD, that the plague may be stopped from afflicting the people." **22** Araunah said to David, "Let my lord the king take and offer up what seems good to him. Behold, the cattle for the burnt offering, and the threshing sledges and the yokes of the oxen for the wood. **23** All this, O king, does Araunah give to the king." Araunah said to the king, "May the LORD your God accept you." **24** The king said to Araunah, "No, but I will most certainly buy it from you for a price. I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God which cost me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. **25** David built an altar to the LORD there, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD was entreated for the land, and the plague was removed from Israel.

# Ezra

**1** Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the LORD's word by Jeremiah's mouth might be accomplished, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, **2** "Cyrus king of Persia says, 'The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he has commanded me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. **3** Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD, the God of Israel (he is God), which is in Jerusalem. **4** Whoever is left, in any place where he lives, let the men of his place help him with silver, with gold, with goods, and with animals, in addition to the free will offering for God's house which is in Jerusalem.'" **5** Then the heads of fathers' households of Judah and Benjamin, the priests and the Levites, all whose spirit God had stirred to go up, rose up to build the LORD's house which is in Jerusalem. **6** All those who were around them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, with animals, and with precious things, in addition to all that was willingly offered. **7** Also Cyrus the king brought out the vessels of the LORD's house, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought out of Jerusalem, and had put in the house of his gods; **8** even those, Cyrus king of Persia brought out by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and counted them out to Sheshbazzar the prince of Judah. **9** This is the number of them: thirty platters of gold, one thousand platters of silver, twenty-nine knives, **10** thirty bowls of gold, four hundred ten silver bowls of a second kind, and one thousand other vessels. **11** All the vessels of gold and of silver were five thousand four hundred. Sheshbazzar brought all these up when the captives were brought up from Babylon to Jerusalem.

**2** Now these are the children of the province who went up out of the captivity of those who had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away to Babylon, and who returned to Jerusalem and Judah, everyone to his city; **2** who came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah,

Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, and Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel: **3** The children of Parosh, two thousand one hundred seventy-two. **4** The children of Shephatiah, three hundred seventy-two. **5** The children of Arah, seven hundred seventy-five. **6** The children of Pahathmoab, of the children of Jeshua and Joab, two thousand eight hundred twelve. **7** The children of Elam, one thousand two hundred fifty-four. **8** The children of Zattu, nine hundred forty-five. **9** The children of Zaccai, seven hundred sixty. **10** The children of Bani, six hundred forty-two. **11** The children of Bebai, six hundred twenty-three. **12** The children of Azgad, one thousand two hundred twenty-two. **13** The children of Adonikam, six hundred sixty-six. **14** The children of Bigvai, two thousand fifty-six. **15** The children of Adin, four hundred fifty-four. **16** The children of Ater, of Hezekiah, ninety-eight. **17** The children of Bezai, three hundred twenty-three. **18** The children of Jorah, one hundred twelve. **19** The children of Hashum, two hundred twenty-three. **20** The children of Gibbar, ninety-five. **21** The children of Bethlehem, one hundred twenty-three. **22** The men of Netophah, fifty-six. **23** The men of Anathoth, one hundred twenty-eight. **24** The children of Azmaveth, forty-two. **25** The children of Kiriath Arim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, seven hundred forty-three. **26** The children of Ramah and Geba, six hundred twenty-one. **27** The men of Michmas, one hundred twenty-two. **28** The men of Bethel and Ai, two hundred twenty-three. **29** The children of Nebo, fifty-two. **30** The children of Magbish, one hundred fifty-six. **31** The children of the other Elam, one thousand two hundred fifty-four. **32** The children of Harim, three hundred twenty. **33** The children of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, seven hundred twenty-five. **34** The children of Jericho, three hundred forty-five. **35** The children of Senaah, three thousand six hundred thirty. **36** The priests: the children of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua, nine hundred seventy-three. **37** The children of Immer, one thousand fifty-two. **38** The children of Pashhur, one thousand two hundred forty-seven. **39** The children of Harim, one thousand seventeen. **40** The Levites: the children of Jeshua and Kadmiel, of the children of Hodaviah, seventy-four. **41** The singers: the children of Asaph, one hundred twenty-eight.

42 The children of the gatekeepers: the children of Shallum, the children of Ater, the children of Talmon, the children of Akkub, the children of Hatita, the children of Shobai, in all one hundred thirty-nine. 43 The temple servants: the children of Ziha, the children of Hasupha, the children of Tabbaoth, 44 the children of Keros, the children of Siaha, the children of Padon, 45 the children of Lebanah, the children of Hagabah, the children of Akkub, 46 the children of Hagab, the children of Shamlai, the children of Hanan, 47 the children of Giddel, the children of Gahar, the children of Reaiah, 48 the children of Rezin, the children of Nekoda, the children of Gazzam, 49 the children of Uzza, the children of Paseah, the children of Besai, 50 the children of Asnah, the children of Meunim, the children of Nephisim, 51 the children of Bakbuk, the children of Hakupha, the children of Harhur, 52 the children of Bazluth, the children of Mehida, the children of Harsha, 53 the children of Barkos, the children of Sisera, the children of Temah, 54 the children of Neziah, the children of Hatipha. 55 The children of Solomon's servants: the children of Sotai, the children of Hassophereth, the children of Peruda, 56 the children of Jaalah, the children of Darkon, the children of Giddel, 57 the children of Shephatiah, the children of Hattil, the children of Pochereth Hazzebaim, the children of Ami. 58 All the temple servants, and the children of Solomon's servants, were three hundred ninety-two. 59 These were those who went up from Tel Melah, Tel Harsha, Cherub, Addan, and Immer; but they could not show their fathers' houses and their offspring, whether they were of Israel: 60 the children of Delaiah, the children of Tobiah, the children of Nekoda, six hundred fifty-two. 61 Of the children of the priests: the children of Habaiah, the children of Hakkoz, and the children of Barzillai, who took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called after their name. 62 These sought their place among those who were registered by genealogy, but they were not found; therefore they were deemed disqualified and removed from the priesthood. 63 The governor told them that they should not eat of the most holy things until a priest stood up to serve with Urim and with Thummim. 64 The whole assembly together was forty-two thousand three hundred sixty, 65 in addition to their male servants and their female servants, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred thirty-seven; and they had two hundred singing men and singing women. 66 Their horses were seven hundred thirty-six; their mules, two hundred forty-five; 67 their camels, four hundred thirty-five; their donkeys, six thousand seven hundred twenty. 68 Some of the heads of fathers' households, when they came to the LORD's house which is in Jerusalem, offered willingly for God's house to set it up in its place. 69 They gave according to their ability into the treasury of the work sixty-one thousand darics of gold, five thousand minas of silver, and one hundred priests' garments. 70 So the priests and the Levites, with some of the people, the singers, the gatekeepers, and the temple servants, lived in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.

**3** When the seventh month had come, and the children of Israel were in the cities, the people gathered themselves together as one man to Jerusalem. 2 Then Jeshua the son of Jozadak stood up with his brothers the priests and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and his relatives, and built the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings on it, as it is written in the law of Moses the man of God. 3 In spite of their fear because of the peoples of the surrounding lands, they set the altar on its base; and they offered burnt offerings on it to the LORD, even burnt offerings morning and evening. 4 They kept the feast of booths, as it is written, and offered the daily burnt offerings by number, according to the ordinance, as the duty of every day required; 5 and afterward the continual burnt offering, the offerings of the new moons, of all the set feasts of the LORD that were consecrated, and of everyone who willingly offered a free will offering to the LORD. 6 From the first day of the seventh month, they began to offer burnt offerings to the LORD; but the foundation of the LORD's temple was not yet laid. 7 They also gave money to the masons and to the carpenters. They also gave food, drink, and oil to the people of Sidon and Tyre to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea, to Joppa, according to the grant that they had from Cyrus King of Persia. 8 Now in the second year of their coming to God's house at Jerusalem, in the second month, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel,



Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and the rest of their brothers the priests and the Levites, and all those who had come out of the captivity to Jerusalem, began the work and appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to have the oversight of the work of the LORD's house. 9 Then Jeshua stood with his sons and his brothers, Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Judah, together to have the oversight of the workmen in God's house: the sons of Henadad, with their sons and their brothers the Levites. 10 When the builders laid the foundation of the LORD's temple, they set the priests in their vestments with trumpets, with the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the LORD, according to the directions of David king of Israel. 11 They sang to one another in praising and giving thanks to the LORD, "For he is good, for his loving kindness endures forever toward Israel." All the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the LORD's house had been laid. 12 But many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' households, the old men who had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice. Many also shouted aloud for joy, 13 so that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people; for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard far away.

**4** Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the children of the captivity were building a temple to the LORD, the God of Israel, 2 they came near to Zerubbabel, and to the heads of fathers' households, and said to them, "Let us build with you, for we seek your God as you do; and we have been sacrificing to him since the days of Esar Haddon king of Assyria, who brought us up here." 3 But Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the rest of the heads of fathers' households of Israel said to them, "You have nothing to do with us in building a house to our God; but we ourselves together will build to the LORD, the God of Israel, as King Cyrus the king of Persia has commanded us." 4 Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building. 5 They hired counselors against them to frustrate their purpose all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius

king of Persia. 6 In the reign of Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, they wrote an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem. 7 In the days of Artaxerxes, Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabeel, and the rest of his companions wrote to Artaxerxes king of Persia; and the writing of the letter was written in Syrian and delivered in the Syrian language. 8 Rehum the chancellor and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter against Jerusalem to Artaxerxes the king as follows. 9 Then Rehum the chancellor, Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their companions, the Dinaites, and the Apharsathchites, the Tarpelites, the Apharsites, the Archevites, the Babylonians, the Shushanchites, the Dehaites, the Elamites, 10 and the rest of the nations whom the great and noble Osnappar brought over and settled in the city of Samaria, and in the rest of the country beyond the River, and so forth, wrote. 11 This is the copy of the letter that they sent: To King Artaxerxes, from your servants, the people beyond the River. 12 Be it known to the king that the Jews who came up from you have come to us to Jerusalem. They are building the rebellious and bad city, and have finished the walls and repaired the foundations. 13 Be it known now to the king that if this city is built and the walls finished, they will not pay tribute, custom, or toll, and in the end it will be hurtful to the kings. 14 Now because we eat the salt of the palace and it is not appropriate for us to see the king's dishonor, therefore we have sent and informed the king, 15 that search may be made in the book of the records of your fathers. You will see in the book of the records, and know that this city is a rebellious city, and hurtful to kings and provinces, and that they have started rebellions within it in the past. That is why this city was destroyed. 16 We inform the king that if this city is built and the walls finished, then you will have no possession beyond the River. 17 Then the king sent an answer to Rehum the chancellor, and to Shimshai the scribe, and to the rest of their companions who live in Samaria, and in the rest of the country beyond the River: Peace. 18 The letter which you sent to us has been plainly read before me. 19 I decreed, and search has been made, and it was found that this city has made insurrection against kings in the past, and that rebellion and revolts have been made in it. 20 There

have also been mighty kings over Jerusalem who have ruled over all the country beyond the River; and tribute, custom, and toll was paid to them. 21 Make a decree now to cause these men to cease, and that this city not be built until a decree is made by me. 22 Be careful that you not be slack doing so. Why should damage grow to the hurt of the kings? 23 Then when the copy of King Artaxerxes' letter was read before Rehum, Shimshai the scribe, and their companions, they went in haste to Jerusalem to the Jews, and made them to cease by force of arms. 24 Then work stopped on God's house which is at Jerusalem. It stopped until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

**5** Now the prophets, Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem. They prophesied to them in the name of the God of Israel. 2 Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak rose up and began to build God's house which is at Jerusalem; and with them were the prophets of God, helping them. 3 At the same time Tattenai, the governor beyond the River, came to them, with Shetharbozenai and their companions, and asked them, "Who gave you a decree to build this house and to finish this wall?" 4 They also asked for the names of the men who were making this building. 5 But the eye of their God was on the elders of the Jews, and they did not make them cease until the matter should come to Darius, and an answer should be returned by letter concerning it. 6 The copy of the letter that Tattenai, the governor beyond the River, and Shetharbozenai, and his companions the Apharsachites who were beyond the River, sent to Darius the king follows. 7 They sent a letter to him, in which was written: To Darius the king, all peace. 8 Be it known to the king that we went into the province of Judah, to the house of the great God, which is being built with great stones and timber is laid in the walls. This work goes on with diligence and prospers in their hands. 9 Then we asked those elders, and said to them thus, "Who gave you a decree to build this house, and to finish this wall?" 10 We asked them their names also, to inform you that we might write the names of the men who were at their head. 11 Thus they returned us answer, saying, "We are the servants

of the God of heaven and earth and are building the house that was built these many years ago, which a great king of Israel built and finished. 12 But after our fathers had provoked the God of heaven to wrath, he gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this house and carried the people away into Babylon. 13 But in the first year of Cyrus king of Babylon, Cyrus the king made a decree to build this house of God. 14 The gold and silver vessels of God's house, which Nebuchadnezzar took out of the temple that was in Jerusalem and brought into the temple of Babylon, those Cyrus the king also took out of the temple of Babylon, and they were delivered to one whose name was Sheshbazzar, whom he had made governor. 15 He said to him, 'Take these vessels, go, put them in the temple that is in Jerusalem, and let God's house be built in its place.' 16 Then the same Sheshbazzar came and laid the foundations of God's house which is in Jerusalem. Since that time even until now it has been being built, and yet it is not completed. 17 Now therefore, if it seems good to the king, let a search be made in the king's treasure house, which is there at Babylon, whether it is so that a decree was made by Cyrus the king to build this house of God at Jerusalem; and let the king send his pleasure to us concerning this matter."

**6** Then Darius the king made a decree, and the house of the archives, where the treasures were laid up in Babylon, was searched. 2 A scroll was found at Achmetha, in the palace that is in the province of Media, and in it this was written for a record: 3 In the first year of Cyrus the king, Cyrus the king made a decree: Concerning God's house at Jerusalem, let the house be built, the place where they offer sacrifices, and let its foundations be strongly laid, with its height sixty cubits and its width sixty cubits; 4 with three courses of great stones and a course of new timber. Let the expenses be given out of the king's house. 5 Also let the gold and silver vessels of God's house, which Nebuchadnezzar took out of the temple which is at Jerusalem and brought to Babylon, be restored and brought again to the temple which is at Jerusalem, everything to its place. You shall put them in God's house. 6 Now therefore, Tattenai, governor beyond the River, Shetharbozenai, and your

companions the Apharsachites, who are beyond the River, you must stay far from there. 7 Leave the work of this house of God alone; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this house of God in its place. 8 Moreover I make a decree regarding what you shall do for these elders of the Jews for the building of this house of God: that of the king's goods, even of the tribute beyond the River, expenses must be given with all diligence to these men, that they not be hindered. 9 That which they have need of, including young bulls, rams, and lambs, for burnt offerings to the God of heaven; also wheat, salt, wine, and oil, according to the word of the priests who are at Jerusalem, let it be given them day by day without fail, 10 that they may offer sacrifices of pleasant aroma to the God of heaven, and pray for the life of the king and of his sons. 11 I have also made a decree that whoever alters this message, let a beam be pulled out from his house, and let him be lifted up and fastened on it; and let his house be made a dunghill for this. 12 May the God who has caused his name to dwell there overthrow all kings and peoples who stretch out their hand to alter this, to destroy this house of God which is at Jerusalem. I Darius have made a decree. Let it be done with all diligence. 13 Then Tattenai, the governor beyond the River, Shetharbozenai, and their companions did accordingly with all diligence, because Darius the king had sent a decree. 14 The elders of the Jews built and prospered, through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. They built and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the decree of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia. 15 This house was finished on the third day of the month Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king. 16 The children of Israel, the priests, the Levites, and the rest of the children of the captivity, kept the dedication of this house of God with joy. 17 They offered at the dedication of this house of God one hundred bulls, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs; and for a sin offering for all Israel, twelve male goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel. 18 They set the priests in their divisions and the Levites in their courses, for the service of God which is at Jerusalem, as it is written in the book of Moses. 19 The children of the captivity kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month. 20 Because the priests and the Levites had purified themselves together, all of them were pure. They killed the Passover for all the children of the captivity, for their brothers the priests, and for themselves. 21 The children of Israel who had returned out of the captivity, and all who had separated themselves to them from the filthiness of the nations of the land to seek the LORD, the God of Israel, ate, 22 and kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with joy; because the LORD had made them joyful, and had turned the heart of the king of Assyria to them, to strengthen their hands in the work of God, the God of Israel's house.

**7** Now after these things, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra the 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 Zerariah, 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 went up from Babylon. He was a skilled scribe in the law of Moses, which the LORD, the God of Israel, had given; and the king granted him all his request, according to the LORD his God's hand on him. 7 Some of the children of Israel, including some of the priests, the Levites, the singers, the gatekeepers, and the temple servants went up to Jerusalem in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king. 8 He came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king. 9 For on the first day of the first month he began to go up from Babylon; and on the first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God on him. 10 For Ezra had set his heart to seek the LORD's law, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel. 11 Now this is the copy of the letter that King Artaxerxes gave to Ezra the priest, the scribe, even the scribe of the words of the LORD's commandments, and of his statutes to Israel: 12 Artaxerxes, king of kings, To Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the perfect God of heaven. Now 13 I make a decree that all those of the people of Israel and their priests and the Levites in my realm, who intend of their own free

will to go to Jerusalem, go with you. **14** Because you are sent by the king and his seven counselors to inquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, according to the law of your God which is in your hand, **15** and to carry the silver and gold, which the king and his counselors have freely offered to the God of Israel, whose habitation is in Jerusalem, **16** and all the silver and gold that you will find in all the province of Babylon, with the free will offering of the people and of the priests, offering willingly for the house of their God which is in Jerusalem. **17** Therefore you shall with all diligence buy with this money bulls, rams, and lambs with their meal offerings and their drink offerings, and shall offer them on the altar of the house of your God which is in Jerusalem. **18** Whatever seems good to you and to your brothers to do with the rest of the silver and the gold, do that according to the will of your God. **19** The vessels that are given to you for the service of the house of your God, deliver before the God of Jerusalem. **20** Whatever more will be needed for the house of your God, which you may have occasion to give, give it out of the king's treasure house. **21** I, even I, Artaxerxes the king, make a decree to all the treasurers who are beyond the River, that whatever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven, requires of you, it shall be done with all diligence, **22** up to one hundred talents of silver, and to one hundred cors of wheat, and to one hundred baths of wine, and to one hundred baths of oil, and salt without prescribing how much. **23** Whatever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it be done exactly for the house of the God of heaven; for why should there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons? **24** Also we inform you that it shall not be lawful to impose tribute, custom, or toll on any of the priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers, temple servants, or laborers of this house of God. **25** You, Ezra, according to the wisdom of your God that is in your hand, appoint magistrates and judges who may judge all the people who are beyond the River, who all know the laws of your God; and teach him who does not know them. **26** Whoever will not do the law of your God and the law of the king, let judgment be executed on him with all diligence, whether it is to death, or to banishment, or to confiscation of goods, or to imprisonment. **27**

Blessed be the LORD, the God of our fathers, who has put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to beautify the LORD's house which is in Jerusalem; **28** and has extended loving kindness to me before the king and his counselors, and before all the king's mighty princes. I was strengthened according to the LORD my God's hand on me, and I gathered together chief men out of Israel to go up with me.

**8** Now these are the heads of their fathers' households, and this is the genealogy of those who went up with me from Babylon, in the reign of Artaxerxes the king: **2** Of the sons of Phinehas, Gershom. Of the sons of Ithamar, Daniel. Of the sons of David, Hattush. **3** Of the sons of Shecaniah, of the sons of Parosh, Zechariah; and with him were listed by genealogy of the males one hundred fifty. **4** Of the sons of Pahathmoab, Eliehoenai the son of Zerariah; and with him two hundred males. **5** Of the sons of Shecaniah, the son of Jahaziel; and with him three hundred males. **6** Of the sons of Adin, Ebed the son of Jonathan; and with him fifty males. **7** Of the sons of Elam, Jeshaiah the son of Athaliah; and with him seventy males. **8** Of the sons of Shephatiah, Zebadiah the son of Michael; and with him eighty males. **9** Of the sons of Joab, Obadiah the son of Jehiel; and with him two hundred eighteen males. **10** Of the sons of Shelomith, the son of Josiphiah; and with him one hundred sixty males. **11** Of the sons of Bebai, Zechariah the son of Bebai; and with him twenty-eight males. **12** Of the sons of Azgad, Johanan the son of Hakkatan; and with him one hundred ten males. **13** Of the sons of Adonikam, who were the last, their names are: Eliphelet, Jeuel, and Shemaiah; and with them sixty males. **14** Of the sons of Bigvai, Uthai and Zabbud; and with them seventy males. **15** I gathered them together to the river that runs to Ahava; and there we encamped three days. Then I looked around at the people and the priests, and found there were none of the sons of Levi. **16** Then I sent for Eliezer, for Ariel, for Shemaiah, for Elnathan, for Jarib, for Elnathan, for Nathan, for Zechariah, and for Meshullam, chief men; also for Joiarib and for Elnathan, who were teachers. **17** I sent them out to Iddo the chief at the place Casiphia; and I told them what they should tell Iddo and his brothers the temple servants at the place Casiphia, that they should bring

to us ministers for the house of our God. **18** According to the good hand of our God on us they brought us a man of discretion, of the sons of Mahli, the son of Levi, the son of Israel, namely Sherebiah, with his sons and his brothers, eighteen; **19** and Hashabiah, and with him Jeshaiah of the sons of Merari, his brothers and their sons, twenty; **20** and of the temple servants, whom David and the princes had given for the service of the Levites, two hundred twenty temple servants. All of them were mentioned by name. **21** Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from him a straight way for us, for our little ones, and for all our possessions. **22** For I was ashamed to ask of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy on the way, because we had spoken to the king, saying, "The hand of our God is on all those who seek him, for good; but his power and his wrath is against all those who forsake him." **23** So we fasted and begged our God for this, and he granted our request. **24** Then I set apart twelve of the chiefs of the priests, even Sherebiah, Hashabiah, and ten of their brothers with them, **25** and weighed to them the silver, the gold, and the vessels, even the offering for the house of our God, which the king, his counselors, his princes, and all Israel there present, had offered. **26** I weighed into their hand six hundred fifty talents of silver, one hundred talents of silver vessels, one hundred talents of gold, **27** twenty bowls of gold weighing one thousand darics, and two vessels of fine bright bronze, precious as gold. **28** I said to them, "You are holy to the LORD, and the vessels are holy. The silver and the gold are a free will offering to the LORD, the God of your fathers. **29** Watch and keep them until you weigh them before the chiefs of the priests, the Levites, and the princes of the fathers' households of Israel at Jerusalem, in the rooms of the LORD's house." **30** So the priests and the Levites received the weight of the silver, the gold, and the vessels, to bring them to Jerusalem to the house of our God. **31** Then we departed from the river Ahava on the twelfth day of the first month, to go to Jerusalem. The hand of our God was on us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy and the bandits by the way. **32** We came to Jerusalem, and stayed there three days. **33** On the fourth day the

silver and the gold and the vessels were weighed in the house of our God into the hand of Meremoth the son of Uriah the priest; and with him was Eleazar the son of Phinehas; and with them were Jozabad the son of Jeshua, and Noadiah the son of Binnui, the Levites. **34** Everything was counted and weighed; and all the weight was written at that time. **35** The children of the captivity, who had come out of exile, offered burnt offerings to the God of Israel: twelve bulls for all Israel, ninety-six rams, seventy-seven lambs, and twelve male goats for a sin offering. All this was a burnt offering to the LORD. **36** They delivered the king's commissions to the king's local governors and to the governors beyond the River. So they supported the people and God's house.

**9** Now when these things were done, the princes came near to me, saying, "The people of Israel, the priests, and the Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands, following their abominations, even those of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites. **2** For they have taken of their daughters for themselves and for their sons, so that the holy offspring have mixed themselves with the peoples of the lands. Yes, the hand of the princes and rulers has been chief in this trespass." **3** When I heard this thing, I tore my garment and my robe, and pulled the hair out of my head and of my beard, and sat down confounded. **4** Then everyone who trembled at the words of the God of Israel were assembled to me because of the trespass of the exiles; and I sat confounded until the evening offering. **5** At the evening offering I rose up from my humiliation, even with my garment and my robe torn; and I fell on my knees, and spread out my hands to the LORD my God; **6** and I said, "My God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to you, my God, for our iniquities have increased over our head, and our guiltiness has grown up to the heavens. **7** Since the days of our fathers we have been exceedingly guilty to this day; and for our iniquities we, our kings, and our priests have been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, to plunder, and to confusion of face, as it is this day. **8** Now for a little moment grace has been shown from the LORD our God, to leave

us a remnant to escape, and to give us a stake in his holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and revive us a little in our bondage. 9 For we are bondservants; yet our God has not forsaken us in our bondage, but has extended loving kindness to us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to revive us, to set up the house of our God, and to repair its ruins, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem. 10 "Now, our God, what shall we say after this? For we have forsaken your commandments, 11 which you have commanded by your servants the prophets, saying, 'The land to which you go to possess is an unclean land through the uncleanness of the peoples of the lands, through their abominations, which have filled it from one end to another with their filthiness. 12 Now therefore do not give your daughters to their sons. Do not take their daughters to your sons, nor seek their peace or their prosperity forever, that you may be strong and eat the good of the land, and leave it for an inheritance to your children forever.' 13 "After all that has come on us for our evil deeds and for our great guilt, since you, our God, have punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and have given us such a remnant, 14 shall we again break your commandments, and join ourselves with the peoples that do these abominations? Would not you be angry with us until you had consumed us, so that there would be no remnant, nor any to escape? 15 LORD, the God of Israel, you are righteous; for we are left a remnant that has escaped, as it is today. Behold, we are before you in our guiltiness; for no one can stand before you because of this."

**10** Now while Ezra prayed and made confession, weeping and casting himself down before God's house, there was gathered together to him out of Israel a very great assembly of men and women and children; for the people wept very bitterly. 2 Shecaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, answered Ezra, "We have trespassed against our God, and have married foreign women of the peoples of the land. Yet now there is hope for Israel concerning this thing. 3 Now therefore let's make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives and those who are born of them, according to the counsel of my lord and of those who tremble at the commandment of our

God. Let it be done according to the law. 4 Arise, for the matter belongs to you and we are with you. Be courageous, and do it." 5 Then Ezra arose, and made the chiefs of the priests, the Levites, and all Israel to swear that they would do according to this word. So they swore. 6 Then Ezra rose up from before God's house, and went into the room of Jehohanan the son of Eliashib. When he came there, he did not eat bread or drink water, for he mourned because of the trespass of the exiles. 7 They made a proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem to all the children of the captivity, that they should gather themselves together to Jerusalem; 8 and that whoever did not come within three days, according to the counsel of the princes and the elders, all his possessions should be forfeited, and he himself separated from the assembly of the captivity. 9 Then all the men of Judah and Benjamin gathered themselves together to Jerusalem within the three days. It was the ninth month, on the twentieth day of the month; and all the people sat in the wide place in front of God's house, trembling because of this matter, and because of the great rain. 10 Ezra the priest stood up and said to them, "You have trespassed, and have married foreign women, increasing the guilt of Israel. 11 Now therefore make confession to the LORD, the God of your fathers and do his pleasure. Separate yourselves from the peoples of the land and from the foreign women." 12 Then all the assembly answered with a loud voice, "We must do as you have said concerning us. 13 But the people are many, and it is a time of much rain, and we are not able to stand outside.

This is not a work of one day or two, for we have greatly transgressed in this matter. 14 Now let our princes be appointed for all the assembly, and let all those who are in our cities who have married foreign women come at appointed times, and with them the elders of every city and its judges, until the fierce wrath of our God is turned from us, until this matter is resolved." 15 Only Jonathan the son of Asahel and Jahzeiah the son of Tikvah stood up against this; and Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levite helped them. 16 The children of the captivity did so. Ezra the priest, with certain heads of fathers' households, after their fathers' houses, and all of them by their names, were set apart; and they sat

down in the first day of the tenth month to examine the matter. 17 They finished with all the men who had married foreign women by the first day of the first month. 18 Among the sons of the priests there were found who had married foreign women: of the sons of Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, and his brothers: Maaseiah, Eliezer, Jarib, and Gedaliah. 19 They gave their hand that they would put away their wives; and being guilty, they offered a ram of the flock for their guilt. 20 Of the sons of Immer: Hanani and Zebadiah. 21 Of the sons of Harim: Maaseiah, Elijah, Shemaiah, Jehiel, and Uziah. 22 Of the sons of Pashhur: Elioenai, Maaseiah, Ishmael, Nethanel, Jozabad, and Elasah. 23 Of the Levites: Jozabad, Shimei, Kelaiah (also called Kelita), Pethahiah, Judah, and Eliezer. 24 Of the singers: Eliashib. Of the gatekeepers: Shallum, Telem, and Uri. 25 Of Israel: Of the sons of Parosh: Ramiah, Izziah, Malchijah, Mijamin, Eleazar, Malchijah, and Benaiah. 26 Of the sons of Elam: Mattaniah, Zechariah, Jehiel, Abdi, Jeremoth, and Elijah. 27 Of the sons of Zattu: Elioenai, Eliashib, Mattaniah, Jeremoth, Zabad, and Aziza. 28 Of the sons of Bebai: Jehohanan, Hananiah, Zabbai, and Athlai. 29 Of the sons of Bani: Meshullam, Malluch, Adaiah, Jashub, Sheal, and Jeremoth. 30 Of the sons of Pahathmoab: Adna, Chelal, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattaniah, Bezalel, Binnui, and Manasseh. 31 Of the sons of Harim: Eliezer, Isshijah, Malchijah, Shemaiah, Shimeon, 32 Benjamin, Malluch, and Shemariah. 33 Of the sons of Hashum: Mattenai, Mattattah, Zabad, Eliphelet, Jeremai, Manasseh, and Shimei. 34 Of the sons of Bani: Maadai, Amram, Uel, 35 Benaiah, Bedeiah, Cheluhi, 36 Vaniah, Meremoth, Eliashib, 37 Mattaniah, Mattenai, Jaasu, 38 Bani, Binnui, Shimei, 39 Shelemiah, Nathan, Adaiah, 40 Machnadebai, Shashai, Sharai, 41 Azarel, Shelemiah, Shemariah, 42 Shallum, Amariah, and Joseph. 43 Of the sons of Nebo: Jeiel, Mattithiah, Zabad, Zebina, Iddo, Joel, and Benaiah. 44 All these had taken foreign wives. Some of them had wives by whom they had children.

# Nehemiah

**1** The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah. Now in the month Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the palace, **2** Hanani, one of my brothers, came, he and certain men out of Judah; and I asked them about the Jews who had escaped, who were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. **3** They said to me, "The remnant who are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire." **4** When I heard these words, I sat down and wept, and mourned several days; and I fasted and prayed before the God of heaven, **5** and said, "I beg you, LORD, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and loving kindness with those who love him and keep his commandments, **6** let your ear now be attentive and your eyes open, that you may listen to the prayer of your servant which I pray before you at this time, day and night, for the children of Israel your servants, while I confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against you. Yes, I and my father's house have sinned. **7** We have dealt very corruptly against you, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the ordinances, which you commanded your servant Moses. **8** "Remember, I beg you, the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, 'If you trespass, I will scatter you among the peoples; **9** but if you return to me, and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts were in the uttermost part of the heavens, yet I will gather them from there, and will bring them to the place that I have chosen, to cause my name to dwell there.' **10** "Now these are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. **11** Lord, I beg you, let your ear be attentive now to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name; and please prosper your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man." Now I was cup bearer to the king.

**2** In the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, when wine was before him, I

picked up the wine, and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad before in his presence. **2** The king said to me, "Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is nothing else but sorrow of heart." Then I was very much afraid. **3** I said to the king, "Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies waste, and its gates have been consumed with fire?" **4** Then the king said to me, "What is your request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. **5** I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you would send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may build it." **6** The king said to me (the queen was also sitting by him), "How long will your journey be? When will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me, and I set a time for him. **7** Moreover I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah; **8** and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple, for the wall of the city, and for the house that I will occupy." The king granted my requests, because of the good hand of my God on me. **9** Then I came to the governors beyond the River, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me. **10** When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant heard of it, it grieved them exceedingly, because a man had come to seek the welfare of the children of Israel. **11** So I came to Jerusalem, and was there three days. **12** I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. I did not tell anyone what my God put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. There was not any animal with me except the animal that I rode on. **13** I went out by night by the valley gate toward the jackal's well, then to the dung gate; and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem, which were broken down, and its gates were consumed with fire. **14** Then I went on to the spring gate and to the king's pool, but there was no place for the animal that was under me to pass. **15** Then I went up in the night by the brook and inspected the wall; and I turned back, and entered by the valley gate, and so returned. **16** The rulers did not know where I went, or what I did. I



had not as yet told it to the Jews, nor to the priests, nor to the nobles, nor to the rulers, nor to the rest who did the work. **17** Then I said to them, "You see the bad situation that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come, let's build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we will not be disgraced." **18** I told them about the hand of my God which was good on me, and also about the king's words that he had spoken to me. They said, "Let's rise up and build." So they strengthened their hands for the good work. **19** But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite servant, and Geshem the Arabian, heard it, they ridiculed us and despised us, and said, "What is this thing that you are doing? Will you rebel against the king?" **20** Then I answered them, and said to them, "The God of heaven will prosper us. Therefore we, his servants, will arise and build; but you have no portion, nor right, nor memorial in Jerusalem."

**3** Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brothers the priests, and they built the sheep gate. They sanctified it, and set up its doors. They sanctified it even to the tower of Hammeah, to the tower of Hananel. **2** Next to him the men of Jericho built. Next to them Zaccur the son of Imri built. **3** The sons of Hassenaah built the fish gate. They laid its beams, and set up its doors, its bolts, and its bars. **4** Next to them, Meremoth the son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz made repairs. Next to them, Meshullam the son of Berechiah, the son of Meshezabel made repairs. Next to them, Zadok the son of Baana made repairs. **5** Next to them, the Tekoites made repairs; but their nobles did not put their necks to the Lord's work. **6** Joiada the son of Paseah and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah repaired the old gate. They laid its beams and set up its doors, its bolts, and its bars. **7** Next to them, Melatiah the Gibeonite and Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon and of Mizpah, repaired the residence of the governor beyond the River. **8** Next to him, Uzziel the son of Harhaiah, goldsmiths, made repairs. Next to him, Hananiah, one of the perfumers, made repairs, and they fortified Jerusalem even to the wide wall. **9** Next to them, Rephaiah the son of Hur, the ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs. **10** Next to them, Jedaiah the son of Harumaph made repairs across from his

house. Next to him, Hattush the son of Hashabneiah made repairs. **11** Malchijah the son of Harim and Hasshub the son of Pahathmoab repaired another portion and the tower of the furnaces. **12** Next to him, Shallum the son of Hallohesh, the ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, he and his daughters made repairs. **13** Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah repaired the valley gate. They built it, and set up its doors, its bolts, and its bars, and one thousand cubits of the wall to the dung gate. **14** Malchijah the son of Rechab, the ruler of the district of Beth Haccherem, repaired the dung gate. He built it, and set up its doors, its bolts, and its bars. **15** Shallun the son of Colhozeh, the ruler of the district of Mizpah, repaired the spring gate. He built it, covered it, and set up its doors, its bolts, and its bars; and he repaired the wall of the pool of Shelah by the king's garden, even to the stairs that go down from David's city. **16** After him, Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, the ruler of half the district of Beth Zur, made repairs to the place opposite the tombs of David, and to the pool that was made, and to the house of the mighty men. **17** After him, the Levites—Rehum the son of Bani made repairs. Next to him, Hashabiah, the ruler of half the district of Keilah, made repairs for his district. **18** After him, their brothers, Bavvai the son of Henadad, the ruler of half the district of Keilah made repairs. **19** Next to him, Ezer the son of Jeshua, the ruler of Mizpah, repaired another portion across from the ascent to the armory at the turning of the wall. **20** After him, Baruch the son of Zabbai earnestly repaired another portion, from the turning of the wall to the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest. **21** After him, Meremoth the son of Uriah the son of Hakkoz repaired another portion, from the door of the house of Eliashib even to the end of the house of Eliashib. **22** After him, the priests, the men of the surrounding area made repairs. **23** After them, Benjamin and Hasshub made repairs across from their house. After them, Azariah the son of Maaseiah the son of Ananiah made repairs beside his own house. **24** After him, Binnui the son of Henadad repaired another portion, from the house of Azariah to the turning of the wall, and to the corner. **25** Palal the son of Uzai made repairs opposite the turning of the wall, and the tower that stands out from the upper house of the king, which is by the court of the guard.

After him Pedaiah the son of Parosh made repairs. **26** (Now the temple servants lived in Ophel, to the place opposite the water gate toward the east, and the tower that stands out.) **27** After him the Tekoites repaired another portion, opposite the great tower that stands out, and to the wall of Ophel. **28** Above the horse gate, the priests made repairs, everyone across from his own house. **29** After them, Zadok the son of Immer made repairs across from his own house. After him, Shemaiah the son of Shecaniah, the keeper of the east gate, made repairs. **30** After him, Hananiah the son of Shelemiah, and Hanun, the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired another portion. After him, Meshullam the son of Berechiah made repairs across from his room. **31** After him, Malchijah, one of the goldsmiths to the house of the temple servants, and of the merchants, made repairs opposite the gate of Hammiphkad and to the ascent of the corner. **32** Between the ascent of the corner and the sheep gate, the goldsmiths and the merchants made repairs.

**4** But when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry, and was very indignant, and mocked the Jews. **2** He spoke before his brothers and the army of Samaria, and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, since they are burned?" **3** Now Tobiah the Ammonite was by him, and he said, "What they are building, if a fox climbed up it, he would break down their stone wall." **4** "Hear, our God, for we are despised. Turn back their reproach on their own head. Give them up for a plunder in a land of captivity. **5** Do not cover their iniquity. Do not let their sin be blotted out from before you; for they have insulted the builders." **6** So we built the wall; and all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work. **7** But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabians, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem went forward, and that the breaches began to be filled, they were very angry; **8** and they all conspired together to come and fight against Jerusalem, and to cause confusion among us. **9** But we made our prayer to our God, and set a watch against them day and night because of them. **10** Judah said, "The strength of the bearers of

burdens is fading and there is much rubble, so that we are not able to build the wall." **11** Our adversaries said, "They will not know or see, until we come in among them and kill them, and cause the work to cease." **12** When the Jews who lived by them came, they said to us ten times from all places, "Wherever you turn, they will attack us." **13** Therefore I set guards in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in the open places. I set the people by family groups with their swords, their spears, and their bows. **14** I looked, and rose up, and said to the nobles, to the rulers, and to 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, your daughters, your wives, and your houses." **15** When our enemies heard that it was known to us, and God had brought their counsel to nothing, all of us returned to the wall, everyone to his work. **16** From that time forth, half of my servants did the work, and half of them held the spears, the shields, the bows, and the coats of mail; and the rulers were behind all the house of Judah. **17** Those who built the wall, and those who bore burdens loaded themselves; everyone with one of his hands did the work, and with the other held his weapon. **18** Among the builders, everyone wore his sword at his side, and so built. He who sounded the trumpet was by me. **19** I said to the nobles, and to the rulers and to the rest of the people, "The work is great and widely spread out, and we are separated on the wall, far from one another. **20** Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally there to us. Our God will fight for us." **21** So we did the work. Half of the people held the spears from the rising of the morning until the stars appeared. **22** Likewise at the same time I said to the people, "Let everyone with his servant lodge within Jerusalem, that in the night they may be a guard to us, and may labor in the day." **23** So neither I, nor my brothers, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard who followed me took off our clothes. Everyone took his weapon to the water.

**5** Then there arose a great cry of the people and of their wives against their brothers the Jews. **2** For there were some who said, "We, our sons and our daughters, are many. Let us get grain, that we may eat and live." **3** There were also some who said, "We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards, and our

houses. Let us get grain, because of the famine.” **4** There were also some who said, “We have borrowed money for the king’s tribute using our fields and our vineyards as collateral. **5** Yet now our flesh is as the flesh of our brothers, our children as their children. Behold, we bring our sons and our daughters into bondage to be servants, and some of our daughters have been brought into bondage. It is also not in our power to help it, because other men have our fields and our vineyards.” **6** I was very angry when I heard their cry and these words. **7** Then I consulted with myself, and contended with the nobles and the rulers, and said to them, “You exact usury, everyone of his brother.” I held a great assembly against them. **8** I said to them, “We, after our ability, have redeemed our brothers the Jews that were sold to the nations; and would you even sell your brothers, and should they be sold to us?” Then they held their peace, and found not a word to say. **9** Also I said, “The thing that you do is not good. Should not you walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the nations, our enemies? **10** I likewise, my brothers and my servants, lend them money and grain. Please let us stop this usury. **11** Please restore to them, even today, their fields, their vineyards, their olive groves, and their houses, also the hundredth part of the money, and of the grain, the new wine, and the oil, that you are charging them.” **12** Then they said, “We will restore them, and will require nothing of them. We will do so, even as you say.” Then I called the priests, and took an oath of them, that they would do according to this promise. **13** Also I shook out my lap, and said, “So may God shake out every man from his house, and from his labor, that does not perform this promise; even may he be shaken out and emptied like this.” All the assembly said, “Amen,” and praised the LORD. The people did according to this promise. **14** Moreover from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year even to the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes the king, that is, twelve years, I and my brothers have not eaten the bread of the governor. **15** But the former governors who were before me were supported by the people, and took bread and wine from them, plus forty shekels of silver; yes, even their servants ruled over the people, but I did not do so, because of the

fear of God. **16** Yes, I also continued in the work of this wall. We did not buy any land. All my servants were gathered there to the work. **17** Moreover there were at my table, of the Jews and the rulers, one hundred fifty men, in addition to those who came to us from among the nations that were around us. **18** Now that which was prepared for one day was one ox and six choice sheep. Also fowls were prepared for me, and once in ten days a store of all sorts of wine. Yet for all this, I did not demand the governor’s pay, because the bondage was heavy on this people. **19** Remember me, my God, for all the good that I have done for this people.

**6** Now when it was reported to Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arabian, and to the rest of our enemies that I had built the wall, and that there was no breach left in it (though even to that time I had not set up the doors in the gates), **2** Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, “Come! Let’s meet together in the villages in the plain of Ono.” But they intended to harm me. **3** I sent messengers to them, saying, “I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and come down to you?” **4** They sent to me four times like this; and I answered them the same way. **5** Then Sanballat sent his servant to me the same way the fifth time with an open letter in his hand, **6** in which was written, “It is reported among the nations, and Gashmu says it, that you and the Jews intend to rebel. Because of that, you are building the wall. You would be their king, according to these words. **7** You have also appointed prophets to proclaim of you at Jerusalem, saying, ‘There is a king in Judah!’ Now it will be reported to the king according to these words. Come now therefore, and let’s take counsel together.” **8** Then I sent to him, saying, “There are no such things done as you say, but you imagine them out of your own heart.” **9** For they all would have made us afraid, saying, “Their hands will be weakened from the work, that it not be done.” But now, strengthen my hands. **10** I went to the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah the son of Mehetabel, who was shut in at his home; and he said, “Let us meet together in God’s house, within the temple, and let’s shut the doors of the temple; for they will come to kill you. Yes, in the

night they will come to kill you." 11 I said, "Should a man like me flee? Who is there that, being such as I, would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in." 12 I discerned, and behold, God had not sent him, but he pronounced this prophecy against me. Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. 13 He was hired so that I would be afraid, do so, and sin, and that they might have material for an evil report, that they might reproach me. 14 "Remember, my God, Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and also the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets that would have put me in fear." 15 So the wall was finished in the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days. 16 When all our enemies heard of it, all the nations that were around us were afraid, and they lost their confidence; for they perceived that this work was done by our God. 17 Moreover in those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters to Tobiah, and Tobiah's letters came to them. 18 For there were many in Judah sworn to him because he was the son-in-law of Shecaniah the son of Arah; and his son Jehohanan had taken the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah as wife. 19 Also they spoke of his good deeds before me, and reported my words to him. Tobiah sent letters to put me in fear.

**7** Now when the wall was built and I had set up the doors, and the gatekeepers and the singers and the Levites were appointed, 2 I put my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the governor of the fortress, in charge of Jerusalem; for he was a faithful man and feared God above many. 3 I said to them, "Do not let the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun is hot; and while they stand guard, let them shut the doors, and you bar them; and appoint watches of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, everyone in his watch, with everyone near his house." 4 Now the city was wide and large; but the people were few therein, and the houses were not built. 5 My God put into my heart to gather together the nobles, and the rulers, and the people, that they might be listed by genealogy. I found the book of the genealogy of those who came up at the first, and I found this written in it: 6 These are the children of the province who went up out of the captivity of those who had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away, and who returned to Jerusalem and to Judah,

everyone to his city, 7 who came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, and Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel: 8 The children of Parosh: two thousand one hundred seventy-two. 9 The children of Shephathiah: three hundred seventy-two. 10 The children of Arah: six hundred fifty-two. 11 The children of Pahathmoab, of the children of Jeshua and Joab: two thousand eight hundred eighteen. 12 The children of Elam: one thousand two hundred fifty-four. 13 The children of Zattu: eight hundred forty-five. 14 The children of Zaccai: seven hundred sixty. 15 The children of Binnui: six hundred forty-eight. 16 The children of Bebai: six hundred twenty-eight. 17 The children of Azgad: two thousand three hundred twenty-two. 18 The children of Adonikam: six hundred sixty-seven. 19 The children of Bigvai: two thousand sixty-seven. 20 The children of Adin: six hundred fifty-five. 21 The children of Ater: of Hezekiah, ninety-eight. 22 The children of Hashum: three hundred twenty-eight. 23 The children of Bezai: three hundred twenty-four. 24 The children of Hariph: one hundred twelve. 25 The children of Gibeon: ninety-five. 26 The men of Bethlehem and Netophah: one hundred eighty-eight. 27 The men of Anathoth: one hundred twenty-eight. 28 The men of Beth Azmaveth: forty-two. 29 The men of Kiriath Jearim, Chephirah, and Beeroth: seven hundred forty-three. 30 The men of Ramah and Geba: six hundred twenty-one. 31 The men of Michmas: one hundred twenty-two. 32 The men of Bethel and Ai: one hundred twenty-three. 33 The men of the other Nebo: fifty-two. 34 The children of the other Elam: one thousand two hundred fifty-four. 35 The children of Harim: three hundred twenty. 36 The children of Jericho: three hundred forty-five. 37 The children of Lod, Hadid, and Ono: seven hundred twenty-one. 38 The children of Senaah: three thousand nine hundred thirty. 39 The priests: The children of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua: nine hundred seventy-three. 40 The children of Immer: one thousand fifty-two. 41 The children of Pashhur: one thousand two hundred forty-seven. 42 The children of Harim: one thousand seventeen. 43 The Levites: the children of Jeshua, of Kadmiel, of the children of Hodevah: seventy-four. 44 The singers: the children of Asaph: one hundred forty-

eight. **45** The gatekeepers: the children of Shallum, the children of Ater, the children of Talmon, the children of Akkub, the children of Hatita, the children of Shobai: one hundred thirty-eight. **46** The temple servants: the children of Ziha, the children of Hasupha, the children of Tabbaoth, **47** the children of Keros, the children of Sia, the children of Padon, **48** the children of Lebana, the children of Hagaba, the children of Salmai, **49** the children of Hanan, the children of Giddel, the children of Gahar, **50** the children of Reaiah, the children of Rezin, the children of Nekoda, **51** the children of Gazzam, the children of Uzza, the children of Paseah, **52** the children of Besai, the children of Meunim, the children of Nephushesim, **53** the children of Bakbuk, the children of Hakupha, the children of Harhur, **54** the children of Bazlith, the children of Mehida, the children of Harsha, **55** the children of Barkos, the children of Sisera, the children of Temah, **56** the children of Neziah, and the children of Hatipha. **57** The children of Solomon's servants: the children of Sotai, the children of Sophereth, the children of Perida, **58** the children of Jaala, the children of Darkon, the children of Giddel, **59** the children of Shephatiah, the children of Hattil, the children of Pochereth Hazzebaim, and the children of Amon. **60** All the temple servants and the children of Solomon's servants were three hundred ninety-two. **61** These were those who went up from Tel Melah, Tel Harsha, Cherub, Addon, and Immer; but they could not show their fathers' houses, nor their offspring, whether they were of Israel: **62** The children of Delaiah, the children of Tobiah, the children of Nekoda: six hundred forty-two. **63** Of the priests: the children of Hobaiah, the children of Hakkoz, the children of Barzillai, who took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called after their name. **64** These searched for their genealogical records, but could not find them. Therefore they were deemed disqualified and removed from the priesthood. **65** The governor told them not to eat of the most holy things until a priest stood up to minister with Urim and Thummim. **66** The whole assembly together was forty-two thousand three hundred sixty, **67** in addition to their male servants and their female servants, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred thirty-seven. They had two hundred forty-five singing men and singing women. **68** Their horses were seven hundred thirty-six; their mules, two hundred forty-five; **69** their camels, four hundred thirty-five; their donkeys, six thousand seven hundred twenty. **70** Some from among the heads of fathers' households gave to the work. The governor gave to the treasury one thousand darics of gold, fifty basins, and five hundred thirty priests' garments. **71** Some of the heads of fathers' households gave into the treasury of the work twenty thousand darics of gold, and two thousand two hundred minas of silver. **72** That which the rest of the people gave was twenty thousand darics of gold, plus two thousand minas of silver, and sixty-seven priests' garments. **73** So the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, some of the people, the temple servants, and all Israel lived in their cities. When the seventh month had come, the children of Israel were in their cities.

**8** All the people gathered themselves together as one man into the wide place that was in front of the water gate; and they spoke to Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded to Israel. **2** Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, both men and women, and all who could hear with understanding, on the first day of the seventh month. **3** He read from it before the wide place that was in front of the water gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women, and of those who could understand. The ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. **4** Ezra the scribe stood on a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah, on his right hand; and on his left hand, Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam. **5** Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people (for he was above all the people), and when he opened it, all the people stood up. **6** Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. All the people answered, "Amen, Amen," with the lifting up of their hands. They bowed their heads, and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. **7** Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah,

and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law; and the people stayed in their place. 8 They read in the book, in the law of God, distinctly; and they gave the sense, so that they understood the reading. 9 Nehemiah, who was the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "Today is holy to the LORD your God. Do not mourn, nor weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. 10 Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to him for whom nothing is prepared, for today is holy to our Lord. Do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." 11 So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Hold your peace, for the day is holy. Do not be grieved." 12 All the people went their way to eat, to drink, to send portions, and to celebrate, because they had understood the words that were declared to them. 13 On the second day, the heads of fathers' households of all the people, the priests, and the Levites were gathered together to Ezra the scribe, to study the words of the law. 14 They found written in the law how the LORD had commanded by Moses that the children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the seventh month; 15 and that they should publish and proclaim in all their cities and in Jerusalem, saying, "Go out to the mountain, and get olive branches, branches of wild olive, myrtle branches, palm branches, and branches of thick trees, to make temporary shelters, as it is written." 16 So the people went out and brought them, and made themselves temporary shelters, everyone on the roof of his house, in their courts, in the courts of God's house, in the wide place of the water gate, and in the wide place of Ephraim's gate. 17 All the assembly of those who had come back out of the captivity made temporary shelters and lived in the temporary shelters, for since the days of Joshua the son of Nun to that day the children of Israel had not done so. There was very great gladness. 18 Also day by day, from the first day to the last day, he read in the book of the law of God. They kept the feast seven days; and on the eighth day was a solemn assembly, according to the ordinance.

**9** Now in the twenty-fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting,

with sackcloth, and dirt on them. 2 The offspring of Israel separated themselves from all foreigners and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. 3 They stood up in their place, and read in the book of the law of the LORD their God a fourth part of the day; and a fourth part they confessed and worshiped the LORD their God. 4 Then Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Chenani of the Levites stood up on the stairs, and cried with a loud voice to the LORD their God. 5 Then the Levites, Jeshua, and 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, which is exalted above all blessing and praise! 6 You are the LORD, even you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their army, the earth and all things that are on it, the seas and all that is in them, and you preserve them all. The army of heaven worships you. 7 You are the LORD, the God who chose Abram, brought him out of Ur of the Chaldees, gave him the name of Abraham, 8 found his heart faithful before you, and made a covenant with him to give the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite, and the Girgashite, to give it to his offspring, and have performed your words, for you are righteous. 9 "You saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, and heard their cry by the Red Sea, 10 and showed signs and wonders against Pharaoh, against all his servants, and against all the people of his land, for you knew that they dealt proudly against them, and made a name for yourself, as it is today. 11 You divided the sea before them, so that they went through the middle of the sea on the dry land; and you cast their pursuers into the depths, as a stone into the mighty waters. 12 Moreover, in a pillar of cloud you led them by day; and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light in the way in which they should go. 13 "You also came down on Mount Sinai, and spoke with them from heaven, and gave them right ordinances and true laws, good statutes and commandments, 14 and made known to them your holy Sabbath, and commanded them commandments, statutes, and a law, by Moses your servant, 15 and gave them bread from the sky for their hunger, and brought water out

of the rock for them for their thirst, and commanded them that they should go in to possess the land which you had sworn to give them. 16 "But they and our fathers behaved proudly, hardened their neck, did not listen to your commandments, 17 and refused to obey. They were not mindful of your wonders that you did among them, but hardened their neck, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage. But you are a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abundant in loving kindness, and did not forsake them. 18 Yes, when they had made themselves a molded calf, and said, 'This is your God who brought you up out of Egypt,' and had committed awful blasphemies, 19 yet you in your manifold mercies did not forsake them in the wilderness. The pillar of cloud did not depart from over them by day, to lead them in the way; neither did the pillar of fire by night, to show them light, and the way in which they should go. 20 You gave also your good Spirit to instruct them, and did not withhold your manna from their mouth, and gave them water for their thirst. 21 "Yes, forty years you sustained them in the wilderness. They lacked nothing. Their clothes did not grow old, and their feet did not swell. 22 Moreover you gave them kingdoms and peoples, which you allotted according to their portions. So they possessed the land of Sihon, even the land of the king of Heshbon, and the land of Og king of Bashan. 23 You also multiplied their children as the stars of the sky, and brought them into the land concerning which you said to their fathers that they should go in to possess it. 24 "So the children went in and possessed the land; and you subdued before them the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, and gave them into their hands, with their kings and the peoples of the land, that they might do with them as they pleased. 25 They took fortified cities and a rich land, and possessed houses full of all good things, cisterns dug out, vineyards, olive groves, and fruit trees in abundance. So they ate, were filled, became fat, and delighted themselves in your great goodness. 26 "Nevertheless they were disobedient and rebelled against you, cast your law behind their back, killed your prophets that testified against them to turn them again to you, and they committed awful blasphemies. 27 Therefore you delivered them into the hand of their adversaries, who distressed them. In the time of their trouble, when they cried to you, you heard from heaven; and according to your manifold mercies you gave them saviors who saved them out of the hands of their adversaries. 28 But after they had rest, they did evil again before you; therefore you left them in the hands of their enemies, so that they had the dominion over them; yet when they returned and cried to you, you heard from heaven; and many times you delivered them according to your mercies, 29 and testified against them, that you might bring them again to your law. Yet they were arrogant, and did not listen to your commandments, but sinned against your ordinances (which if a man does, he shall live in them), turned their backs, stiffened their neck, and would not hear. 30 Yet many years you put up with them, and testified against them by your Spirit through your prophets. Yet they would not listen. Therefore you gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands. 31 "Nevertheless in your manifold mercies you did not make a full end of them, nor forsake them; for you are a gracious and merciful God. 32 Now therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who keeps covenant and loving kindness, do not let all the travail seem little before you that has come on us, on our kings, on our princes, on our priests, on our prophets, on our fathers, and on all your people, since the time of the kings of Assyria to this day. 33 However you are just in all that has come on us; for you have dealt truly, but we have done wickedly. 34 Also our kings, our princes, our priests, and our fathers have not kept your law, nor listened to your commandments and your testimonies with which you testified against them. 35 For they have not served you in their kingdom, and in your great goodness that you gave them, and in the large and rich land which you gave before them. They did not turn from their wicked works. 36 "Behold, we are servants today, and as for the land that you gave to our fathers to eat its fruit and its good, behold, we are servants in it. 37 It yields much increase to the kings whom you have set over us because of our sins. Also they have power over our bodies and over our livestock, at their pleasure, and we are in great distress. 38 Yet for all this, we make a sure covenant,

and write it; and our princes, our Levites, and our priests, seal it.”

**10** Now those who sealed were: Nehemiah the governor, the son of Hacaliah, and 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, and Shemaiah. These were the priests. 9 The Levites: Jeshua the son of Azaniah, Binnui of the sons of Henadad, Kadmiel; 10 and their brothers, Shebaniah, Hodiah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan, 11 Mica, Rehob, Hashabiah, 12 Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah, 13 Hodiah, Bani, and Beninu. 14 The chiefs of the people: Parosh, Pahathmoab, Elam, Zattu, Bani, 15 Bunni, Azgad, Bebai, 16 Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin, 17 Ater, Hezekiah, Azzur, 18 Hodiah, Hashum, Bezai, 19 Hariph, Anathoth, Nobai, 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 Ahiah, Hanan, Anan, 27 Malluch, Harim, and Baanah. 28 The rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the temple servants, and all those who had separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to the law of God, their wives, their sons, and their daughters—everyone who had knowledge and understanding— 29 joined with their brothers, their nobles, and entered into a curse and into an oath, to walk in God's law, which was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the LORD our Lord, and his ordinances and his statutes; 30 and that we would not give our daughters to the peoples of the land, nor take their daughters for our sons; 31 and if the peoples of the land bring wares or any grain on the Sabbath day to sell, that we would not buy from them on the Sabbath, or on a holy day; and that we would forego the seventh year crops and the exaction of every debt. 32 Also we made ordinances for ourselves, to charge ourselves yearly with the third part of a shekel for the service of the house of our God: 33 for the show bread, for the continual meal offering, for the continual burnt offering, for the Sabbaths, for the new moons, for the set feasts, for the holy things, for the sin offerings to make

atonement for Israel, and for all the work of the house of our God. 34 We, the priests, the Levites, and the people, cast lots for the wood offering, to bring it into the house of our God, according to our fathers' houses, at times appointed year by year, to burn on the LORD our God's altar, as it is written in the law; 35 and to bring the first fruits of our ground and the first fruits of all fruit of all kinds of trees, year by year, to the LORD's house; 36 also the firstborn of our sons and of our livestock, as it is written in the law, and the firstborn of our herds and of our flocks, to bring to the house of our God, to the priests who minister in the house of our God; 37 and that we should bring the first fruits of our dough, our wave offerings, the fruit of all kinds of trees, and the new wine and the oil, to the priests, to the rooms of the house of our God; and the tithes of our ground to the Levites; for they, the Levites, take the tithes in all our farming villages. 38 The priest, the descendent of Aaron, shall be with the Levites when the Levites take tithes. The Levites shall bring up the tithe of the tithes to the house of our God, to the rooms, into the treasure house. 39 For the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the wave offering of the grain, of the new wine, and of the oil, to the rooms where the vessels of the sanctuary are, and the priests who minister, with the gatekeepers and the singers. We will not forsake the house of our God.

**11** The princes of the people lived in Jerusalem. The rest of the people also cast lots to bring one of ten to dwell in Jerusalem, the holy city, and nine parts in the other cities. 2 The people blessed all the men who willingly offered themselves to dwell in Jerusalem. 3 Now these are the chiefs of the province who lived in Jerusalem; but in the cities of Judah, everyone lived in his possession in their cities—Israel, the priests, the Levites, the temple servants, and the children of Solomon's servants. 4 Some of the children of Judah and of the children of Benjamin lived in Jerusalem. Of the children of Judah: Athaiah the son of Uziah, the son of Zechariah, the son of Amariah, the son of Shephatiah, the son of Mahalalel, of the children of Perez; 5 and Maaseiah the son of Baruch, the son of Colhozeh, the son of Hazaiah, the son of Adaiah, the son of Joiarib, the son of Zechariah, the son of the Shilonite. 6 All the sons of



Perez who lived in Jerusalem were four hundred sixty-eight valiant men. 7 These are the sons of Benjamin: Sallu the son of Meshullam, the son of Joed, the son of Pedaiiah, the son of Kolaiah, the son of Maaseiah, the son of Ithiel, the son of Jeshaiiah. 8 After him Gabbai and Sallai, nine hundred twenty-eight. 9 Joel the son of Zichri was their overseer; and Judah the son of Hassenuah was second over the city. 10 Of the priests: Jedaiah the son of Joiarib, Jachin, 11 Seraiah the son of Hilkiyah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, the ruler of God's house, 12 and their brothers who did the work of the house, eight hundred twenty-two; and Adaiah the 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 brothers, chiefs of fathers' households, two hundred forty-two; and Amashsai the son of Azarel, the son of Ahzai, the son of Meshillemoth, the son of Immer, 14 and their brothers, mighty men of valor, one hundred twenty-eight; and their overseer was Zabdiel, the son of Haggadolim. 15 Of the Levites: Shemaiah the son of Hasshub, the son of Azrikam, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Bunni; 16 and Shabbethai and Jozabad, of the chiefs of the Levites, who had the oversight of the outward business of God's house; 17 and Mattaniah the son of Mica, the son of Zabdi, the son of Asaph, who was the chief to begin the thanksgiving in prayer, and Bakbukiah, the second among his brothers; and Abda the son of Shammua, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun. 18 All the Levites in the holy city were two hundred eighty-four. 19 Moreover the gatekeepers, Akkub, Talmon, and their brothers, who kept watch at the gates, were one hundred seventy-two. 20 The residue of Israel, of the priests, and the Levites were in all the cities of Judah, everyone in his inheritance. 21 But the temple servants lived in Ophel; and Ziha and Gishpa were over the temple servants. 22 The overseer also of the Levites at Jerusalem was Uzzi the son of Bani, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Mica, of the sons of Asaph, the singers responsible for the service of God's house. 23 For there was a commandment from the king concerning them, and a settled provision for the singers, as every day required. 24 Pethahiah the son of Meshezabel, of the children of Zerach the son of Judah, was at the king's hand in all matters concerning the people. 25 As for the villages with their fields, some of the children of Judah lived in Kiriath Arba and its towns, in Dibon and its towns, in Jekabzeel and its villages, 26 in Jeshua, in Moladah, Beth Pelet, 27 in Hazar Shual, in Beersheba and its towns, 28 in Ziklag, in Meconah and in its towns, 29 in En Rimmon, in Zorah, in Jarmuth, 30 Zanoah, Adullam, and their villages, Lachish and its fields, and Azekah and its towns. So they encamped from Beersheba to the valley of Hinnom. 31 The children of Benjamin also lived from Geba onward, at Michmash and Aija, and at Bethel and its towns, 32 at Anathoth, Nob, Ananiah, 33 Hazor, Ramah, Gittaim, 34 Hadid, Zeboim, Neballat, 35 Lod, and Ono, the valley of craftsmen. 36 Of the Levites, certain divisions in Judah settled in Benjamin's territory.

**12** Now these are the priests and the Levites who went up with Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua: Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra, 2 Amariah, Malluch, Hattush, 3 Shecaniah, Rehum, Meremoth, 4 Iddo, Ginnethoi, Abijah, 5 Mijamin, Maadiah, Bilgah, 6 Shemaiah, Joiarib, Jedaiah, 7 Sallu, Amok, Hilkiyah, and Jedaiah. These were the chiefs of the priests and of their brothers in the days of Jeshua. 8 Moreover the Levites were Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and Mattaniah, who was over the thanksgiving songs, he and his brothers. 9 Also Bakbukiah and Unno, their brothers, were close to them according to their offices. 10 Jeshua became the father of Joiakim, and Joiakim became the father of Eliashib, and Eliashib became the father of Joiada, 11 and Joiada became the father of Jonathan, and Jonathan became the father of Jaddua. 12 In the days of Joiakim were priests, heads of fathers' households: of Seraiah, Meraiah; of Jeremiah, Hananiah; 13 of Ezra, Meshullam; of Amariah, Jehohanan; 14 of Malluchi, Jonathan; of Shebaniah, Joseph; 15 of Harim, Adna; of Meraioth, Helkai; 16 of Iddo, Zechariah; of Ginnethon, Meshullam; 17 of Abijah, Zichri; of Miniamin, of Moadiah, Piltai; 18 of Bilgah, Shammua; of Shemaiah, Jehonathan; 19 of Joiarib, Mattenai; of Jedaiah, Uzzi; 20 of Sallai, Kallai; of Amok, Eber; 21 of Hilkiyah, Hashabiah; of Jedaiah, Nethanel. 22 As for the Levites, in the days of Eliashib, Joiada, Johanan, and Jaddua, there were recorded

the heads of fathers' households; also the priests, in the reign of Darius the Persian. **23** The sons of Levi, heads of fathers' households, were written in the book of the chronicles, even until the days of Johanan the son of Eliashib. **24** The chiefs of the Levites: Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua the son of Kadmiel, with their brothers close to them, to praise and give thanks according to the commandment of David the man of God, section next to section. **25** Mattaniah, Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon, and Akkub were gatekeepers keeping the watch at the storehouses of the gates. **26** These were in the days of Joiakim the son of Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, and in the days of Nehemiah the governor, and of Ezra the priest and scribe. **27** At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, they sought the Levites out of all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to keep the dedication with gladness, both with giving thanks and with singing, with cymbals, stringed instruments, and with harps. **28** The sons of the singers gathered themselves together, both out of the plain around Jerusalem and from the villages of the Netophathites; **29** also from Beth Gilgal and out of the fields of Geba and Azmaveth, for the singers had built themselves villages around Jerusalem. **30** The priests and the Levites purified themselves; and they purified the people, the gates, and the wall. **31** Then I brought the princes of Judah up on the wall, and appointed two great companies who gave thanks and went in procession. One went on the right hand on the wall toward the dung gate; **32** and after them went Hoshaiiah, with half of the princes of Judah, **33** and Azariah, Ezra, and Meshullam, **34** Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, Jeremiah, **35** and some of the priests' sons with trumpets: Zechariah the son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Micaiah, the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph; **36** and his brothers, Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah, and Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God; and Ezra the scribe was before them. **37** By the spring gate, and straight before them, they went up by the stairs of David's city, at the ascent of the wall, above David's house, even to the water gate eastward. **38** The other company of those who gave thanks went to meet them, and I after them, with the half of the people

on the wall above the tower of the furnaces, even to the wide wall, **39** and above the gate of Ephraim, and by the old gate, and by the fish gate, the tower of Hananel, and the tower of Hammeah, even to the sheep gate; and they stood still in the gate of the guard. **40** So the two companies of those who gave thanks in God's house stood, and I and the half of the rulers with me; **41** and the priests, Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Micaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah, with trumpets; **42** and Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malchijah, Elam, and Ezer. The singers sang loud, with Jezrahiah their overseer. **43** They offered great sacrifices that day, and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; and the women and the children also rejoiced, so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard even far away. **44** On that day, men were appointed over the rooms for the treasures, for the wave offerings, for the first fruits, and for the tithes, to gather into them according to the fields of the cities the portions appointed by the law for the priests and Levites; for Judah rejoiced for the priests and for the Levites who served. **45** They performed the duty of their God and the duty of the purification, and so did the singers and the gatekeepers, according to the commandment of David and of Solomon his son. **46** For in the days of David and Asaph of old there was a chief of the singers, and songs of praise and thanksgiving to God. **47** All Israel in the days of Zerubbabel and in the days of Nehemiah gave the portions of the singers and the gatekeepers, as every day required; and they set apart that which was for the Levites; and the Levites set apart that which was for the sons of Aaron.

**13** On that day they read in the book of Moses in the hearing of the people; and it was found written in it that an Ammonite and a Moabite should not enter into the assembly of God forever, **2** because they did not meet the children of Israel with bread and with water, but hired Balaam against them to curse them; however, our God turned the curse into a blessing. **3** It came to pass, when they had heard the law, that they separated all the mixed multitude from Israel. **4** Now before this, Eliashib the priest, who was appointed over the rooms of the house of our God, being allied to Tobiah, **5** had prepared for him a great room, where before they laid the meal offerings,

the frankincense, the vessels, and the tithes of the grain, the new wine, and the oil, which were given by commandment to the Levites, the singers, and the gatekeepers; and the wave offerings for the priests. **6** But in all this, I was not at Jerusalem; for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I went to the king; **7** and after some days I asked leave of the king, and I came to Jerusalem, and understood the evil that Eliashib had done for Tobiah, in preparing him a room in the courts of God's house. **8** It grieved me severely. Therefore I threw all Tobiah's household stuff out of the room. **9** Then I commanded, and they cleansed the rooms. I brought into them the vessels of God's house, with the meal offerings and the frankincense again. **10** I perceived that the portions of the Levites had not been given them, so that the Levites and the singers, who did the work, had each fled to his field. **11** Then I contended with the rulers, and said, "Why is God's house forsaken?" I gathered them together, and set them in their place. **12** Then all Judah brought the tithe of the grain, the new wine, and the oil to the treasuries. **13** I made treasurers over the treasuries, Shelemiah the priest, and Zadok the scribe, and of the Levites, Pedaiah: and next to them was Hanan the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah; for they were counted faithful, and their business was to distribute to their brothers. **14** Remember me, my God, concerning this, and do not wipe out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God, and for its observances. **15** In those days I saw some men treading wine presses on the Sabbath in Judah, bringing in sheaves, and loading donkeys with wine, grapes, figs, and all kinds of burdens which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day; and I testified against them in the day in which they sold food. **16** Some men of Tyre also lived there, who brought in fish and all kinds of wares, and sold on the Sabbath to the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem. **17** Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said to them, "What evil thing is this that you do, and profane the Sabbath day? **18** Did not your fathers do this, and did not our God bring all this evil on us and on this city? Yet you bring more wrath on Israel by profaning the Sabbath." **19** It came to pass that when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the Sabbath, I commanded that the doors should be shut, and commanded that they should not be opened until after the Sabbath. I set some of my servants over the gates, so that no burden should be brought in on the Sabbath day. **20** So the merchants and sellers of all kinds of wares camped outside of Jerusalem once or twice. **21** Then I testified against them, and said to them, "Why do you stay around the wall? If you do so again, I will lay hands on you." From that time on, they did not come on the Sabbath. **22** I commanded the Levites that they should purify themselves, and that they should come and keep the gates, to sanctify the Sabbath day. Remember me for this also, my God, and spare me according to the greatness of your loving kindness. **23** In those days I also saw the Jews who had married women of Ashdod, of Ammon, and of Moab; **24** and their children spoke half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews' language, but according to the language of each people. **25** I contended with them, cursed them, struck certain of them, plucked off their hair, and made them swear by God, "You shall not give your daughters to their sons, nor take their daughters for your sons, or for yourselves. **26** Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? Yet among many nations there was no king like him, and he was loved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless foreign women caused even him to sin. **27** Shall we then listen to you to do all this great evil, to trespass against our God in marrying foreign women?" **28** One of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was son-in-law to Sanballat the Horonite; therefore I chased him from me. **29** Remember them, my God, because they have defiled the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood and of the Levites. **30** Thus I cleansed them from all foreigners and appointed duties for the priests and for the Levites, everyone in his work; **31** and for the wood offering, at appointed times, and for the first fruits. Remember me, my God, for good.

# Esther

**1** Now in the days of Ahasuerus (this is Ahasuerus who reigned from India even to Ethiopia, over one hundred twenty-seven provinces), **2** in those days, when the King Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Susa the palace, **3** in the third year of his reign, he made a feast for all his princes and his servants; the army of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces being before him. **4** He displayed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honor of his excellent majesty many days, even one hundred eighty days. **5** When these days were fulfilled, the king made a seven day feast for all the people who were present in Susa the palace, both great and small, in the court of the garden of the king's palace. **6** There were hangings of white and blue material, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and marble pillars. The couches were of gold and silver, on a pavement of red, white, yellow, and black marble. **7** They gave them drinks in golden vessels of various kinds, including royal wine in abundance, according to the bounty of the king. **8** In accordance with the law, the drinking was not compulsory; for so the king had instructed all the officials of his house, that they should do according to every man's pleasure. **9** Also Vashti the queen made a feast for the women in the royal house which belonged to King Ahasuerus. **10** On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcass, the seven eunuchs who served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king, **11** to bring Vashti the queen before the king wearing the royal crown, to show the people and the princes her beauty; for she was beautiful. **12** But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by the eunuchs. Therefore the king was very angry, and his anger burned in him. **13** Then the king said to the wise men, who knew the times (for it was the king's custom to consult those who knew law and judgment; **14** and next to him were Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, who saw the king's face, and sat first in the kingdom), **15** "What shall we do to Queen Vashti according to law, because

she has not done the bidding of the King Ahasuerus by the eunuchs?" **16** Memucan answered before the king and the princes, "Vashti the queen has not done wrong to just the king, but also to all the princes, and to all the people who are in all the provinces of the King Ahasuerus. **17** For this deed of the queen will become known to all women, causing them to show contempt for their husbands when it is reported, 'King Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, but she did not come.' **18** Today, the princesses of Persia and Media who have heard of the queen's deed will tell all the king's princes. This will cause much contempt and wrath. **19** "If it pleases the king, let a royal commandment go from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, so that it cannot be altered, that Vashti may never again come before King Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal estate to another who is better than she. **20** When the king's decree which he shall make is published throughout all his kingdom (for it is great), all the wives will give their husbands honor, both great and small." **21** This advice pleased the king and the princes, and the king did according to the word of Memucan: **22** for he sent letters into all the king's provinces, into every province according to its writing, and to every people in their language, that every man should rule his own house, speaking in the language of his own people.

**2** After these things, when the wrath of King Ahasuerus was pacified, he remembered Vashti, and what she had done, and what was decreed against her. **2** Then the king's servants who served him said, "Let beautiful young virgins be sought for the king. **3** Let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the beautiful young virgins to the citadel of Susa, to the women's house, to the custody of Hegai the king's eunuch, keeper of the women. Let cosmetics be given them; **4** and let the maiden who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti." The thing pleased the king, and he did so. **5** There was a certain Jew in the citadel of Susa whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite, **6** who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captives who had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom

Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away. 7 He brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter; for she had neither father nor mother. The maiden was fair and beautiful; and when her father and mother were dead, Mordecai took her for his own daughter. 8 So, when the king's commandment and his decree was heard, and when many maidens were gathered together to the citadel of Susa, to the custody of Hegai, Esther was taken into the king's house, to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women. 9 The maiden pleased him, and she obtained kindness from him. He quickly gave her cosmetics and her portions of food, and the seven choice maidens who were to be given her out of the king's house. He moved her and her maidens to the best place in the women's house. 10 Esther had not made known her people nor her relatives, because Mordecai had instructed her that she should not make it known. 11 Mordecai walked every day in front of the court of the women's house, to find out how Esther was doing, and what would become of her. 12 Each young woman's turn came to go in to King Ahasuerus after her purification for twelve months (for so were the days of their purification accomplished, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet fragrances and with preparations for beautifying women). 13 The young woman then came to the king like this: whatever she desired was given her to go with her out of the women's house to the king's house. 14 In the evening she went, and on the next day she returned into the second women's house, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch, who kept the concubines. She came in to the king no more, unless the king delighted in her, and she was called by name. 15 Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, came to go in to the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's eunuch, the keeper of the women, advised. Esther obtained favor in the sight of all those who looked at her. 16 So Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus into his royal house in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign. 17 The king loved Esther more than all the women, and she obtained favor and kindness in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown on her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti. 18 Then the king made a great feast for all his princes and his servants, even Esther's feast; and he proclaimed a holiday in the provinces, and gave gifts according to the king's bounty. 19 When the virgins were gathered together the second time, Mordecai was sitting in the king's gate. 20 Esther had not yet made known her relatives nor her people, as Mordecai had commanded her; for Esther obeyed Mordecai, like she did when she was brought up by him. 21 In those days, while Mordecai was sitting in the king's gate, two of the king's eunuchs, Bigthan and Teresh, who were doorkeepers, were angry, and sought to lay hands on the King Ahasuerus. 22 This thing became known to Mordecai, who informed Esther the queen; and Esther informed the king in Mordecai's name. 23 When this matter was investigated, and it was found to be so, they were both hanged on a gallows; and it was written in the book of the chronicles in the king's presence.

**3** After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes who were with him. 2 All the king's servants who were in the king's gate bowed down and paid homage to Haman, for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai did not bow down or pay him homage. 3 Then the king's servants who were in the king's gate said to Mordecai, "Why do you disobey the king's commandment?" 4 Now it came to pass, when they spoke daily to him, and he did not listen to them, that they told Haman, to see whether Mordecai's reason would stand; for he had told them that he was a Jew. 5 When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow down nor pay him homage, Haman was full of wrath. 6 But he scorned the thought of laying hands on Mordecai alone, for they had made known to him Mordecai's people. Therefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even Mordecai's people. 7 In the first month, which is the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that is, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, and chose the twelfth month, which is the month Adar. 8 Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered abroad and

dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom, and their laws are different from other people's. They do not keep the king's laws. Therefore it is not for the king's profit to allow them to remain. 9 If it pleases the king, let it be written that they be destroyed; and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who are in charge of the king's business, to bring it into the king's treasuries." 10 The king took his ring from his hand, and gave it to Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy. 11 The king said to Haman, "The silver is given to you, the people also, to do with them as it seems good to you." 12 Then the king's scribes were called in on the first month, on the thirteenth day of the month; and all that Haman commanded was written to the king's local governors, and to the governors who were over every province, and to the princes of every people, to every province according to its writing, and to every people in their language. It was written in the name of King Ahasuerus, and it was sealed with the king's ring. 13 Letters were sent by couriers into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to plunder their possessions. 14 A copy of the letter, that the decree should be given out in every province, was published to all the peoples, that they should be ready against that day. 15 The couriers went out in haste by the king's commandment, and the decree was given out in the citadel of Susa. The king and Haman sat down to drink; but the city of Susa was perplexed.

**4** Now when Mordecai found out all that was done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the middle of the city, and wailed loudly and bitterly. 2 He came even before the king's gate, for no one is allowed inside the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. 3 In every province, wherever the king's commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes. 4 Esther's maidens and her eunuchs came and told her this, and the queen was exceedingly grieved. She sent clothing to Mordecai, to replace his sackcloth, but he did not

receive it. 5 Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs, whom he had appointed to attend her, and commanded him to go to Mordecai, to find out what this was, and why it was. 6 So Hathach went out to Mordecai, to the city square which was before the king's gate. 7 Mordecai told him of all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of the money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. 8 He also gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given out in Susa to destroy them, to show it to Esther, and to declare it to her, and to urge her to go in to the king to make supplication to him, and to make request before him for her people. 9 Hathach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai. 10 Then Esther spoke to Hathach, and gave him a message to Mordecai: 11 "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that whoever, whether man or woman, comes to the king into the inner court without being called, there is one law for him, that he be put to death, except those to whom the king might hold out the golden scepter, that he may live. I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days." 12 They told Esther's words to Mordecai. 13 Then Mordecai asked them to return this answer to Esther: "Do not think to yourself that you will escape in the king's house any more than all the Jews. 14 For if you remain silent now, then relief and deliverance will come to the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Who knows if you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" 15 Then Esther asked them to answer Mordecai, 16 "Go, gather together all the Jews who are present in Susa, and fast for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day. I and my maidens will also fast the same way. Then I will go in to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish." 17 So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.

**5** Now on the third day, Esther put on her royal clothing and stood in the inner court of the king's house, next to the king's house. The king sat on his royal throne in the royal house, next to the entrance of the house. 2 When the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, she obtained favor in his sight; and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that

was in his hand. So Esther came near and touched the top of the scepter. **3** Then the king asked her, "What would you like, queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given you even to the half of the kingdom." **4** Esther said, "If it seems good to the king, let the king and Haman come today to the banquet that I have prepared for him." **5** Then the king said, "Bring Haman quickly, so that it may be done as Esther has said." So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared. **6** The king said to Esther at the banquet of wine, "What is your petition? It shall be granted you. What is your request? Even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed." **7** Then Esther answered and said, "My petition and my request is this. **8** If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I will prepare for them, and I will do tomorrow as the king has said." **9** Then Haman went out that day joyful and glad of heart, but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he did not stand up nor move for him, he was filled with wrath against Mordecai. **10** Nevertheless Haman restrained himself, and went home. There, he sent and called for his friends and Zeresh his wife. **11** Haman recounted to them the glory of his riches, the multitude of his children, all the things in which the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king. **12** Haman also said, "Yes, Esther the queen let no man come in with the king to the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and tomorrow I am also invited by her together with the king. **13** Yet all this avails me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate." **14** Then Zeresh his wife and all his friends said to him, "Let a gallows be made fifty cubits high, and in the morning speak to the king about hanging Mordecai on it. Then go in merrily with the king to the banquet." This pleased Haman, so he had the gallows made.

**6** On that night, the king could not sleep. He commanded the book of records of the chronicles to be brought, and they were read to the king. **2** It was found written that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, who were doorkeepers, who had tried to lay hands on the King

Ahasuerus. **3** The king said, "What honor and dignity has been given to Mordecai for this?" Then the king's servants who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him." **4** The king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had come into the outer court of the king's house, to speak to the king about hanging Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him. **5** The king's servants said to him, "Behold, Haman stands in the court." The king said, "Let him come in." **6** So Haman came in. The king said to him, "What shall be done to the man whom the king delights to honor?" Now Haman said in his heart, "Who would the king delight to honor more than myself?" **7** Haman said to the king, "For the man whom the king delights to honor, **8** let royal clothing be brought which the king uses to wear, and the horse that the king rides on, and on the head of which a royal crown is set. **9** Let the clothing and the horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man whom the king delights to honor with them, and have him ride on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him, 'Thus it shall be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!'" **10** Then the king said to Haman, "Hurry and take the clothing and the horse, as you have said, and do this for Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king's gate. Let nothing fail of all that you have spoken." **11** Then Haman took the clothing and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and had him ride through the city square, and proclaimed before him, "Thus it shall be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!" **12** Mordecai came back to the king's gate, but Haman hurried to his house, mourning and having his head covered. **13** Haman recounted to Zeresh his wife and all his friends everything that had happened to him. Then his wise men and Zeresh his wife said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish descent, you will not prevail against him, but you will surely fall before him." **14** While they were yet talking with him, the king's eunuchs came, and hurried to bring Haman to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

**7** So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen. **2** The king said again to Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, "What

is your petition, queen Esther? It shall be granted you. What is your request? Even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed.” 3 Then Esther the queen answered, “If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request. 4 For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for male and female slaves, I would have held my peace, although the adversary could not have compensated for the king’s loss.” 5 Then King Ahasuerus said to Esther the queen, “Who is he, and where is he who dared presume in his heart to do so?” 6 Esther said, “An adversary and an enemy, even this wicked Haman!” Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen. 7 The king arose in his wrath from the banquet of wine and went into the palace garden. Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen, for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king. 8 Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman had fallen on the couch where Esther was. Then the king said, “Will he even assault the queen in front of me in the house?” As the word went out of the king’s mouth, they covered Haman’s face. 9 Then Harbonah, one of the eunuchs who were with the king, said, “Behold, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman has made for Mordecai, who spoke good for the king, is standing at Haman’s house.” The king said, “Hang him on it!” 10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king’s wrath was pacified.

**8** On that day, King Ahasuerus gave the house of Haman, the Jews’ enemy, to Esther the queen. Mordecai came before the king; for Esther had told what he was to her. 2 The king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman. 3 Esther spoke yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet and begged him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, and his plan that he had planned against the Jews. 4 Then the king held out to Esther the golden scepter. So Esther arose, and stood before the king. 5 She said, “If it pleases the king, and if I have found favor in his sight, and the

thing seems right to the king, and I am pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews who are in all the king’s provinces. 6 For how can I endure to see the evil that would come to my people? How can I endure to see the destruction of my relatives?” 7 Then King Ahasuerus said to Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, “See, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and they have hanged him on the gallows because he laid his hand on the Jews. 8 Write also to the Jews as it pleases you, in the king’s name, and seal it with the king’s ring; for the writing which is written in the king’s name, and sealed with the king’s ring, may not be reversed by any man.” 9 Then the king’s scribes were called at that time, in the third month, which is the month Sivan, on the twenty-third day of the month; and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded to the Jews, and to the local governors, and the governors and princes of the provinces which are from India to Ethiopia, one hundred twenty-seven provinces, to every province according to its writing, and to every people in their language, and to the Jews in their writing, and in their language. 10 He wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus, and sealed it with the king’s ring, and sent letters by courier on horseback, riding on royal horses that were bred from swift steeds. 11 In those letters, the king granted the Jews who were in every city to gather themselves together and to defend their lives—to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish all the power of the people and province that would assault them, their little ones and women, and to plunder their possessions, 12 on one day in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar. 13 A copy of the letter, that the decree should be given out in every province, was published to all the peoples, that the Jews should be ready for that day to avenge themselves on their enemies. 14 So the couriers who rode on royal horses went out, hastened and pressed on by the king’s commandment. The decree was given out in the citadel of Susa. 15 Mordecai went out of the presence of the king in royal clothing of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a robe of fine linen and purple; and the city of



Susa shouted and was glad. **16** The Jews had light, gladness, joy, and honor. **17** In every province and in every city, wherever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had gladness, joy, a feast and a holiday. Many from among the peoples of the land became Jews, for the fear of the Jews had fallen on them.

**9** Now in the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, on the thirteenth day of the month, when the king's commandment and his decree came near to be put in execution, on the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to conquer them, (but it turned out that the opposite happened, that the Jews conquered those who hated them), **2** the Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of the King Ahasuerus, to lay hands on those who wanted to harm them. No one could withstand them, because the fear of them had fallen on all the people. **3** All the princes of the provinces, the local governors, the governors, and those who did the king's business helped the Jews, because the fear of Mordecai had fallen on them. **4** For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame went out throughout all the provinces, for the man Mordecai grew greater and greater. **5** The Jews struck all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, and with slaughter and destruction, and did what they wanted to those who hated them. **6** In the citadel of Susa, the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men. **7** They killed Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha, **8** Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha, **9** Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai, and Vaizatha, **10** the ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Jews' enemy, but they did not lay their hand on the plunder. **11** On that day, the number of those who were slain in the citadel of Susa was brought before the king. **12** The king said to Esther the queen, "The Jews have slain and destroyed five hundred men in the citadel of Susa, including the ten sons of Haman; what then have they done in the rest of the king's provinces! Now what is your petition? It shall be granted you. What is your further request? It shall be done." **13** Then Esther said, "If it pleases the king, let it be granted to the Jews who are in Susa to do tomorrow also according to today's decree, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged on the gallows." **14** The king commanded this to be done. A decree

was given out in Susa; and they hanged Haman's ten sons. **15** The Jews who were in Susa gathered themselves together on the fourteenth day also of the month Adar, and killed three hundred men in Susa; but they did not lay their hand on the plunder. **16** The other Jews who were in the king's provinces gathered themselves together, defended their lives, had rest from their enemies, and killed seventy-five thousand of those who hated them; but they did not lay their hand on the plunder. **17** This was done on the thirteenth day of the month Adar; and on the fourteenth day of that month they rested and made it a day of feasting and gladness. **18** But the Jews who were in Susa assembled together on the thirteenth and on the fourteenth days of the month; and on the fifteenth day of that month, they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness. **19** Therefore the Jews of the villages, who live in the unwalled towns, make the fourteenth day of the month Adar a day of gladness and feasting, a holiday, and a day of sending presents of food to one another. **20** Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of the King Ahasuerus, both near and far, **21** to enjoin them that they should keep the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month Adar yearly, **22** as the days in which the Jews had rest from their enemies, and the month which was turned to them from sorrow to gladness, and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, and of sending presents of food to one another, and gifts to the needy. **23** The Jews accepted the custom that they had begun, as Mordecai had written to them, **24** because Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast "Pur", that is the lot, to consume them and to destroy them; **25** but when this became known to the king, he commanded by letters that his wicked plan, which he had planned against the Jews, should return on his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows. **26** Therefore they called these days "Purim", from the word "Pur." Therefore because of all the words of this letter, and of that which they had seen concerning this matter, and that which had come to them, **27** the Jews established and imposed on themselves,

on their descendants, and on all those who joined themselves to them, so that it should not fail that they would keep these two days according to what was written and according to its appointed time every year; **28** and that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city; and that these days of Purim should not fail from among the Jews, nor their memory perish from their offspring. **29** Then Esther the queen, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai the Jew wrote with all authority to confirm this second letter of Purim. **30** He sent letters to all the Jews in the hundred twenty-seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus with words of peace and truth, **31** to confirm these days of Purim in their appointed times, as Mordecai the Jew and Esther the queen had decreed, and as they had imposed upon themselves and their descendants in the matter of the fastings and their mourning. **32** The commandment of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim; and it was written in the book.

**10** King Ahasuerus laid a tribute on the land and on the islands of the sea. **2** Are not all the acts of his power and of his might, and the full account of the greatness of Mordecai, to which the king advanced him, written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia? **3** For Mordecai the Jew was next to King Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews and accepted by the multitude of his brothers, seeking the good of his people and speaking peace to all his descendants.

# Psalms

**1** Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand on the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers; **2** but his delight is in the LORD's law. On his law he meditates day and night. **3** He will be like a tree planted by the streams of water, that produces its fruit in its season, whose leaf also does not wither. Whatever he does shall prosper. **4** The wicked are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind drives away. **5** Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. **6** For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall perish.

**2** Why do the nations rage, and the peoples plot a vain thing? **2** The kings of the earth take a stand, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his Anointed, saying, **3** "Let's break their bonds apart, and cast their cords from us." **4** He who sits in the heavens will laugh. The Lord will have them in derision. **5** Then he will speak to them in his anger, and terrify them in his wrath: **6** "Yet I have set my King on my holy hill of Zion." **7** I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my son. Today I have become your father. **8** Ask of me, and I will give the nations for your inheritance, the uttermost parts of the earth for your possession. **9** You shall break them with a rod of iron. You shall dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." **10** Now therefore be wise, you kings. Be instructed, you judges of the earth. **11** Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. **12** Give sincere homage to the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish on the way, for his wrath will soon be kindled. Blessed are all those who take refuge in him.

**3** A Psalm by David, when he fled from Absalom his son. LORD, how my adversaries have increased! Many are those who rise up against me. **2** Many there are who say of my soul, "There is no help for him in God." (Selah) **3** But you, LORD, are a shield around me, my glory, and the one who lifts up my head. **4** I cry to the LORD with my voice, and he answers me out of his holy hill. (Selah) **5** I laid myself down and slept. I awakened, for the LORD sustains me. **6** I will

not be afraid of tens of thousands of people who have set themselves against me on every side. **7** Arise, LORD! Save me, my God! For you have struck all of my enemies on the cheek bone. You have broken the teeth of the wicked. **8** Salvation belongs to the LORD. May your blessing be on your people. (Selah)

**4** For the Chief Musician; on stringed instruments. A Psalm by David. Answer me when I call, God of my righteousness. Give me relief from my distress. Have mercy on me, and hear my prayer. **2** You sons of men, how long shall my glory be turned into dishonor? Will you love vanity and seek after falsehood? (Selah) **3** But know that the LORD has set apart for himself him who is godly; The LORD will hear when I call to him. **4** Stand in awe, and do not sin. Search your own heart on your bed, and be still. (Selah) **5** Offer the sacrifices of righteousness. Put your trust in the LORD. **6** Many say, "Who will show us any good?" LORD, let the light of your face shine on us. **7** You have put gladness in my heart, more than when their grain and their new wine are increased. **8** In peace I will both lay myself down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me live in safety.

**5** For the Chief Musician, with the flutes. A Psalm by David. Give ear to my words, LORD. Consider my (meditation) **2** Listen to the voice of my cry, my King and my God, for I pray to you. **3** LORD, in the morning you will hear my voice. In the morning I will lay my requests before you, and will watch expectantly. **4** For you are not a God who has pleasure in wickedness. Evil cannot live with you. **5** The arrogant will not stand in your sight. You hate all workers of iniquity. **6** You will destroy those who speak lies. The LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man. **7** But as for me, in the abundance of your loving kindness I will come into your house. I will bow toward your holy temple in reverence of you. **8** Lead me, LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies. Make your way straight before my face. **9** For there is no faithfulness in their mouth. Their heart is destruction. Their throat is an open tomb. They flatter with their tongue. **10** Hold them guilty, God. Let them fall by their own counsels. Thrust them out in the multitude of their transgressions, for they have rebelled against you. **11** But let all those who take refuge in you rejoice.

Let them always shout for joy, because you defend them. Let them also who love your name be joyful in you. **12** For you will bless the righteous. LORD, you will surround him with favor as with a shield.

**6** For the Chief Musician; on stringed instruments, upon the eight-stringed lyre. A Psalm by David. LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger, neither discipline me in your wrath. **2** Have mercy on me, LORD, for I am faint. LORD, heal me, for my bones are troubled. **3** My soul is also in great anguish. But you, LORD—how long? **4** Return, LORD. Deliver my soul, and save me for your loving kindness' sake.

**5** For in death there is no memory of you. In Sheol (Sheol **h7585**), who shall give you thanks? **6** I am weary with my groaning. Every night I flood my bed. I drench my couch with my tears. **7** My eye wastes away because of grief. It grows old because of all my adversaries. **8** Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity, for the LORD has heard the voice of my weeping. **9** The LORD has heard my supplication. The LORD accepts my prayer. **10** May all my enemies be ashamed and dismayed. They shall turn back, they shall be disgraced suddenly.

**7** A meditation by David, which he sang to the LORD, concerning the words of Cush, the Benjamite. LORD, my God, I take refuge in you. Save me from all those who pursue me, and deliver me, **2** lest they tear apart my soul like a lion, ripping it in pieces, while there is no one to deliver. **3** LORD, my God, if I have done this, if there is iniquity in my hands, **4** if I have rewarded evil to him who was at peace with me (yes, I have plundered him who without cause was my adversary), **5** let the enemy pursue my soul, and overtake it; yes, let him tread my life down to the earth, and lay my glory in the dust. (Selah) **6** Arise, LORD, in your anger. Lift up yourself against the rage of my adversaries. Awake for me. You have commanded judgment. **7** Let the congregation of the peoples surround you. Rule over them on high. **8** The LORD administers judgment to the peoples. Judge me, LORD, according to my righteousness, and to my integrity that is in me. **9** Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, but establish the righteous; their minds and hearts are searched by the righteous God. **10** My shield is with God, who saves the upright

in heart. **11** God is a righteous judge, yes, a God who has indignation every day. **12** If a man does not repent, he will sharpen his sword; he has bent and strung his bow. **13** He has also prepared for himself the instruments of death. He makes ready his flaming arrows. **14** Behold, he travails with iniquity. Yes, he has conceived mischief, and brought out falsehood. **15** He has dug a hole, and has fallen into the pit which he made. **16** The trouble he causes shall return to his own head. His violence shall come down on the crown of his own head. **17** I will give thanks to the LORD according to his righteousness, and will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.

**8** For the Chief Musician; on an instrument of Gath. A Psalm by David. LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens! **2** From the lips of babes and infants you have established strength, because of your adversaries, that you might silence the enemy and the avenger. **3** When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have ordained, **4** what is man, that you think of him? What is the son of man, that you care for him? **5** For you have made him a little lower than the angels, and crowned him with glory and honor. **6** You make him ruler over the works of your hands. You have put all things under his feet: **7** All sheep and cattle, yes, and the animals of the field, **8** the birds of the sky, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes through the paths of the seas. **9** LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**9** For the Chief Musician. Set to "The Death of the Son." A Psalm by David. I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart. I will tell of all your marvelous works. **2** I will be glad and rejoice in you. I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. **3** When my enemies turn back, they stumble and perish in your presence. **4** For you have maintained my just cause. You sit on the throne judging righteously. **5** You have rebuked the nations. You have destroyed the wicked. You have blotted out their name forever and ever. **6** The enemy is overtaken by endless ruin. The very memory of the cities which you have overthrown has perished. **7** But the LORD reigns forever. He has prepared his throne for judgment. **8** He will judge the

world in righteousness. He will administer judgment to the peoples in uprightness. **9** The LORD will also be a high tower for the oppressed; a high tower in times of trouble. **10** Those who know your name will put their trust in you, for you, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you. **11** Sing praises to the LORD, who dwells in Zion, and declare among the people what he has done. **12** For he who avenges blood remembers them. He does not forget the cry of the afflicted. **13** Have mercy on me, LORD. See my affliction by those who hate me, and lift me up from the gates of death, **14** that I may show all of your praise. I will rejoice in your salvation in the gates of the daughter of Zion. **15** The nations have sunk down in the pit that they made. In the net which they hid, their own foot is taken. **16** The LORD has made himself known. He has executed judgment. The wicked is snared by the work of his own hands. (Meditation, Selah) **17** The wicked shall be turned back to Sheol (Sheol **h7585**), even all the nations that forget God. **18** For the needy shall not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor perish forever. **19** Arise, LORD! Do not let man prevail. Let the nations be judged in your sight. **20** Put them in fear, LORD. Let the nations know that they are only men. (Selah)

**10** Why do you stand far off, LORD? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble? **2** In arrogance, the wicked hunt down the weak. They are caught in the schemes that they devise. **3** For the wicked boasts of his heart's cravings. He blesses the greedy and condemns the LORD. **4** The wicked, in the pride of his face, has no room in his thoughts for God. **5** His ways are prosperous at all times. He is arrogant, and your laws are far from his sight. As for all his adversaries, he sneers at them. **6** He says in his heart, "I shall not be shaken. For generations I shall have no trouble." **7** His mouth is full of cursing, deceit, and oppression. Under his tongue is mischief and iniquity. **8** He lies in wait near the villages. From ambushes, he murders the innocent. His eyes are secretly set against the helpless. **9** He lurks in secret as a lion in his ambush. He lies in wait to catch the helpless. He catches the helpless when he draws him in his net. **10** The helpless are crushed. They collapse. They fall under his strength. **11** He says in his heart, "God has forgotten. He hides his face. He

will never see it." **12** Arise, LORD! God, lift up your hand! Do not forget the helpless. **13** Why does the wicked person condemn God, and say in his heart, "God will not call me into account"? **14** But you do see trouble and grief. You consider it to take it into your hand. You help the victim and the fatherless. **15** Break the arm of the wicked. As for the evil man, seek out his wickedness until you find none. **16** The LORD is King forever and ever! The nations will perish out of his land. **17** LORD, you have heard the desire of the humble. You will prepare their heart. You will cause your ear to hear, **18** to judge the fatherless and the oppressed, that man who is of the earth may terrify no more.

**11** For the Chief Musician. By David. In the LORD, I take refuge. How can you say to my soul, "Flee as a bird to your mountain"? **2** For, behold, the wicked bend their bows. They set their arrows on the strings, that they may shoot in darkness 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 throne in heaven. His eyes observe. His eyes examine the children of men. **5** The LORD examines the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and him who loves violence. **6** On the wicked he will rain blazing coals; fire, sulfur, and scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup. **7** For the LORD is righteous. He loves righteousness. The upright shall see his face.

**12** For the Chief Musician; upon an eight-stringed lyre. A Psalm of David. Help, LORD; for the godly man ceases. For the faithful fail from among the children of men. **2** Everyone lies to his neighbor. They speak with flattering lips, and with a double heart. **3** May the LORD cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that boasts, **4** who have said, "With our tongue we will prevail. Our lips are our own. Who is lord over us?" **5** "Because of the oppression of the weak and because of the groaning of the needy, I will now arise," says the LORD; "I will set him in safety from those who malign him." **6** The LORD's words are flawless words, as silver refined in a clay furnace, purified seven times. **7** You will keep them, LORD. You will preserve them from this generation forever. **8**

The wicked walk on every side, when what is vile is exalted among the sons of men.

**13** For the Chief Musician. A Psalm by David. How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? **2** How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart every day? How long shall my enemy triumph over me? **3** Behold, and answer me, LORD, my God. Give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death; **4** lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed against him;" lest my adversaries rejoice when I fall. **5** But I trust in your loving kindness. My heart rejoices in your salvation. **6** I will sing to the LORD, because he has been good to me.

**14** For the Chief Musician. By David. The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt. They have done abominable deeds. There is no one who does good. **2** The LORD looked down from heaven on the children of men, to see if there were any who understood, who sought after God. **3** They have all gone aside. They have together become corrupt. There is no one who does good, no, not one. **4** Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge, who eat up my people as they eat bread, and do not call on the LORD? **5** There they were in great fear, for God is in the generation of the righteous. **6** You frustrate the plan of the poor, because the LORD is his refuge. **7** Oh that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, then Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad.

**15** A Psalm by David. LORD, who shall dwell in your sanctuary? Who shall live on your holy hill? **2** He who walks blamelessly and does what is right, and speaks truth in his heart; **3** he who does not slander with his tongue, nor does evil to his friend, nor casts slurs against his fellow man; **4** in whose eyes a vile man is despised, but who honors those who fear the LORD; he who keeps an oath even when it hurts, and does not change; **5** he who does not lend out his money for usury, nor take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be shaken.

**16** A Poem by David. Preserve me, God, for I take refuge in you. **2** My soul, you have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord. Apart from you I have no good thing." **3** As for the saints who are in the earth, they are the excellent ones in whom is all my delight. **4** Their sorrows shall be multiplied who give gifts to another god. Their drink offerings of blood I will not offer, nor take their names on my lips. **5** The LORD assigned my portion and my cup. You made my lot secure. **6** The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places. Yes, I have a good inheritance. **7** I will bless the LORD, who has given me counsel. Yes, my heart instructs me in the night seasons. **8** I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. **9** Therefore my heart is glad, and my tongue rejoices. My body shall also dwell in safety. **10** For you will not leave my soul in Sheol (Sheol h7585), neither will you allow your holy one to see corruption. **11** You will show me the path of life. In your presence is fullness of joy. In your right hand there are pleasures forever more.

**17** A Prayer by David. Hear, LORD, my righteous plea. Give ear to my prayer that does not go out of deceitful lips. **2** Let my sentence come out of your presence. Let your eyes look on equity. **3** You have proved my heart. You have visited me in the night. You have tried me, and found nothing. I have resolved that my mouth shall not disobey. **4** As for the deeds of men, by the word of your lips, I have kept myself from the ways of the violent. **5** My steps have held fast to your paths. My feet have not slipped. **6** I have called on you, for you will answer me, God. Turn your ear to me. Hear my speech. **7** Show your marvelous loving kindness, you who save those who take refuge by your right hand from their enemies. **8** Keep me as the apple of your eye. Hide me under the shadow of your wings, **9** from the wicked who oppress me, my deadly enemies, who surround me. **10** They close up their callous hearts. With their mouth they speak proudly. **11** They have now surrounded us in our steps. They set their eyes to cast us down to the earth. **12** He is like a lion that is greedy of his prey, as it were a young lion lurking in secret places. **13** Arise, LORD, confront him. Cast him down. Deliver my soul from the wicked by your sword, **14** from men by your hand, LORD, from men

of the world, whose portion is in this life. You fill the belly of your cherished ones. Your sons have plenty, and they store up wealth for their children. 15 As for me, I shall see your face in righteousness. I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with seeing your form.

**18** For the Chief Musician. By David the servant of the LORD, who spoke to the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. He said, I love you, LORD, my strength. 2 The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower. 3 I call on the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; and I am saved from my enemies. 4 The cords of death surrounded me. The floods of ungodliness made me afraid. 5 The cords of Sheol (Sheol h7585) were around me. The snares of death came on me. 6 In my distress I called on the LORD, and cried to my God. He heard my voice out of his temple. My cry before him came into his ears. 7 Then the earth shook and trembled. The foundations also of the mountains quaked and were shaken, because he was angry. 8 Smoke went out of his nostrils. Consuming fire came out of his mouth. Coals were kindled by it. 9 He bowed the heavens also, and came down. Thick darkness was under his feet. 10 He rode on a cherub, and flew. Yes, he soared on the wings of the wind. 11 He made darkness his hiding place, his pavilion around him, darkness of waters, thick clouds of the skies. 12 At the brightness before him his thick clouds passed, hailstones and coals of fire. 13 The LORD also thundered in the sky. The Most High uttered his voice: hailstones and coals of fire. 14 He sent out his arrows, and scattered them. He routed them with great lightning bolts. 15 Then the channels of waters appeared. The foundations of the world were laid bare at your rebuke, LORD, at the blast of the breath of your nostrils. 16 He sent from on high. He took me. He drew me out of many waters. 17 He delivered me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me; for they were too mighty for me. 18 They came on me in the day of my calamity, but the LORD was my support. 19 He brought me out also into a large place. He delivered me, because he delighted in me. 20 The LORD has rewarded me according

to my righteousness. According to the cleanness of my hands, he has recompensed me. 21 For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God. 22 For all his ordinances were before me. I did not put away his statutes from me. 23 I was also blameless with him. I kept myself from my iniquity. 24 Therefore the LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his eyesight. 25 With the merciful you will show yourself merciful. With the perfect man, you will show yourself perfect. 26 With the pure, you will show yourself pure. With the crooked you will show yourself shrewd. 27 For you will save the afflicted people, but the arrogant eyes you will bring down. 28 For you will light my lamp, LORD. My God will light up my darkness. 29 For by you, I advance through a troop. By my God, I leap over a wall. 30 As for God, his way is perfect. The LORD's word is tried. He is a shield to all those who take refuge in him. 31 For who is God, except the LORD? Who is a rock, besides our God, 32 the God who arms me with strength, and makes my way perfect? 33 He makes my feet like deer's feet, and sets me on my high places. 34 He teaches my hands to war, so that my arms bend a bow of bronze. 35 You have also given me the shield of your salvation. Your right hand sustains me. Your gentleness has made me great. 36 You have enlarged my steps under me, My feet have not slipped. 37 I will pursue my enemies, and overtake them. I will not turn away until they are consumed. 38 I will strike them through, so that they will not be able to rise. They shall fall under my feet. 39 For you have armed me with strength to the battle. You have subdued under me those who rose up against me. 40 You have also made my enemies turn their backs to me, that I might cut off those who hate me. 41 They cried, but there was no one to save; even to the LORD, but he did not answer them. 42 Then I beat them small as the dust before the wind. I cast them out as the mire of the streets. 43 You have delivered me from the strivings of the people. You have made me the head of the nations. A people whom I have not known shall serve me. 44 As soon as they hear of me they shall obey me. The foreigners shall submit themselves to me. 45 The foreigners shall fade away, and shall come trembling

out of their strongholds. **46** The LORD lives! Blessed be my rock. Exalted be the God of my salvation, **47** even the God who executes vengeance for me, and subdues peoples under me. **48** He rescues me from my enemies. Yes, you lift me up above those who rise up against me. You deliver me from the violent man. **49** Therefore I will give thanks to you, LORD, among the nations, and will sing praises to your name. **50** He gives great deliverance to his king, and shows loving kindness to his anointed, to David and to his offspring, forever more.

**19** For the Chief Musician. A Psalm by David. The heavens declare the glory of God. The expanse shows his handiwork. **2** Day after day they pour out speech, and night after night they display knowledge. **3** There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. **4** Their voice has gone out through all the earth, their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun, **5** which is as a bridegroom coming out of his room, like a strong man rejoicing to run his course. **6** His going out is from the end of the heavens, his circuit to its ends. There is nothing hidden from its heat. **7** The LORD's law is perfect, restoring the soul. The LORD's covenant is sure, making wise the simple. **8** The LORD's precepts are right, rejoicing the heart. The LORD's commandment is pure, enlightening the eyes. **9** The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever. The LORD's ordinances are true, and righteous altogether. **10** They are more to be desired than gold, yes, than much fine gold, sweeter also than honey and the extract of the honeycomb. **11** Moreover your servant is warned by them. In keeping them there is great reward. **12** Who can discern his errors? Forgive me from hidden errors. **13** Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins. Let them not have dominion over me. Then I will be upright. I will be blameless and innocent of great transgression. **14** Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, LORD, my rock, and my redeemer.

**20** For the Chief Musician. A Psalm by David. May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble. May the name of the God of Jacob set you up on high, **2** send you help from the sanctuary, grant you support

from Zion, **3** remember all your offerings, and accept your burned sacrifice. (Selah) **4** May he grant you your heart's desire, and fulfill all your counsel. **5** We will triumph in your salvation. In the name of our God, we will set up our banners. May the LORD grant all your requests. **6** Now I know that the LORD saves his anointed. He will answer him from his holy heaven, with the saving strength of his right hand. **7** Some trust in chariots, and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God. **8** They are bowed down and fallen, but we rise up, and stand upright. **9** Save, LORD! Let the King answer us when we call!

**21** For the Chief Musician. A Psalm by David. The king rejoices in your strength, LORD! How greatly he rejoices in your salvation! **2** You have given him his heart's desire, and have not withheld the request of his lips. (Selah) **3** For you meet him with the blessings of goodness. You set a crown of fine gold on his head. **4** He asked life of you and you gave it to him, even length of days forever and ever. **5** His glory is great in your salvation. You lay honor and majesty on him. **6** For you make him most blessed forever. You make him glad with joy in your presence. **7** For the king trusts in the LORD. Through the loving kindness of the Most High, he shall not be moved. **8** Your hand will find out all of your enemies. Your right hand will find out those who hate you. **9** You will make them as a fiery furnace in the time of your anger. The LORD will swallow them up in his wrath. The fire shall devour them. **10** You will destroy their descendants from the earth, their posterity from among the children of men. **11** For they intended evil against you. They plotted evil against you which cannot succeed. **12** For you will make them turn their back, when you aim drawn bows at their face. **13** Be exalted, LORD, in your strength, so we will sing and praise your power.

**22** For the Chief Musician; set to "The Doe of the Morning." A Psalm by David. My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, and from the words of my groaning? **2** My God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; in the night season, and am not silent. **3** But you are holy, you who inhabit the praises of Israel. **4** Our fathers trusted in you. They trusted, and you delivered



them. **5** They cried to you, and were delivered. They trusted in you, and were not disappointed. **6** But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised by the people. **7** All those who see me mock me. They insult me with their lips. They shake their heads, saying, **8** "He trusts in the LORD. Let him deliver him. Let him rescue him, since he delights in him." **9** But you brought me out of the womb. You made me trust while at my mother's breasts. **10** I was thrown on you from my mother's womb. You are my God since my mother bore me. **11** Do not be far from me, for trouble is near. For there is no one to help. **12** Many bulls have surrounded me. Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled me. **13** They open their mouths wide against me, lions tearing prey and roaring. **14** I am poured out like water. All my bones are out of joint. My heart is like wax. It is melted within me. **15** My strength is dried up like a potsherd. My tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth. You have brought me into the dust of death. **16** For dogs have surrounded me. A company of evildoers have enclosed me. They have pierced my hands and feet. **17** I can count all of my bones. They look and stare at me. **18** They divide my garments among them. They cast lots for my clothing. **19** But do not be far off, LORD. You are my help. Hurry to help me! **20** Deliver my soul from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dog. **21** Save me from the lion's mouth! Yes, you have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen. **22** I will declare your name to my brothers. Among the assembly, I will praise you. **23** You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify him! Stand in awe of him, all you descendants of Israel! **24** For he has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, neither has he hidden his face from him; but when he cried to him, he heard. **25** My praise of you comes in the great assembly. I will pay my vows before those who fear him. **26** The humble shall eat and be satisfied. They shall praise the LORD who seek after him. Let your hearts live forever. **27** All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. All the relatives of the nations shall worship before you. **28** For the kingdom is the LORD's. He is the ruler over the nations. **29** All the rich ones of the earth shall eat and worship. All those who go down to the dust shall

bow before him, even he who cannot keep his soul alive. **30** Posterity shall serve him. Future generations shall be told about the Lord. **31** They shall come and shall declare his righteousness to a people that shall be born, for he has done it.

**23** A Psalm by David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall lack nothing. **2** He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. **3** He restores my soul. He guides me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. **4** Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, 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 runs over. **6** Surely goodness and loving kindness shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the LORD's house forever.

**24** A Psalm by David. The earth is the LORD's, with its fullness; the world, and those who dwell in it. **2** For he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the floods. **3** Who may ascend to the LORD's hill? Who may stand in his holy place? **4** He who has clean hands and a pure heart; who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood, and has not sworn deceitfully. **5** He shall receive a blessing from the LORD, righteousness from the God of his salvation. **6** This is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek your face—even Jacob. (Selah) **7** Lift up your heads, you gates! Be lifted up, you everlasting doors, and the King of glory will come in. **8** Who is the King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. **9** Lift up your heads, you gates; yes, lift them up, you everlasting doors, and the King of glory will come in. **10** Who is this King of glory? The LORD of Armies is the King of glory! (Selah)

**25** By David. To you, LORD, I lift up my soul. **2** My God, I have trusted in you. Do not let me be shamed. Do not let my enemies triumph over me. **3** Yes, no one who waits for you will be shamed. They will be shamed who deal treacherously without cause. **4** Show me your ways, LORD. Teach me your paths. **5** Guide me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation. I wait for you all day long. **6** LORD, remember your tender mercies and your loving kindness, for they are from old times.

7 Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions. Remember me according to your loving kindness, for your goodness' sake, LORD. 8 Good and upright is the LORD, therefore he will instruct sinners in the way. 9 He will guide the humble in justice. He will teach the humble his way. 10 All the paths of the LORD are loving kindness and truth to such as keep his covenant and his testimonies. 11 For your name's sake, LORD, pardon my iniquity, for it is great. 12 What man is he who fears the LORD? He shall instruct him in the way that he shall choose. 13 His soul will dwell at ease. His offspring will inherit the land. 14 The friendship of the LORD is with those who fear him. He will show them his covenant. 15 My eyes are ever on the LORD, for he will pluck my feet out of the net. 16 Turn to me, and have mercy on me, for I am desolate and afflicted. 17 The troubles of my heart are enlarged. Oh bring me out of my distresses. 18 Consider my affliction and my travail. Forgive all my sins. 19 Consider my enemies, for they are many. They hate me with cruel hatred. 20 Oh keep my soul, and deliver me. Let me not be disappointed, for I take refuge in you. 21 Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you. 22 God, redeem Israel out of all his troubles.

**26** By David. Judge me, LORD, for I have walked in my integrity. I have trusted also in the LORD without wavering. 2 Examine me, LORD, and prove me. Try my heart and my mind. 3 For your loving kindness is before my eyes. I have walked in your truth. 4 I have not sat with deceitful men, neither will I go in with hypocrites. 5 I hate the assembly of evildoers, and will not sit with the wicked. 6 I will wash my hands in innocence, so I will go about your altar, LORD, 7 that I may make the voice of thanksgiving to be heard and tell of all your wondrous deeds. 8 LORD, I love the habitation of your house, the place where your glory dwells. 9 Do not gather my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloodthirsty men 10 in whose hands is wickedness; their right hand is full of bribes. 11 But as for me, I will walk in my integrity. Redeem me, and be merciful to me. 12 My foot stands in an even place. In the congregations I will bless the LORD.

**27** By David. The LORD is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life. Of whom shall I be afraid? 2 When evildoers came at me to eat up my flesh, even my adversaries and my foes, they stumbled and fell. 3 Though an army should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear. Though war should rise against me, even then I will be confident. 4 One thing I have asked of the LORD, that I will seek after: that I may dwell in the LORD's house all the days of my life, to see the LORD's beauty, and to inquire in his temple. 5 For in the day of trouble, he will keep me secretly in his pavilion. In the secret place of his tabernacle, he will hide me. He will lift me up on a rock. 6 Now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me. I will offer sacrifices of joy in his tent. I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD. 7 Hear, LORD, when I cry with my voice. Have mercy also on me, and answer me. 8 When you said, "Seek my face," my heart said to you, "I will seek your face, LORD." 9 Do not hide your face from me. Do not put your servant away in anger. You have been my help. Do not abandon me, neither forsake me, God of my salvation. 10 When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up. 11 Teach me your way, LORD. Lead me in a straight path, because of my enemies. 12 Do not deliver me over to the desire of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen up against me, such as breathe out cruelty. 13 I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. 14 Wait for the LORD. Be strong, and let your heart take courage. Yes, wait for the LORD.

**28** By David. To you, LORD, I call. My rock, do not be deaf to me, lest, if you are silent to me, I would become like those who go down into the pit. 2 Hear the voice of my petitions, when I cry to you, when I lift up my hands toward your Most Holy Place. 3 Do not draw me away with the wicked, with the workers of iniquity who speak peace with their neighbors, but mischief is in their hearts. 4 Give them according to their work, and according to the wickedness of their doings. Give them according to the operation of their hands. Bring back on them what they deserve. 5 Because they do not respect the works of the LORD, nor the operation of his hands,

he will break them down and not build them up. **6** Blessed be the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my petitions. **7** The LORD is my strength and my shield. My heart has trusted in him, and I am helped. Therefore my heart greatly rejoices. With my song I will thank him. **8** The LORD is their strength. He is a stronghold of salvation to his anointed. **9** Save your people, and bless your inheritance. Be their shepherd also, and bear them up forever.

**29** A Psalm by David. Ascribe to the LORD, you sons of the mighty, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. **2** Ascribe to the LORD the glory due to his name. Worship the LORD in holy array. **3** The LORD's voice is on the waters. The God of glory thunders, even the LORD on many waters. **4** The LORD's voice is powerful. The LORD's voice is full of majesty. **5** The LORD's voice breaks the cedars. Yes, the LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon. **6** He makes them also to skip like a calf; Lebanon and Sirion like a young, wild ox. **7** The LORD's voice strikes with flashes of lightning. **8** The LORD's voice shakes the wilderness. The LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. **9** The LORD's voice makes the deer calve, and strips the forests bare. In his temple everything says, "Glory!" **10** The LORD sat enthroned at the Flood. Yes, the LORD sits as King forever. **11** The LORD will give strength to his people. The LORD will bless his people with peace.

**30** A Psalm. A Song for the Dedication of the Temple. By David. I will extol you, LORD, for you have raised me up, and have not made my foes to rejoice over me. **2** LORD my God, I cried to you, and you have healed me. **3** LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol (Sheol **h7585**). You have kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit. **4** Sing praise to the LORD, you saints of his. Give thanks to his holy name. **5** For his anger is but for a moment. His favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may stay for the night, but joy comes in the morning. **6** As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved." **7** You, LORD, when you favored me, made my mountain stand strong; but when you hid your face, I was troubled. **8** I cried to you, LORD. I made supplication to the Lord: **9** "What profit is there in my destruction, if I go down to the pit? Shall the dust praise you? Shall

it declare your truth? **10** Hear, LORD, and have mercy on me. LORD, be my helper." **11** You have turned my mourning into dancing for me. You have removed my sackcloth, and clothed me with gladness, **12** to the end that my heart may sing praise to you, and not be silent. LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

**31** For the Chief Musician. A Psalm by David. In you, LORD, I take refuge. Let me never be disappointed. Deliver me in your righteousness. **2** Bow down your ear to me. Deliver me speedily. Be to me a strong rock, a house of defense to save me. **3** For you are my rock and my fortress, therefore for your name's sake lead me and guide me. **4** Pluck me out of the net that they have laid secretly for me, for you are my stronghold. **5** Into your hand I commend my spirit. You redeem me, LORD, God of truth. **6** I hate those who regard lying vanities, but I trust in the LORD. **7** I will be glad and rejoice in your loving kindness, for you have seen my affliction. You have known my soul in adversities. **8** You have not shut me up into the hand of the enemy. You have set my feet in a large place. **9** Have mercy on me, LORD, for I am in distress. My eye, my soul, and my body waste away with grief. **10** For my life is spent with sorrow, my years with sighing. My strength fails because of my iniquity. My bones are wasted away. **11** Because of all my adversaries I have become utterly contemptible to my neighbors, a horror to my acquaintances. Those who saw me on the street fled from me. **12** I am forgotten from their hearts like a dead man. I am like broken pottery. **13** For I have heard the slander of many, terror on every side, while they conspire together against me, they plot to take away my life. **14** But I trust in you, LORD. I said, "You are my God." **15** My times are in your hand. Deliver me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me. **16** Make your face to shine on your servant. Save me in your loving kindness. **17** Let me not be disappointed, LORD, for I have called on you. Let the wicked be disappointed. Let them be silent in Sheol (Sheol **h7585**). **18** Let the lying lips be mute, which speak against the righteous insolently, with pride and contempt. **19** Oh how great is your goodness, which you have laid up for those who fear you, which you have worked for those who take refuge in you, before the sons of

men! 20 In the shelter of your presence you will hide them from the plotting of man. You will keep them secretly in a dwelling away from the strife of tongues. 21 Praise be to the LORD, for he has shown me his marvelous loving kindness in a strong city. 22 As for me, I said in my haste, "I am cut off from before your eyes." Nevertheless you heard the voice of my petitions when I cried to you. 23 Oh love the LORD, all you his saints! The LORD preserves the faithful, and fully recompenses him who behaves arrogantly. 24 Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who hope in the LORD.

**32** By David. A contemplative psalm. Blessed is he whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, in whose spirit there is no deceit. 3 When I kept silence, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night your hand was heavy on me. My strength was sapped in the heat of summer. (Selah) 5 I acknowledged my sin to you. I did not hide my iniquity. I said, I will confess my transgressions to the LORD, and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. (Selah) 6 For this, let everyone who is godly pray to you in a time when you may be found. Surely when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach to him. 7 You are my hiding place. You will preserve me from trouble. You will surround me with songs of deliverance. (Selah) 8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you shall go. I will counsel you with my eye on you. 9 Do not be like the horse, or like the mule, which have no understanding, who are controlled by bit and bridle, or else they will not come near to you. 10 Many sorrows come to the wicked, but loving kindness shall surround him who trusts in the LORD. 11 Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, you righteous! Shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart!

**33** Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous! Praise is fitting for the upright. 2 Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre. Sing praises to him with the harp of ten strings. 3 Sing to him a new song. Play skillfully with a shout of joy! 4 For the LORD's word is right. All his work is done in faithfulness. 5 He loves righteousness and justice. The earth is full of the loving kindness of the LORD. 6 By the LORD's word, the heavens were

made: all their army by the breath of his mouth. 7 He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap. He lays up the deeps in storehouses. 8 Let all the earth fear the LORD. Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. 9 For he spoke, and it was done. He commanded, and it stood firm. 10 The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing. He makes the thoughts of the peoples to be of no effect. 11 The counsel of the LORD stands fast forever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations. 12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen for his own inheritance. 13 The LORD looks from heaven. He sees all the sons of men. 14 From the place of his habitation he looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth, 15 he who fashions all of their hearts; and he considers all of their works. 16 There is no king saved by the multitude of an army. A mighty man is not delivered by great strength. 17 A horse is a vain thing for safety, neither does he deliver any by his great power. 18 Behold, the LORD's eye is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his loving kindness, 19 to deliver their soul from death, to keep them alive in famine. 20 Our soul has waited for the LORD. He is our help and our shield. 21 For our heart rejoices in him, because we have trusted in his holy name. 22 Let your loving kindness be on us, LORD, since we have hoped in you.

**34** By David; when he pretended to be insane before Abimelech, who drove him away, and he departed. I will bless the LORD at all times. His praise will always be in my mouth. 2 My soul shall boast in the LORD. The humble shall hear of it and be glad. 3 Oh magnify the LORD with me. Let's exalt his name together. 4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. 5 They looked to him, and were radiant. Their faces shall never be covered with shame. 6 This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. 7 The LORD's angel encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. 8 Oh taste and see that the LORD is good. Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him. 9 Oh fear the LORD, you his saints, for there is no lack with those who fear him. 10 The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger, but those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good thing. 11 Come, you children, listen to me. I will teach

you the fear of the LORD. **12** Who is someone who desires life, and loves many days, that he may see good? **13** Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking lies. **14** Depart from evil, and do good. Seek peace, and pursue it. **15** The LORD's eyes are toward the righteous. His ears listen to their cry. **16** The LORD's face is against those who do evil, to cut off their memory from the earth. **17** The righteous cry, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. **18** The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves those who have a crushed spirit. **19** Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all. **20** He protects all of his bones. Not one of them is broken. **21** Evil shall kill the wicked. Those who hate the righteous shall be condemned. **22** The LORD redeems the soul of his servants. None of those who take refuge in him shall be condemned.

**35** By David. Contend, LORD, with those who contend with me. Fight against those who fight against me. **2** Take hold of shield and buckler, and stand up for my help. **3** Brandish the spear and block those who pursue me. Tell my soul, "I am your salvation." **4** Let those who seek after my soul be disappointed and brought to dishonor. Let those who plot my ruin be turned back and confounded. **5** Let them be as chaff before the wind, the LORD's angel driving them on. **6** Let their way be dark and slippery, the LORD's angel pursuing them. **7** For without cause they have hidden their net in a pit for me. Without cause they have dug a pit for my soul. **8** Let destruction come on him unawares. Let his net that he has hidden catch himself. Let him fall into that destruction. **9** My soul shall be joyful in the LORD. It shall rejoice in his salvation. **10** All my bones shall say, "LORD, who is like you, who delivers the poor from him who is too strong for him; yes, the poor and the needy from him who robs him?" **11** Unrighteous witnesses rise up. They ask me about things that I do not know about. **12** They reward me evil for good, to the bereaving of my soul. **13** But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth. I afflicted my soul with fasting. My prayer returned into my own bosom. **14** I behaved myself as though it had been my friend or my brother. I bowed down mourning, as

one who mourns his mother. **15** But in my adversity, they rejoiced, and gathered themselves together. The attackers gathered themselves together against me, and I did not know it. They tore at me, and did not cease. **16** Like the profane mockers in feasts, they gnashed their teeth at me. **17** Lord, how long will you look on? Rescue my soul from their destruction, my precious life from the lions. **18** I will give you thanks in the great assembly. I will praise you among many people. **19** Do not let those who are my enemies wrongfully rejoice over me; neither let those who hate me without a cause wink their eyes. **20** For they do not speak peace, but they devise deceitful words against those who are quiet in the land. **21** Yes, they opened their mouth wide against me. They said, "Aha! Aha! Our eye has seen it!" **22** You have seen it, LORD. Do not keep silent. Lord, do not be far from me. **23** Wake up! Rise up to defend me, my God! My Lord, contend for me! **24** Vindicate me, LORD my God, according to your righteousness. Do not let them gloat over me. **25** Do not let them say in their heart, "Aha! That's the way we want it!" Do not let them say, "We have swallowed him up!" **26** Let them be disappointed and confounded together who rejoice at my calamity. Let them be clothed with shame and dishonor who magnify themselves against me. **27** Let those who favor my righteous cause shout for joy and be glad. Yes, let them say continually, "May the LORD be magnified, who has pleasure in the prosperity of his servant!" **28** My tongue shall talk about your righteousness and about your praise all day long.

**36** For the Chief Musician. By David, the servant of the LORD. A revelation is within my heart about the disobedience of the wicked: There is no fear of God before his eyes. **2** For he flatters himself in his own eyes, too much to detect and hate his sin. **3** The words of his mouth are iniquity and deceit. He has ceased to be wise and to do good. **4** He plots iniquity on his bed. He sets himself in a way that is not good. He does not abhor evil. **5** Your loving kindness, LORD, is in the heavens. Your faithfulness reaches to the skies. **6** Your righteousness is like the mountains of God. Your judgments are like a great deep. LORD, you preserve man and animal. **7** How precious is your loving kindness, God! The children of men take refuge under the shadow of your

wings. 8 They shall be abundantly satisfied with the abundance of your house. You will make them drink of the river of your pleasures. 9 For with you is the spring of life. In your light we will see light. 10 Oh continue your loving kindness to those who know you, your righteousness to the upright in heart. 11 Do not let the foot of pride come against me. Do not let the hand of the wicked drive me away. 12 There the workers of iniquity are fallen. They are thrust down, and shall not be able to rise.

**37** By David. Do not fret because of evildoers, neither be envious against those who work unrighteousness. 2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither like the green herb. 3 Trust in the LORD, and do good. Dwell in the land, and enjoy safe pasture. 4 Also delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. 5 Commit your way to the LORD. Trust also in him, and he will do this: 6 he will make your righteousness shine out like light, and your justice as the noon day sun. 7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him. Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who makes wicked plots happen. 8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath. Do not fret; it leads only to evildoing. 9 For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land. 10 For yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more. Yes, though you look for his place, he is not there. 11 But the humble shall inherit the land, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. 12 The wicked plots against the just, and gnashes at him with his teeth. 13 The Lord will laugh at him, for he sees that his day is coming. 14 The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, to kill those who are upright on the path. 15 Their sword shall enter into their own heart. Their bows shall be broken. 16 Better is a little that the righteous has, than the abundance of many wicked. 17 For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, but the LORD upholds the righteous. 18 The LORD knows the days of the perfect. Their inheritance shall be forever. 19 They shall not be disappointed in the time of evil. In the days of famine they shall be satisfied. 20 But the wicked shall perish. The enemies of the LORD shall be like the beauty of the fields. They will vanish—

vanish like smoke. 21 The wicked borrow, and do not pay back, but the righteous give generously. 22 For such as are blessed by him shall inherit the land. Those who are cursed by him shall be cut off. 23 A man's steps are established by the LORD. He delights in his way. 24 Though he stumble, he shall not fall, for the LORD holds him up with his hand. 25 I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his children begging for bread. 26 All day long he deals graciously, and lends. His offspring is blessed. 27 Depart from evil, and do good. Live securely forever. 28 For the LORD loves justice, and does not forsake his saints. They are preserved forever, but the children of the wicked shall be cut off. 29 The righteous shall inherit the land, and live in it forever. 30 The mouth of the righteous talks of wisdom. His tongue speaks justice. 31 The law of his God is in his heart. None of his steps shall slide. 32 The wicked watch the righteous, and seek to kill him. 33 The LORD will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged. 34 Wait for the LORD, and keep his way, and he will exalt you to inherit the land. When the wicked are cut off, you shall see it. 35 I have seen the wicked in great power, spreading himself like a green tree in its native soil. 36 But he passed away, and behold, he was not. Yes, I sought him, but he could not be found. 37 Mark the perfect man, and see the upright, for there is a future for the man of peace. 38 As for transgressors, they shall be destroyed together. The future of the wicked shall be cut off. 39 But the salvation of the righteous is from the LORD. He is their stronghold in the time of trouble. 40 The LORD helps them and rescues them. He rescues them from the wicked and saves them, because they have taken refuge in him.

**38** A Psalm by David, for a memorial. LORD, do not rebuke me in your wrath, neither chasten me in your hot displeasure. 2 For your arrows have pierced me, your hand presses hard on me. 3 There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indignation, neither is there any health in my bones because of my sin. 4 For my iniquities have gone over my head. As a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me. 5 My wounds are loathsome and corrupt because of my foolishness. 6 I am in pain and bowed down greatly. I go mourning all day long. 7 For my waist is filled

with burning. There is no soundness in my flesh. 8 I am faint and severely bruised. I have groaned by reason of the anguish of my heart. 9 Lord, all my desire is before you. My groaning is not hidden from you. 10 My heart throbs. My strength fails me. As for the light of my eyes, it has also left me. 11 My lovers and my friends stand aloof from my plague. My kinsmen stand far away. 12 They also who seek after my life lay snares. Those who seek my hurt speak mischievous things, and meditate deceits all day long. 13 But I, as a deaf man, do not hear. I am as a mute man who does not open his mouth. 14 Yes, I am as a man who does not hear, in whose mouth are no reproofs. 15 For I hope in you, LORD. You will answer, Lord my God. 16 For I said, "Do not let them gloat over me, or exalt themselves over me when my foot slips." 17 For I am ready to fall. My pain is continually before me. 18 For I will declare my iniquity. I will be sorry for my sin. 19 But my enemies are vigorous and many. Those who hate me without reason are numerous. 20 They who render evil for good are also adversaries to me, because I follow what is good. 21 Do not forsake me, LORD. My God, do not be far from me. 22 Hurry to help me, Lord, my salvation.

**39** For the Chief Musician. For Jeduthun. A Psalm by David. I said, "I will watch my ways, so that I do not sin with my tongue. I will keep my mouth with a bridle while the wicked is before me." 2 I was mute with silence. I held my peace, even from good. My sorrow was stirred. 3 My heart was hot within me. While I meditated, the fire burned. I spoke with my tongue: 4 "LORD, show me my end, what is the measure of my days. Let me know how frail I am. 5 Behold, you have made my days hand widths. My lifetime is as nothing before you. Surely every man stands as a breath." (Selah) 6 "Surely every man walks like a shadow. Surely they busy themselves in vain. He heaps up, and does not know who shall gather. 7 Now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in you. 8 Deliver me from all my transgressions. Do not make me the reproach of the foolish. 9 I was mute. I did not open my mouth, because you did it. 10 Remove your scourge away from me. I am overcome by the blow of your hand. 11 When you rebuke and correct man for iniquity, you consume his wealth like

a moth. Surely every man is but a breath." (Selah) 12 "Hear my prayer, LORD, and give ear to my cry. Do not be silent at my tears. For I am a stranger with you, a foreigner, as all my fathers were. 13 Oh spare me, that I may recover strength, before I go away and exist no more."

**40** For the Chief Musician. A Psalm by David. I waited patiently for the LORD. He turned to me, and heard my cry. 2 He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay. He set my feet on a rock, and gave me a firm place to stand. 3 He has put a new song in my mouth, even praise to our God. Many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD. 4 Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, and does not respect the proud, nor such as turn away to lies. 5 Many, LORD, my God, are the wonderful works which you have done, and your thoughts which are toward us. They cannot be declared back to you. If I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be counted. 6 Sacrifice and offering you did not desire. You have opened my ears. You have not required burnt offering and sin offering. 7 Then I said, "Behold, I have come. It is written about me in the book in the scroll. 8 I delight to do your will, my God. Yes, your law is within my heart." 9 I have proclaimed glad news of righteousness in the great assembly. Behold, I will not seal my lips, LORD, you know. 10 I have not hidden your righteousness within my heart. I have declared your faithfulness and your salvation. I have not concealed your loving kindness and your truth from the great assembly. 11 Do not withhold your tender mercies from me, LORD. Let your loving kindness and your truth continually preserve me. 12 For innumerable evils have surrounded me. My iniquities have overtaken me, so that I am not able to look up. They are more than the hairs of my head. My heart has failed me. 13 Be pleased, LORD, to deliver me. Hurry to help me, LORD. 14 Let them be disappointed and confounded together who seek after my soul to destroy it. Let them be turned backward and brought to dishonor who delight in my hurt. 15 Let them be desolate by reason of their shame that tell me, "Aha! Aha!" 16 Let all those who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. Let such as love your salvation say continually, "Let the LORD be exalted!" 17 But I

am poor and needy. May the Lord think about me. You are my help and my deliverer. Do not delay, my God.

**41** For the Chief Musician. A Psalm by David.

Blessed is he who considers the poor. The LORD will deliver him in the day of evil. **2** The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive. He shall be blessed on the earth, and he will not surrender him to the will of his enemies. **3** The LORD will sustain him on his sickbed, and restore him from his bed of illness. **4** I said, "LORD, have mercy on me! Heal me, for I have sinned against you." **5** My enemies speak evil against me: "When will he die, and his name perish?" **6** If he comes to see me, he speaks falsehood. His heart gathers iniquity to itself. When he goes abroad, he tells it. **7** All who hate me whisper together against me. They imagine the worst for me. **8** "An evil disease", they say, "has afflicted him. Now that he lies he shall rise up no more." **9** Yes, my own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, who ate bread with me, has lifted up his heel against me. **10** But you, LORD, have mercy on me, and raise me up, that I may repay them. **11** By this I know that you delight in me, because my enemy does not triumph over me. **12** As for me, you uphold me in my integrity, and set me in your presence forever. **13** Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting and to everlasting! Amen and amen.

**42** For the Chief Musician. A contemplation by the

sons of Korah. As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants after you, God. **2** My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God? **3** My tears have been my food day and night, while they continually ask me, "Where is your God?" **4** These things I remember, and pour out my soul within me, how I used to go with the crowd, and led them to God's house, with the voice of joy and praise, a multitude keeping a holy day. **5** Why are you in despair, my soul? Why are you disturbed within me? Hope in God! For I shall still praise him for the saving help of his presence. **6** My God, my soul is in despair within me. Therefore I remember you from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon, from the hill Mizar. **7** Deep calls to deep at the noise of your waterfalls. All your waves

and your billows have swept over me. **8** GOD will command his loving kindness in the daytime. In the night his song shall be with me: a prayer to the God of my life. **9** I will ask God, my rock, "Why have you forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?" **10** As with a sword in my bones, my adversaries reproach me, while they continually ask me, "Where is your God?" **11** Why are you in despair, my soul? Why are you disturbed within me? Hope in God! For I shall still praise him, the saving help of my countenance, and my God.

**43** Vindicate me, God, and plead my cause against

an ungodly nation. Oh, deliver me from deceitful and wicked men. **2** For you are the God of my strength. Why have you rejected me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy? **3** Oh, send out your light and your truth. Let them lead me. Let them bring me to your holy hill, to your tents. **4** Then I will go to the altar of God, to God, my exceeding joy. I will praise you on the harp, God, my God. **5** Why are you in despair, my soul? Why are you disturbed within me? Hope in God! For I shall still praise him: my Savior, my helper, and my God.

**44** For the Chief Musician. By the sons of Korah.

A contemplative psalm. We have heard with our ears, God; our fathers have told us what work you did in their days, in the days of old. **2** You drove out the nations with your hand, but you planted them. You afflicted the peoples, but you spread them abroad. **3** For they did not get the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them; but your right hand, your arm, and the light of your face, because you were favorable to them. **4** God, you are my King. Command victories for Jacob! **5** Through you, we will push down our adversaries. Through your name, we will tread down those who rise up against us. **6** For I will not trust in my bow, neither will my sword save me. **7** But you have saved us from our adversaries, and have shamed those who hate us. **8** In God we have made our boast all day long. We will give thanks to your name forever. (Selah) **9** But now you rejected us, and brought us to dishonor, and do not go out with our armies. **10** You make us turn back from the adversary. Those who hate us take plunder for themselves. **11** You have made us



like sheep for food, and have scattered us among the nations. **12** You sell your people for nothing, and have gained nothing from their sale. **13** You make us a reproach to our neighbors, a scoffing and a derision to those who are around us. **14** You make us a byword among the nations, a shaking of the head among the peoples. **15** All day long my dishonor is before me, and shame covers my face, **16** at the taunt of one who reproaches and verbally abuses, because of the enemy and the avenger. **17** All this has come on us, yet we have not forgotten you. We have not been false to your covenant. **18** Our heart has not turned back, neither have our steps strayed from your path, **19** though you have crushed us in the haunt of jackals, and covered us with the shadow of death. **20** If we have forgotten the name of our God, or spread out our hands to a strange god, **21** will not God search this out? For he knows the secrets of the heart. **22** Yes, for your sake we are killed all day long. We are regarded as sheep for the slaughter. **23** Wake up! Why do you sleep, Lord? Arise! Do not reject us forever. **24** Why do you hide your face, and forget our affliction and our oppression? **25** For our soul is bowed down to the dust. Our body clings to the earth. **26** Rise up to help us. Redeem us for your loving kindness' sake.

**45** For the Chief Musician. Set to "The Lilies." A contemplation by the sons of Korah. A wedding song. My heart overflows with a noble theme. I recite my verses for the king. My tongue is like the pen of a skillful writer. **2** You are the most excellent of the sons of men. Grace has anointed your lips, therefore God has blessed you forever. **3** Strap your sword on your thigh, O mighty one, in your splendor and your majesty. **4** In your majesty ride on victoriously on behalf of truth, humility, and righteousness. Let your right hand display awesome deeds. **5** Your arrows are sharp. The nations fall under you, with arrows in the heart of the king's enemies. **6** Your throne, God, is forever and ever. A scepter of equity is the scepter of your kingdom. **7** You have loved righteousness, and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellows. **8** All your garments smell like myrrh, aloes, and cassia. Out of ivory palaces stringed instruments have made you glad. **9** Kings' daughters are among

your honorable women. At your right hand the queen stands in gold of Ophir. **10** Listen, daughter, consider, and turn your ear. Forget your own people, and also your father's house. **11** So the king will desire your beauty, honor him, for he is your lord. **12** The daughter of Tyre comes with a gift. The rich among the people entreat your favor. **13** The princess inside is all glorious. Her clothing is interwoven with gold. **14** She shall be led to the king in embroidered work. The virgins, her companions who follow her, shall be brought to you. **15** With gladness and rejoicing they shall be led. They shall enter into the king's palace. **16** Your sons will take the place of your fathers. You shall make them princes in all the earth. **17** I will make your name to be remembered in all generations. Therefore the peoples shall give you thanks forever and ever.

**46** For the Chief Musician. By the sons of Korah. According to Alamo. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. **2** Therefore we will not be afraid, though the earth changes, though the mountains are shaken into the heart of the seas; **3** though its waters roar and are troubled, though the mountains tremble with their swelling. (Selah) **4** There is a river, the streams of which make the city of God glad, the holy place of the tents of the Most High. **5** God is within her. She shall not be moved. God will help her at dawn. **6** The nations raged. The kingdoms were moved. He lifted his voice and the earth melted. **7** The LORD of Armies is with us. The God of Jacob is our refuge. (Selah) **8** Come, see the LORD's works, what desolations he has made in the earth. **9** He makes wars cease to the end of the earth. He breaks the bow, and shatters the spear. He burns the chariots in the fire. **10** "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth." **11** The LORD of Armies is with us. The God of Jacob is our refuge. (Selah)

**47** For the Chief Musician. A Psalm by the sons of Korah. Oh clap your hands, all you nations. Shout to God with the voice of triumph! **2** For the LORD Most High is awesome. He is a great King over all the earth. **3** He subdues nations under us, and peoples under our feet. **4** He chooses our inheritance for us, the glory of Jacob whom he loved. (Selah) **5** God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the

sound of a trumpet. **6** Sing praises to God! Sing praises! Sing praises to our King! Sing praises! **7** For God is the King of all the earth. Sing praises with understanding. **8** God reigns over the nations. God sits on his holy throne. **9** The princes of the peoples are gathered together, the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God. He is greatly exalted!

**48** A Song. A Psalm by the sons of Korah. Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, in the city of our God, in his holy mountain. **2** Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion, on the north sides, the city of the great King. **3** God has shown himself in her citadels as a refuge. **4** For, behold, the kings assembled themselves, they passed by together. **5** They saw it, then they were amazed. They were dismayed. They hurried away. **6** Trembling took hold of them there, pain, as of a woman in travail. **7** With the east wind, you break the ships of Tarshish. **8** As we have heard, so we have seen, in the city of the LORD of Armies, in the city of our God. God will establish it forever. (Selah) **9** We have thought about your loving kindness, God, in the middle of your temple. **10** As is your name, God, so is your praise to the ends of the earth. Your right hand is full of righteousness. **11** Let Mount Zion be glad! Let the daughters of Judah rejoice because of your judgments. **12** Walk about Zion, and go around her. Number its towers. **13** Notice her bulwarks. Consider her palaces, that you may tell it to the next generation. **14** For this God is our God forever and ever. He will be our guide even to death.

**49** For the Chief Musician. A Psalm by the sons of Korah. Hear this, all you peoples. Listen, all you inhabitants of the world, **2** both low and high, rich and poor together. **3** My mouth will speak words of wisdom. My heart will utter understanding. **4** I will incline my ear to a proverb. I will solve my riddle on the harp. **5** Why should I fear in the days of evil, when iniquity at my heels surrounds me? **6** Those who trust in their wealth, and boast in the multitude of their riches— **7** none of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give God a ransom for him. **8** For the redemption of their life is costly, no payment is ever enough, **9** that he should live on forever, that he

should not see corruption. **10** For he sees that wise men die; likewise the fool and the senseless perish, and leave their wealth to others. **11** Their inward thought is that their houses will endure forever, and their dwelling places to all generations. They name their lands after themselves. **12** But man, despite his riches, does not endure. He is like the animals that perish. **13** This is the destiny of those who are foolish, and of those who approve their sayings. (Selah) **14** They are appointed as a flock for Sheol (Sheol h7585). Death shall be their shepherd. The upright shall have dominion over them in the morning. Their beauty shall decay in Sheol (Sheol h7585), far from their mansion. **15** But God will redeem my soul from the power of Sheol (Sheol h7585), for he will receive me. (Selah) **16** Do not be afraid when a man is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased; **17** for when he dies he will carry nothing away. His glory will not descend after him. **18** Though while he lived he blessed his soul—and men praise you when you do well for yourself— **19** he shall go to the generation of his fathers. They shall never see the light. **20** A man who has riches without understanding, is like the animals that perish.

**50** A Psalm by Asaph. The Mighty One, God, the LORD, speaks, and calls the earth from sunrise to sunset. **2** Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines out. **3** Our God comes, and does not keep silent. A fire devours before him. It is very stormy around him. **4** He calls to the heavens above, to the earth, that he may judge his people: **5** “Gather my saints together to me, those who have made a covenant with me by sacrifice.” **6** The heavens shall declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge. (Selah) **7** “Hear, my people, and I will speak. Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, your God. **8** I do not rebuke you for your sacrifices. Your burnt offerings are continually before me. **9** I have no need for a bull from your stall, nor male goats from your pens. **10** For every animal of the forest is mine, and the livestock on a thousand hills. **11** I know all the birds of the mountains. The wild animals of the field are mine. **12** If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it. **13** Will I eat the meat of bulls, or drink the blood of goats? **14** Offer to God the sacrifice of thanksgiving. Pay your

vows to the Most High. **15** Call on me in the day of trouble. I will deliver you, and you will honor me.” **16** But to the wicked God says, “What right do you have to declare my statutes, that you have taken my covenant on your lips, **17** since you hate instruction, and throw my words behind you? **18** When you saw a thief, you consented with him, and have participated with adulterers. **19** “You give your mouth to evil. Your tongue frames deceit. **20** You sit and speak against your brother. You slander your own mother’s son. **21** You have done these things, and I kept silent. You thought that I was just like you. I will rebuke you, and accuse you in front of your eyes. **22** “Now consider this, you who forget God, lest I tear you into pieces, and there be no one to deliver. **23** Whoever offers the sacrifice of thanksgiving glorifies me, and prepares his way so that I will show God’s salvation to him.”

**51** For the Chief Musician. A Psalm by David, when Nathan the prophet came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. Have mercy on me, God, according to your loving kindness. According to the multitude of your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. **2** Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity. Cleanse me from my sin. **3** For I know my transgressions. My sin is constantly before me. **4** Against you, and you only, I have sinned, and done that which is evil in your sight, so you may be proved right when you speak, and justified when you judge. **5** Behold, I was born in iniquity. My mother conceived me in sin. **6** Behold, you desire truth in the inward parts. 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, that the bones which you have broken may rejoice. **9** Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all of my iniquities. **10** Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a right spirit within me. **11** Do not throw me from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me. **12** Restore to me the joy of your salvation. Uphold me with a willing spirit. **13** Then I will teach transgressors your ways. Sinners will be converted to you. **14** Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation. My tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. **15** Lord, open my lips. My mouth will declare your praise. **16** For you do not delight in sacrifice, or else I would

give it. You have no pleasure in burnt offering. **17** The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit. O God, you will not despise a broken and contrite heart. **18** Do well in your good pleasure to Zion. Build the walls of Jerusalem. **19** Then you will delight in the sacrifices of righteousness, in burnt offerings and in whole burnt offerings. Then they will offer bulls on your altar.

**52** For the Chief Musician. A contemplation by David, when Doeg the Edomite came and told Saul, “David has come to Ahimelech’s house.” Why do you boast of mischief, mighty man? God’s loving kindness endures continually. **2** Your tongue plots destruction, like a sharp razor, working deceitfully. **3** You love evil more than good, lying rather than speaking the truth. (Selah) **4** You love all devouring words, you deceitful tongue. **5** God will likewise destroy you forever. He will take you up, and pluck you out of your tent, and root you out of the land of the living. (Selah) **6** The righteous also will see it, and fear, and laugh at him, saying, **7** “Behold, this is the man who did not make God his strength, but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness.” **8** But as for me, I am like a green olive tree in God’s house. I trust in God’s loving kindness forever and ever. **9** I will give you thanks forever, because you have done it. I will hope in your name, for it is good, in the presence of your saints.

**53** For the Chief Musician. To the tune of “Mahalath.” A contemplation by David. The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, and have done abominable iniquity. There is no one who does good. **2** God looks down from heaven on the children of men, to see if there are any who understood, who seek after God. **3** Every one of them has gone back. They have become filthy together. There is no one who does good, no, not one. **4** Have the workers of iniquity no knowledge, who eat up my people as they eat bread, and do not call on God? **5** There they were in great fear, where no fear was, for God has scattered the bones of him who encamps against you. You have put them to shame, because God has rejected them. **6** Oh that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! When God brings back

his people from captivity, then Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad.

**54** For the Chief Musician. On stringed instruments.

A contemplation by David, when the Ziphites came and said to Saul, "Is not David hiding himself among us?" Save me, God, by your name. Vindicate me in your might. 2 Hear my prayer, God. Listen to the words of my mouth. 3 For strangers have risen up against me. Violent men have sought after my soul. They have not set God before them. (Selah) 4 Behold, God is my helper. The Lord is the one who sustains my soul. 5 He will repay the evil to my enemies. Destroy them in your truth. 6 With a free will offering, I will sacrifice to you. I will give thanks to your name, LORD, for it is good. 7 For he has delivered me out of all trouble. My eye has seen triumph over my enemies.

**55** For the Chief Musician. On stringed instruments.

A contemplation by David. Listen to my prayer, God. Do not hide yourself from my supplication. 2 Attend to me, and answer me. I am restless in my complaint, and moan 3 because of the voice of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked. For they bring suffering on me. In anger they hold a grudge against me. 4 My heart is severely pained within me. The terrors of death have fallen on me. 5 Fearfulness and trembling have come on me. Horror has overwhelmed me. 6 I said, "Oh that I had wings like a dove! Then I would fly away, and be at rest. 7 Behold, then I would wander far off. I would lodge in the wilderness." (Selah) 8 "I would hurry to a shelter from the stormy wind and storm." 9 Confuse them, Lord, and confound their language, for I have seen violence and strife in the city. 10 Day and night they prowl around on its walls. Malice and abuse are also within her. 11 Destructive forces are within her. Threats and lies do not depart from her streets. 12 For it was not an enemy who insulted me, then I could have endured it. Neither was it he who hated me who raised himself up against me, then I would have hidden myself from him. 13 But it was you, a man like me, my companion, and my familiar friend. 14 We took sweet fellowship together. We walked in God's house with company. 15 Let death come suddenly on them. Let them go down alive into Sheol (Sheol h7585).

For wickedness is among them, in their dwelling. 16 As for me, I will call on God. The LORD will save me. 17 Evening, morning, and at noon, I will cry out in distress. He will hear my voice. 18 He has redeemed my soul in peace from the battle that was against me, although there are many who oppose me. 19 God, who is enthroned forever, will hear and answer them. (Selah) They never change and do not fear God. 20 He raises his hands against his friends. He has violated his covenant. 21 His mouth was smooth as butter, but his heart was war. His words were softer than oil, yet they were drawn swords. 22 Cast your burden on the LORD and he will sustain you. He will never allow the righteous to be moved. 23 But you, God, will bring them down into the pit of destruction. Bloodthirsty and deceitful men shall not live out half their days, but I will trust in you.

**56** For the Chief Musician. To the tune of "Silent Dove in Distant Lands." A poem by David, when the Philistines seized him in Gath. Be merciful to me,

God, for man wants to swallow me up. All day long, he attacks and oppresses me. 2 My enemies want to swallow me up all day long, for they are many who fight proudly against me. 3 When I am afraid, I will put my trust in you. 4 In God, I praise his word. In God, I put my trust. I will not be afraid. What can flesh do to me? 5 All day long they twist my words. All their thoughts are against me for evil. 6 They conspire and lurk, watching my steps. They are eager to take my life. 7 Shall they escape by iniquity? In anger cast down the peoples, God. 8 You count my wanderings. You put my tears into your container. Are not they in your book? 9 Then my enemies shall turn back in the day that I call. I know this: that God is for me. 10 In God, I will praise his word. In the LORD, I will praise his word. 11 I have put my trust in God. I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? 12 Your vows are on me, God. I will give thank offerings to you. 13 For you have delivered my soul from death, and prevented my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living.

**57** For the Chief Musician. To the tune of "Do Not Destroy." A poem by David, when he fled from Saul, in the cave. Be merciful to me, God, be merciful

to me, for my soul takes refuge in you. Yes, in the

shadow of your wings, I will take refuge, until disaster has passed. 2 I cry out to God Most High, to God who accomplishes my requests for me. 3 He will send from heaven, and save me, he rebukes the one who is pursuing me. (Selah) God will send out his loving kindness and his truth. 4 My soul is among lions. I lie among those who are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword. 5 Be exalted, God, above the heavens! Let your glory be above all the earth! 6 They have prepared a net for my steps. My soul is bowed down. They dig a pit before me. They fall into the middle of it themselves. (Selah) 7 My heart is steadfast, God. My heart is steadfast. I will sing, yes, I will sing praises. 8 Wake up, my glory! Wake up, lute and harp! I will wake up the dawn. 9 I will give thanks to you, Lord, among the peoples. I will sing praises to you among the nations. 10 For your great loving kindness reaches to the heavens, and your truth to the skies. 11 Be exalted, God, above the heavens. Let your glory be over all the earth.

**58** For the Chief Musician. To the tune of "Do Not Destroy." A poem by David. Do you indeed speak righteousness, silent ones? Do you judge blamelessly, you sons of men? 2 No, in your heart you plot injustice. You measure out the violence of your hands in the earth. 3 The wicked go astray from the womb. They are wayward as soon as they are born, speaking lies. 4 Their poison is like the poison of a snake, like a deaf cobra that stops its ear, 5 which does not listen to the voice of charmers, no matter how skillful the charmer may be. 6 Break their teeth, God, in their mouth. Break out the great teeth of the young lions, LORD. 7 Let them vanish like water that flows away. When they draw the bow, let their arrows be made blunt. 8 Let them be like a snail which melts and passes away, like the stillborn child, who has not seen the sun. 9 Before your pots can feel the heat of the thorns, he will sweep away the green and the burning alike. 10 The righteous shall rejoice when he sees the vengeance. He shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked, 11 so that men shall say, "Most certainly there is a reward for the righteous. Most certainly there is a God who judges the earth."

**59** For the Chief Musician. To the tune of "Do Not Destroy." A poem by David, when Saul sent, and they watched the house to kill him. Deliver me from my enemies, my God. Set me on high from those who rise up against me. 2 Deliver me from the workers of iniquity. Save me from the bloodthirsty men. 3 For, behold, they lie in wait for my soul. The mighty gather themselves together against me, not for my disobedience, nor for my sin, LORD. 4 I have done no wrong, yet they are ready to attack me. Rise up, behold, and help me! 5 You, LORD God of Armies, the God of Israel, rouse yourself to punish the nations. Show no mercy to the wicked traitors. (Selah) 6 They return at evening, howling like dogs, and prowl around the city. 7 Behold, they spew with their mouth. Swords are in their lips, "For", they say, "who hears us?" 8 But you, LORD, laugh at them. You scoff at all the nations. 9 Oh, my Strength, I watch for you, for God is my high tower. 10 My God will go before me with his loving kindness. God will let me look at my enemies in triumph. 11 Do not kill them, or my people may forget. Scatter them by your power, and bring them down, Lord our shield. 12 For the sin of their mouth, and the words of their lips, let them be caught in their pride, for the curses and lies which they utter. 13 Consume them in wrath. Consume them, and they will be no more. Let them know that God rules in Jacob, to the ends of the earth. (Selah) 14 At evening let them return. Let them howl like a dog, and go around the city. 15 They shall wander up and down for food, and wait all night if they are not satisfied. 16 But I will sing of your strength. Yes, I will sing aloud of your loving kindness in the morning. For you have been my high tower, a refuge in the day of my distress. 17 To you, my strength, I will sing praises. For God is my high tower, the God of my mercy.

**60** For the Chief Musician. To the tune of "The Lily of the Covenant." A teaching poem by David, when he fought with Aram Naharaim and with Aram Zobah, and Joab returned, and killed twelve thousand of Edom in the Valley of Salt. God, you have rejected us. You have broken us down. You have been angry. Restore us, again. 2 You have made the land tremble. You have torn it. Mend its fractures, for it quakes. 3

You have shown your people hard things. You have made us drink the wine that makes us stagger. **4** You have given a banner to those who fear you, that it may be displayed because of the truth. (Selah) **5** So that your beloved may be delivered, save with your right hand, and answer us. **6** God has spoken from his sanctuary: "I will triumph. I will divide Shechem, and measure out the valley of Succoth. **7** Gilead is mine, and Manasseh is mine. Ephraim also is the defense of my head. Judah is my scepter. **8** Moab is my wash basin. I will throw my sandal on Edom. I shout in triumph over Philistia." **9** Who will bring me into the strong city? Who has led me to Edom? **10** Have not you, God, rejected us? You do not go out with our armies, God. **11** Give us help against the adversary, for the help of man is vain. **12** Through God we will do valiantly, for it is he who will tread down our adversaries.

**61** For the Chief Musician. For a stringed instrument. By David. Hear my cry, God. Listen to my prayer. **2** From the end of the earth, I will call to you when my heart is overwhelmed. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. **3** For you have been a refuge for me, a strong tower from the enemy. **4** I will dwell in your tent forever. I will take refuge in the shelter of your wings. (Selah) **5** For you, God, have heard my vows. You have given me the heritage of those who fear your name. **6** You will prolong the king's life. His years will be for generations. **7** He shall be enthroned in God's presence forever. Appoint your loving kindness and truth, that they may preserve him. **8** So I will sing praise to your name forever, that I may fulfill my vows daily.

**62** For the Chief Musician. To Jeduthun. A Psalm by David. My soul rests in God alone. My salvation is from him. **2** He alone is my rock, my salvation, and my fortress. I will never be greatly shaken. **3** How long will you assault a man? Would all of you throw him down, like a leaning wall, like a tottering fence? **4** They fully intend to throw him down from his lofty place. They delight in lies. They bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly. (Selah) **5** My soul, wait in silence for God alone, for my expectation is from him. **6** He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress. I will not be shaken. **7** My salvation and

my honor is with God. The rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. **8** Trust in him at all times, you people. Pour out your heart before him. God is a refuge for us. (Selah) **9** Surely men of low degree are just a breath, and men of high degree are a lie. In the balances they will go up. They are together lighter than a breath. **10** Do not trust in oppression. Do not become vain in robbery. If riches increase, do not set your heart on them. **11** God has spoken once; twice I have heard this, that power belongs to God. **12** Also to you, Lord, belongs loving kindness, for you reward every man according to his work.

**63** A Psalm by David, when he was in the desert of Judah. God, you are my God. I will earnestly seek you. My soul thirsts for you. My flesh longs for you, in a dry and weary land, where there is no water. **2** So I have seen you in the sanctuary, watching your power and your glory. **3** Because your loving kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise you. **4** So I will bless you while I live. I will lift up my hands in your name. **5** My soul shall be satisfied as with the richest food. My mouth shall praise you with joyful lips, **6** when I remember you on my bed, and think about you in the night watches. **7** For you have been my help. I will rejoice in the shadow of your wings. **8** My soul stays close to you. Your right hand holds me up. **9** But those who seek my soul to destroy it shall go into the lower parts of the earth. **10** They shall be given over to the power of the sword. They shall be jackal food. **11** But the king shall rejoice in God. Everyone who swears by him will praise him, for the mouth of those who speak lies shall be silenced.

**64** For the Chief Musician. A Psalm by David. Hear my voice, God, in my complaint. Preserve my life from fear of the enemy. **2** Hide me from the conspiracy of the wicked, from the noisy crowd of the ones doing evil; **3** who sharpen their tongue like a sword, and aim their arrows, deadly words, **4** to shoot innocent men from ambushes. They shoot at him suddenly and fearlessly. **5** They encourage themselves in evil plans. They talk about laying snares secretly. They say, "Who will see them?" **6** They plot injustice, saying, "We have made a perfect plan!" Surely man's mind and heart are cunning. **7** But God will shoot at them. They will be suddenly

struck down with an arrow. **8** Their own tongues shall ruin them. All who see them will shake their heads. **9** All mankind shall be afraid. They shall declare the work of God, and shall wisely ponder what he has done. **10** The righteous shall be glad in the LORD, and shall take refuge in him. All the upright in heart shall praise him!

**65** For the Chief Musician. A Psalm by David. A song. Praise waits for you, God, in Zion. Vows shall be performed to you. **2** You who hear prayer, all men will come to you. **3** Sins overwhelmed me, but you atoned for our transgressions. **4** Blessed is the one whom you choose and cause to come near, that he may live in your courts. We will be filled with the goodness of your house, your holy temple. **5** By awesome deeds of righteousness, you answer us, God of our salvation. You who are the hope of all the ends of the earth, of those who are far away on the sea. **6** By your power, you form the mountains, having armed yourself with strength. **7** You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations. **8** They also who dwell in faraway places are afraid at your wonders. You call the morning's dawn and the evening with songs of joy. **9** You visit the earth, and water it. You greatly enrich it. The river of God is full of water. You provide them grain, for so you have ordained it. **10** You drench its furrows. You level its ridges. You soften it with showers. You bless it with a crop. **11** You crown the year with your bounty. Your carts overflow with abundance. **12** The wilderness grasslands overflow. The hills are clothed with gladness. **13** The pastures are covered with flocks. The valleys also are clothed with grain. They shout for joy! They also sing.

**66** For the Chief Musician. A song. A Psalm. Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth! **2** Sing to the glory of his name! Offer glory and praise! **3** Tell God, "How awesome are your deeds! Through the greatness of your power, your enemies submit themselves to you. **4** All the earth will worship you, and will sing to you; they will sing to your name." (Selah) **5** Come, and see God's deeds—awesome work on behalf of the children of men. **6** He turned the sea into dry land. They went through the river on foot. There, we rejoiced in him. **7** He rules by his

might forever. His eyes watch the nations. Do not let the rebellious rise up against him. (Selah) **8** Praise our God, you peoples! Make the sound of his praise heard, **9** who preserves our life among the living, and does not allow our feet to be moved. **10** For you, God, have tested us. You have refined us, as silver is refined. **11** You brought us into prison. You laid a burden on our backs. **12** You allowed men to ride over our heads. We went through fire and through water, but you brought us to the place of abundance. **13** I will come into your temple with burnt offerings. I will pay my vows to you, **14** which my lips promised, and my mouth spoke, when I was in distress. **15** I will offer to you burnt offerings of fat animals, with the offering of rams, I will offer bulls with goats. (Selah) **16** Come and hear, all you who fear God. I will declare what he has done for my soul. **17** I cried to him with my mouth. He was extolled with my tongue. **18** If I cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. **19** But most certainly, God has listened. He has heard the voice of my prayer. **20** Blessed be God, who has not turned away my prayer, nor his loving kindness from me.

**67** For the Chief Musician. With stringed instruments. A Psalm. A song. May God be merciful to us, bless us, and cause his face to shine on us. (Selah) **2** That your way may be known on earth, and your salvation among all nations, **3** let the peoples praise you, God. Let all the peoples praise you. **4** Oh let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you will judge the peoples with equity, and govern the nations on earth. (Selah) **5** Let the peoples praise you, God. Let all the peoples praise you. **6** The earth has yielded its increase. God, even our own God, will bless us. **7** God will bless us. All the ends of the earth shall fear him.

**68** For the Chief Musician. A Psalm by David. A song. Let God arise! Let his enemies be scattered! Let them who hate him also flee before him. **2** As smoke is driven away, so drive them away. As wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God. **3** But let the righteous be glad. Let them rejoice before God. Yes, let them rejoice with gladness. **4** Sing to God! Sing praises to his name! Extol him who rides on the clouds: to

the LORD, his name! Rejoice before him! **5** A father of the fatherless, and a defender of the widows, is God in his holy habitation. **6** God sets the lonely in families. He brings out the prisoners with singing, but the rebellious dwell in a sun-scorched land. **7** God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness... (Selah) **8** The earth trembled. The sky also poured down rain at the presence of the God of Sinai— at the presence of God, the God of Israel. **9** You, God, sent a plentiful rain. You confirmed your inheritance when it was weary. **10** Your congregation lived therein. You, God, prepared your goodness for the poor. **11** The Lord announced the word. The ones who proclaim it are a great company. **12** “Kings of armies flee! They flee!” She who waits at home divides the plunder, **13** while you sleep among the camp fires, the wings of a dove sheathed with silver, her feathers with shining gold. **14** When the Almighty scattered kings in her, it snowed on Zalmon. **15** The mountains of Bashan are majestic mountains. The mountains of Bashan are rugged. **16** Why do you look in envy, you rugged mountains, at the mountain where God chooses to reign? Yes, the LORD will dwell there forever. **17** The chariots of God are tens of thousands and thousands of thousands. The Lord is among them, from Sinai, into the sanctuary. **18** You have ascended on high. You have led away captives. You have received gifts among people, yes, among the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell there. **19** Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burdens, even the God who is our salvation. (Selah) **20** God is to us a God of deliverance. To GOD, the Lord, belongs escape from death. **21** But God will strike through the head of his enemies, the hairy scalp of such a one as still continues in his guiltiness. **22** The Lord said, “I will bring you again from Bashan, I will bring you again from the depths of the sea, **23** that you may crush them, dipping your foot in blood, that the tongues of your dogs may have their portion from your enemies.” **24** They have seen your processions, God, even the processions of my God, my King, into the sanctuary. **25** The singers went before, the minstrels followed after, among the ladies playing with tambourines, **26** “Bless God in the congregations, even the Lord in the assembly of Israel!” **27** There is little Benjamin,

their ruler, the princes of Judah, their council, the princes of Zebulun, and the princes of Naphtali. **28** Your God has commanded your strength. Strengthen, God, that which you have done for us. **29** Because of your temple at Jerusalem, kings shall bring presents to you. **30** Rebuke the wild animal of the reeds, the multitude of the bulls with the calves of the peoples. Trample under foot the bars of silver. Scatter the nations who delight in war. **31** Princes shall come out of Egypt. Ethiopia shall hurry to stretch out her hands to God. **32** Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth! Sing praises to the Lord— (Selah) **33** to him who rides on the heaven of heavens, which are of old; behold, he utters his voice, a mighty voice. **34** Ascribe strength to God! His excellency is over Israel, his strength is in the skies. **35** You are awesome, God, in your sanctuaries. The God of Israel gives strength and power to his people. Praise be to God!

**69** For the Chief Musician. To the tune of “Lilies.”  
By David. Save me, God, for the waters have come up to my neck! **2** I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold. I have come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me. **3** I am weary with my crying. My throat is dry. My eyes fail looking for my God. **4** Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head. Those who want to cut me off, being my enemies wrongfully, are mighty. I have to restore what I did not take away. **5** God, you know my foolishness. My sins are not hidden from you. **6** Do not let those who wait for you be shamed through me, Lord GOD of Armies. Do not let those who seek you be brought to dishonor through me, God of Israel. **7** Because for your sake, I have borne reproach. Shame has covered my face. **8** I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my mother's children. **9** For the zeal of your house consumes me. The reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me. **10** When I wept and I fasted, that was to my reproach. **11** When I made sackcloth my clothing, I became a byword to them. **12** Those who sit in the gate talk about me. I am the song of the drunkards. **13** But as for me, my prayer is to you, LORD, in an acceptable time. God, in the abundance of your loving kindness, answer me in the truth of your salvation. **14** Deliver me out of the mire, and do



not let me sink. Let me be delivered from those who hate me, and out of the deep waters. **15** Do not let the flood waters overwhelm me, neither let the deep swallow me up. Do not let the pit shut its mouth on me. **16** Answer me, LORD, for your loving kindness is good. According to the multitude of your tender mercies, turn to me. **17** Do not hide your face from your servant, for I am in distress. Answer me speedily! **18** Draw near to my soul and redeem it. Ransom me because of my enemies. **19** You know my reproach, my shame, and my dishonor. My adversaries are all before you. **20** Reproach has broken my heart, and I am full of heaviness. I looked for some to take pity, but there was none; for comforters, but I found none. **21** They also gave me poison for my food. In my thirst, they gave me vinegar to drink. **22** Let their table before them become a snare. May it become a retribution and a trap. **23** Let their eyes be darkened, so that they cannot see. Let their backs be continually bent. **24** Pour out your indignation on them. Let the fierceness of your anger overtake them. **25** Let their habitation be desolate. Let no one dwell in their tents. **26** For they persecute him whom you have wounded. They tell of the sorrow of those whom you have hurt. **27** Charge them with crime upon crime. Do not let them come into your righteousness. **28** Let them be blotted out of the book of life, and not be written with the righteous. **29** But I am in pain and distress. Let your salvation, God, protect me. **30** I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving. **31** It will please the LORD better than an ox, or a bull that has horns and hoofs. **32** The humble have seen it, and are glad. You who seek after God, let your heart live. **33** For the LORD hears the needy, and does not despise his captive people. **34** Let heaven and earth praise him; the seas, and everything that moves therein! **35** For God will save Zion, and build the cities of Judah. They shall settle there, and own it. **36** The children also of his servants shall inherit it. Those who love his name shall dwell therein.

**70** For the Chief Musician. By David. A reminder. Hurry, God, to deliver me. Come quickly to help me, LORD. **2** Let them be disappointed and confounded who seek my soul. Let those who desire my ruin be turned back in disgrace. **3** Let them be

turned because of their shame who say, "Aha! Aha!" **4** Let all those who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. Let those who love your salvation continually say, "Let God be exalted!" **5** But I am poor and needy. Come to me quickly, God. You are my help and my deliverer. LORD, do not delay.

**71** In you, LORD, I take refuge. Never let me be disappointed. **2** Deliver me in your righteousness, and rescue me. Turn your ear to me, and save me. **3** Be to me a rock of refuge to which I may always go. Give the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress. **4** Rescue me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man. **5** For you are my hope, Lord GOD, my confidence from my youth. **6** I have relied on you from the womb. You are he who took me out of my mother's womb. I will always praise you. **7** I am a marvel to many, but you are my strong refuge. **8** My mouth shall be filled with your praise, with your honor all day long. **9** Do not reject me in my old age. Do not forsake me when my strength fails. **10** For my enemies talk about me. Those who watch for my soul conspire together, **11** saying, "God has forsaken him. Pursue and take him, for no one will rescue him." **12** God, do not be far from me. My God, hurry to help me. **13** Let my accusers be disappointed and consumed. Let them be covered with disgrace and scorn who want to harm me. **14** But I will always hope, and will add to all of your praise. **15** My mouth will tell about your righteousness, and of your salvation all day, though I do not know its full measure. **16** I will come with the mighty acts of the Lord GOD. I will make mention of your righteousness, even of yours alone. **17** God, you have taught me from my youth. Until now, I have declared your wondrous works. **18** Yes, even when I am old and gray-haired, God, do not forsake me, until I have declared your strength to the next generation, your might to everyone who is to come. **19** God, your righteousness also reaches to the heavens. You have done great things. God, who is like you? **20** You, who have shown us many and bitter troubles, you will let me live. You will bring us up again from the depths of the earth. **21** Increase my honor and comfort me again. **22** I will also praise you with the harp for your faithfulness, my God. I sing praises to you with

the lyre, Holy One of Israel. 23 My lips shall shout for joy! My soul, which you have redeemed, sings praises to you! 24 My tongue will also talk about your righteousness all day long, for they are disappointed, and they are confounded, who want to harm me.

**72** By Solomon. God, give the king your justice; your righteousness to the royal son. 2 He will judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice. 3 The mountains shall bring prosperity to the people. The hills bring the fruit of righteousness. 4 He will judge the poor of the people. He will save the children of the needy, and will break the oppressor in pieces. 5 They shall fear you while the sun endures; and as long as the moon, throughout all generations. 6 He will come down like rain on the mown grass, as showers that water the earth. 7 In his days, the righteous shall flourish, and abundance of peace, until the moon is no more. 8 He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, from the River to the ends of the earth. 9 Those who dwell in the wilderness shall bow before him. His enemies shall lick the dust. 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the islands will bring tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts. 11 Yes, all kings shall fall down before him. All nations shall serve him. 12 For he will deliver the needy when he cries; the poor, who has no helper. 13 He will have pity on the poor and needy. He will save the souls of the needy. 14 He will redeem their soul from oppression and violence. Their blood will be precious in his sight. 15 He will live; and Sheba's gold will be given to him. Men will pray for him continually. They will bless him all day long. 16 Abundance of grain shall be throughout the land. Its fruit sways like Lebanon. Let it flourish, thriving like the grass of the field. 17 His name endures forever. His name continues as long as the sun. Men shall be blessed by him. All nations will call him blessed. 18 Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds. 19 Blessed be his glorious name forever! Let the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and amen. 20 This ends the prayers by David, the son of Jesse.

**73** A Psalm by Asaph. Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. 2 But as for me, my feet were almost gone. My steps had nearly

slipped. 3 For I was envious of the arrogant, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. 4 For there are no struggles in their death, but their strength is firm. 5 They are free from burdens of men, neither are they plagued like other men. 6 Therefore pride is like a chain around their neck. Violence covers them like a garment. 7 Their eyes bulge with fat. Their minds pass the limits of conceit. 8 They scoff and speak with malice. In arrogance, they threaten oppression. 9 They have set their mouth in the heavens. Their tongue walks through the earth. 10 Therefore their people return to them, and they drink up waters of abundance. 11 They say, "How does God know? Is there knowledge in the Most High?" 12 Behold, these are the wicked. Being always at ease, they increase in riches. 13 Surely I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocence, 14 For all day long I have been plagued, and punished every morning. 15 If I had said, "I will speak thus", behold, I would have betrayed the generation of your children. 16 When I tried to understand this, it was too painful for me— 17 until I entered God's sanctuary, and considered their latter end. 18 Surely you set them in slippery places. You throw them down to destruction. 19 How they are suddenly destroyed! They are completely swept away with terrors. 20 As a dream when one wakes up, so, Lord, when you awake, you will despise their fantasies. 21 For my soul was grieved. I was embittered in my heart. 22 I was so senseless and ignorant. I was a brute beast before you. 23 Nevertheless, I am continually with you. You have held my right hand. 24 You will guide me with your counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. 25 Whom do I have in heaven? There is no one on earth whom I desire besides you. 26 My flesh and my heart fails, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. 27 For, behold, those who are far from you shall perish. You have destroyed all those who are unfaithful to you. 28 But it is good for me to come close to God. I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.

**74** A contemplation by Asaph. God, why have you rejected us forever? Why does your anger smolder against the sheep of your pasture? 2 Remember your congregation, which you purchased of old, which you have redeemed to be the tribe

of your inheritance: Mount Zion, in which you have lived. **3** Lift up your feet to the perpetual ruins, all the evil that the enemy has done in the sanctuary. **4** Your adversaries have roared in the middle of your assembly. They have set up their standards as signs. **5** They behaved like men wielding axes, cutting through a thicket of trees. **6** Now they break all its carved work down with hatchet and hammers. **7** They have burned your sanctuary to the ground. They have profaned the dwelling place of your Name. **8** They said in their heart, "We will crush them completely." They have burned up all the places in the land where God was worshiped. **9** We see no miraculous signs. There is no longer any prophet, neither is there among us anyone who knows how long. **10** How long, God, shall the adversary reproach? Shall the enemy blaspheme your name forever? **11** Why do you draw back your hand, even your right hand? Take it from your chest and consume them! **12** Yet God is my King of old, working salvation throughout the earth. **13** You divided the sea by your strength. You broke the heads of the sea monsters in the waters. **14** You broke the heads of Leviathan in pieces. You gave him as food to people and desert creatures. **15** You opened up spring and stream. You dried up mighty rivers. **16** The day is yours, the night is also yours. You have prepared the light and the sun. **17** You have set all the boundaries of the earth. You have made summer and winter. **18** Remember this, that the enemy has mocked you, LORD. Foolish people have blasphemed your name. **19** Do not deliver the soul of your dove to wild beasts. Do not forget the life of your poor forever. **20** Honor your covenant, for haunts of violence fill the dark places of the earth. **21** Do not let the oppressed return ashamed. Let the poor and needy praise your name. **22** Arise, God! Plead your own cause. Remember how the foolish man mocks you all day. **23** Do not forget the voice of your adversaries. The tumult of those who rise up against you ascends continually.

**75** For the Chief Musician. To the tune of "Do Not Destroy." A Psalm by Asaph. A song. We give thanks to you, God. We give thanks, for your Name is near. Men tell about your wondrous works. **2** When I choose the appointed time, I will judge blamelessly. **3** The earth and all its inhabitants quake. I firmly hold

its pillars. (Selah) **4** I said to the arrogant, "Do not boast!" I said to the wicked, "Do not lift up the horn. **5** Do not lift up your horn on high. Do not speak with a stiff neck." **6** For neither from the east, nor from the west, nor yet from the south, comes exaltation. **7** But God is the judge. He puts down one, and lifts up another. **8** For in the LORD's hand there is a cup, full of foaming wine mixed with spices. He pours it out. Indeed the wicked of the earth drink and drink it to its very dregs. **9** But I will declare this forever: I will sing praises to the God of Jacob. **10** I will cut off all the horns of the wicked, but the horns of the righteous shall be lifted up.

**76** For the Chief Musician. On stringed instruments. A Psalm by Asaph. A song. In Judah, God is known. His name is great in Israel. **2** His tabernacle is also in Salem. His dwelling place in Zion. **3** There he broke the flaming arrows of the bow, the shield, and the sword, and the weapons of war. (Selah) **4** Glorious are you, and excellent, more than mountains of game. **5** Valiant men lie plundered, they have slept their last sleep. None of the men of war can lift their hands. **6** At your rebuke, God of Jacob, both chariot and horse are cast into a dead sleep. **7** You, even you, are to be feared. Who can stand in your sight when you are angry? **8** You pronounced judgment from heaven. The earth feared, and was silent, **9** when God arose to judgment, to save all the afflicted ones of the earth. (Selah) **10** Surely the wrath of man praises you. The survivors of your wrath are restrained. **11** Make vows to the LORD your God, and fulfill them! Let all of his neighbors bring presents to him who is to be feared. **12** He will cut off the spirit of princes. He is feared by the kings of the earth.

**77** For the Chief Musician. To Jeduthun. A Psalm by Asaph. My cry goes to God! Indeed, I cry to God for help, and for him to listen to me. **2** In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord. My hand was stretched out in the night, and did not get tired. My soul refused to be comforted. **3** I remember God, and I groan. I complain, and my spirit is overwhelmed. (Selah) **4** You hold my eyelids open. I am so troubled that I cannot speak. **5** I have considered the days of old, the years of ancient times. **6** I remember my song in the night. I consider in my own heart; my spirit

diligently inquires: 7 "Will the Lord reject us forever? Will he be favorable no more? 8 Has his loving kindness vanished forever? Does his promise fail for generations? 9 Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has he, in anger, withheld his compassion?" (Selah) 10 Then I thought, "I will appeal to this: the years of the right hand of the Most High." 11 I will remember the LORD's deeds; for I will remember your wonders of old. 12 I will also meditate on all your work, and consider your doings. 13 Your way, God, is in the sanctuary. What god is great like God? 14 You are the God who does wonders. You have made your strength known among the peoples. 15 You have redeemed your people with your arm, the sons of Jacob and Joseph. (Selah) 16 The waters saw you, God. The waters saw you, and they writhed. The depths also convulsed. 17 The clouds poured out water. The skies resounded with thunder. Your arrows also flashed around. 18 The voice of your thunder was in the whirlwind. The lightnings lit up the world. The earth trembled and shook. 19 Your way was through the sea, your paths through the great waters. Your footsteps were not known. 20 You led your people like a flock, by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

**78** A contemplation by Asaph. Hear my teaching, my people. Turn your ears to the words of my mouth. 2 I will open my mouth in a parable. I will utter dark sayings of old, 3 which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. 4 We will not hide them from their children, telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, his strength, and his wondrous deeds that he has done. 5 For he established a covenant in Jacob, and appointed a teaching in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children; 6 that the generation to come might know, even the children who should be born; who should arise and tell their children, 7 that they might set their hope in God, and not forget God's deeds, but keep his commandments, 8 and might not be as their fathers—a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation that did not make their hearts loyal, whose spirit was not steadfast with God. 9 The children of Ephraim, being armed and carrying bows, turned back in the day of battle. 10 They did not keep God's covenant, and refused to walk in his law. 11 They forgot his

doings, his wondrous deeds that he had shown them. 12 He did marvelous things in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan. 13 He split the sea, and caused them to pass through. He made the waters stand as a heap. 14 In the daytime he also led them with a cloud, and all night with a light of fire. 15 He split rocks in the wilderness, and gave them drink abundantly as out of the depths. 16 He brought streams also out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers. 17 Yet they still went on to sin against him, to rebel against the Most High in the desert. 18 They tempted God in their heart by asking food according to their desire. 19 Yes, they spoke against God. They said, "Can God prepare a table in the wilderness? 20 Behold, he struck the rock, so that waters gushed out, and streams overflowed. Can he give bread also? Will he provide meat for his people?" 21 Therefore the LORD heard, and was angry. A fire was kindled against Jacob, anger also went up against Israel, 22 because they did not believe in God, and did not trust in his salvation. 23 Yet he commanded the skies above, and opened the doors of heaven. 24 He rained down manna on them to eat, and gave them food from the sky. 25 Man ate the bread of angels. He sent them food to the full. 26 He caused the east wind to blow in the sky. By his power he guided the south wind. 27 He also rained meat on them as the dust, winged birds as the sand of the seas. 28 He let them fall in the middle of their camp, around their habitations. 29 So they ate, and were well filled. He gave them their own desire. 30 They did not turn from their cravings. Their food was yet in their mouths, 31 when the anger of God went up against them, killed some of their strongest, and struck down the young men of Israel. 32 For all this they still sinned, and did not believe in his wondrous works. 33 Therefore he consumed their days in vanity, and their years in terror. 34 When he killed them, then they inquired after him. They returned and sought God earnestly. 35 They remembered that God was their rock, the Most High God, their redeemer. 36 But they flattered him with their mouth, and lied to him with their tongue. 37 For their heart was not right with him, neither were they faithful in his covenant. 38 But he, being merciful, forgave iniquity, and did not destroy them. Yes, many times he turned his

anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath. **39** He remembered that they were but flesh, a wind that passes away, and does not come again. **40** How often they rebelled against him in the wilderness, and grieved him in the desert! **41** They turned again and tempted God, and provoked the Holy One of Israel. **42** They did not remember his hand, nor the day when he redeemed them from the adversary; **43** how he set his signs in Egypt, his wonders in the field of Zoan, **44** he turned their rivers into blood, and their streams, so that they could not drink. **45** He sent among them swarms of flies, which devoured them; and frogs, which destroyed them. **46** He also gave their increase to the caterpillar, and their labor to the locust. **47** He destroyed their vines with hail, their sycamore fig trees with frost. **48** He also gave over their livestock to the hail, and their flocks to hot thunderbolts. **49** He threw on them the fierceness of his anger, wrath, indignation, and trouble, and a band of angels of evil. **50** He made a path for his anger. He did not spare their soul from death, but gave their life over to the pestilence, **51** and struck all the firstborn in Egypt, the chief of their strength in the tents of Ham. **52** But he led out his own people like sheep, and guided them in the wilderness like a flock. **53** He led them safely, so that they were not afraid, but the sea overwhelmed their enemies. **54** He brought them to the border of his sanctuary, to this mountain, which his right hand had taken. **55** He also drove out the nations before them, allotted them for an inheritance by line, and made the tribes of Israel to dwell in their tents. **56** Yet they tempted and rebelled against the Most High God, and did not keep his testimonies, **57** but turned back, and dealt treacherously like their fathers. They were twisted like a deceitful bow. **58** For they provoked him to anger with their high places, and moved him to jealousy with their engraved images. **59** When God heard this, he was angry, and greatly abhorred Israel, **60** so that he abandoned the tent of Shiloh, the tent which he placed among men, **61** and delivered his strength into captivity, his glory into the adversary's hand. **62** He also gave his people over to the sword, and was angry with his inheritance. **63** Fire devoured their young men. Their virgins had no wedding song. **64** Their priests fell by the sword, and their widows could not weep. **65** Then the Lord awakened as one out of sleep, like a mighty man who shouts by reason of wine. **66** He struck his adversaries backward. He put them to a perpetual reproach. **67** Moreover he rejected the tent of Joseph, and did not choose the tribe of Ephraim, **68** But chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion which he loved. **69** He built his sanctuary like the heights, like the earth which he has established forever. **70** He also chose David his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds; **71** from following the ewes that have their young, he brought him to be the shepherd of Jacob, his people, and Israel, his inheritance. **72** So he was their shepherd according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands.

**79** A Psalm by Asaph. God, the nations have come into your inheritance. They have defiled your holy temple. They have laid Jerusalem in heaps. **2** They have given the dead bodies of your servants to be food for the birds of the sky, the flesh of your saints to the animals of the earth. **3** They have shed their blood like water around Jerusalem. There was no one to bury them. **4** We have become a reproach to our neighbors, a scoffing and derision to those who are around us. **5** How long, LORD? Will you be angry forever? Will your jealousy burn like fire? **6** Pour out your wrath on the nations that do not know you, on the kingdoms that do not call on your name, **7** for they have devoured Jacob, and destroyed his homeland. **8** Do not hold the iniquities of our forefathers against us. Let your tender mercies speedily meet us, for we are in desperate need. **9** Help us, God of our salvation, for the glory of your name. Deliver us, and forgive our sins, for your name's sake. **10** Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" Let it be known among the nations, before our eyes, that vengeance for your servants' blood is being poured out. **11** Let the sighing of the prisoner come before you. According to the greatness of your power, preserve those who are sentenced to death. **12** Pay back to our neighbors seven times into their bosom their reproach with which they have reproached you, Lord. **13** So we, your people and sheep of your pasture, will give you thanks forever. We will praise you forever, to all generations.

**80** For the Chief Musician. To the tune of “The Lilies of the Covenant.” A Psalm by Asaph. Hear us, Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock, you who sit above the cherubim, shine out. **2** Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your might! Come to save us! **3** Turn us again, God. Cause your face to shine, and we will be saved. **4** LORD God of Armies, how long will you be angry against the prayer of your people? **5** You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in large measure. **6** You make us a source of contention to our neighbors. Our enemies laugh among themselves. **7** Turn us again, God of Armies. Cause your face to shine, and we will be saved. **8** You brought a vine out of Egypt. You drove out the nations, and planted it. **9** You cleared the ground for it. It took deep root, and filled the land. **10** The mountains were covered with its shadow. Its boughs were like God's cedars. **11** It sent out its branches to the sea, its shoots to the River. **12** Why have you broken down its walls, so that all those who pass by the way pluck it? **13** The boar out of the wood ravages it. The wild animals of the field feed on it. **14** Turn again, we beg you, God of Armies. Look down from heaven, and see, and visit this vine, **15** the stock which your right hand planted, the branch that you made strong for yourself. **16** It's burned with fire. It's cut down. They perish at your rebuke. **17** Let your hand be on the man of your right hand, on the son of man whom you made strong for yourself. **18** So we will not turn away from you. Revive us, and we will call on your name. **19** Turn us again, LORD God of Armies. Cause your face to shine, and we will be saved.

**81** For the Chief Musician. On an instrument of Gath. By Asaph. Sing aloud to God, our strength! Make a joyful shout to the God of Jacob! **2** Raise a song, and bring here the tambourine, the pleasant lyre with the harp. **3** Blow the trumpet at the New Moon, at the full moon, on our feast day. **4** For it is a statute for Israel, an ordinance of the God of Jacob. **5** He appointed it in Joseph for a covenant, when he went out over the land of Egypt, I heard a language that I did not know. **6** “I removed his shoulder from the burden. His hands were freed from the basket. **7** You called in trouble, and I delivered

you. I answered you in the secret place of thunder. I tested you at the waters of Meribah.” (Selah) **8** “Hear, my people, and I will testify to you, Israel, if you would listen to me! **9** There shall be no strange god in you, neither shall you worship any foreign god. **10** I am the LORD, your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it. **11** But my people did not listen to my voice. Israel desired none of me. **12** So I let them go after the stubbornness of their hearts, that they might walk in their own counsels. **13** Oh that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways! **14** I would soon subdue their enemies, and turn my hand against their adversaries. **15** The haters of the LORD would cringe before him, and their punishment would last forever. **16** But he would have also fed them with the finest of the wheat. I will satisfy you with honey out of the rock.”

**82** A Psalm by Asaph. God presides in the great assembly. He judges among the gods. **2** “How long will you judge unjustly, and show partiality to the wicked?” (Selah) **3** “Defend the weak, the poor, and the fatherless. Maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. **4** Rescue the weak and needy. Deliver them out of the hand of the wicked.” **5** They do not know, neither do they understand. They walk back and forth in darkness. All the foundations of the earth are shaken. **6** I said, “You are gods, all of you are sons of the Most High. **7** Nevertheless you shall die like men, and fall like one of the rulers.” **8** Arise, God, judge the earth, for you inherit all of the nations.

**83** A song. A Psalm by Asaph. God, do not keep silent. Do not keep silent, and do not be still, God. **2** For, behold, your enemies are stirred up. Those who hate you have lifted up their heads. **3** They conspire with cunning against your people. They plot against your cherished ones. **4** “Come,” they say, “let's destroy them as a nation, that the name of Israel may be remembered no more.” **5** For they have conspired together with one mind. They form an alliance against you. **6** The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab, and the Hagrites; **7** Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre; **8** Assyria also is joined with them. They have helped the children of Lot. (Selah) **9** Do to them

as you did to Midian, as to Sisera, as to Jabin, at the river Kishon; **10** who perished at Endor, who became as dung for the earth. **11** Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb, yes, all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna, **12** who said, "Let's take possession of God's pasture lands." **13** My God, make them like tumbleweed, like chaff before the wind. **14** As the fire that burns the forest, as the flame that sets the mountains on fire, **15** so pursue them with your tempest, and terrify them with your storm. **16** Fill their faces with confusion, that they may seek your name, LORD. **17** Let them be disappointed and dismayed forever. Yes, let them be confounded and perish; **18** that they may know that you alone, whose name is the LORD, are the Most High over all the earth.

**84** For the Chief Musician. On an instrument of Gath. A Psalm by the sons of Korah. How lovely are your dwellings, LORD of Armies! **2** My soul longs, and even faints for the courts of the LORD. My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. **3** Yes, the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young, near your altars, LORD of Armies, my King, and my God. **4** Blessed are those who dwell in your house. They are always praising you. (Selah) **5** Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on a pilgrimage. **6** Passing through the valley of Weeping, they make it a place of springs. Yes, the autumn rain covers it with blessings. **7** They go from strength to strength. Every one of them appears before God in Zion. **8** LORD, God of Armies, hear my prayer. Listen, God of Jacob. (Selah) **9** Behold, God our shield, look at the face of your anointed. **10** For a day in your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. **11** For the LORD God is a sun and a shield. The LORD will give grace and glory. He withholds no good thing from those who walk blamelessly. **12** LORD of Armies, blessed is the man who trusts in you.

**85** For the Chief Musician. A Psalm by the sons of Korah. LORD, you have been favorable to your land. You have restored the fortunes of Jacob. **2** You have forgiven the iniquity of your people. You have covered all their sin. (Selah) **3** You have taken away

all your wrath. You have turned from the fierceness of your anger. **4** Turn us, God of our salvation, and cause your indignation toward us to cease. **5** Will you be angry with us forever? Will you draw out your anger to all generations? **6** Will not you revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? **7** Show us your loving kindness, LORD. Grant us your salvation. **8** I will hear what God, the LORD, will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, his saints; but let them not turn again to folly. **9** Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land. **10** Mercy and truth meet together. Righteousness and peace have kissed each other. **11** Truth springs out of the earth. Righteousness has looked down from heaven. **12** Yes, the LORD will give that which is good. Our land will yield its increase. **13** Righteousness goes before him, and prepares the way for his steps.

**86** A Prayer by David. Hear, LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy. **2** Preserve my soul, for I am godly. You, my God, save your servant who trusts in you. **3** Be merciful to me, Lord, for I call to you all day long. **4** Bring joy to the soul of your servant, for to you, Lord, do I lift up my soul. **5** For you, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, abundant in loving kindness to all those who call on you. **6** Hear, LORD, my prayer. Listen to the voice of my petitions. **7** In the day of my trouble I will call on you, for you will answer me. **8** There is no one like you among the gods, Lord, nor any deeds like your deeds. **9** All nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord. They shall glorify your name. **10** For you are great, and do wondrous things. You are God alone. **11** Teach me your way, LORD. I will walk in your truth. Make my heart undivided to fear your name. **12** I will praise you, Lord my God, with my whole heart. I will glorify your name forever more.

**13** For your loving kindness is great toward me. You have delivered my soul from the lowest Sheol (Sheol h7585). **14** God, the proud have risen up against me. A company of violent men have sought after my soul, and they do not hold regard for you before them. **15** But you, Lord, are a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger, and abundant in loving kindness and truth. **16** Turn to me, and have mercy on me! Give

your strength to your servant. Save the son of your servant. **17** Show me a sign of your goodness, that those who hate me may see it, and be shamed, because you, LORD, have helped me, and comforted me.

**87** A Psalm by the sons of Korah; a Song. His foundation is in the holy mountains. **2** The LORD loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. **3** Glorious things are spoken about you, city of God. (Selah) **4** I will record Rahab and Babylon among those who acknowledge me. Behold, Philistia, Tyre, and also Ethiopia: "This one was born there." **5** Yes, of Zion it will be said, "This one and that one was born in her;" the Most High himself will establish her. **6** The LORD will count, when he writes up the peoples, "This one was born there." (Selah) **7** Those who sing as well as those who dance say, "All my springs are in you."

**88** A Song. A Psalm by the sons of Korah. For the Chief Musician. To the tune of "The Suffering of Affliction." A contemplation by Heman, the Ezrahite. LORD, the God of my salvation, I have cried day and night before you. **2** Let my prayer enter into your presence. Turn your ear to my cry. **3** For my soul is full of troubles. My life draws near to Sheol (Sheol **h7585**). **4** I am counted among those who go down into the pit. I am like a man who has no help, **5** set apart among the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave, whom you remember no more. They are cut off from your hand. **6** You have laid me in the lowest pit, in the darkest depths. **7** Your wrath lies heavily on me. You have afflicted me with all your waves. (Selah) **8** You have taken my friends from me. You have made me an abomination to them. I am confined, and I cannot escape. **9** My eyes are dim from grief. I have called on you daily, LORD. I have spread out my hands to you. **10** Do you show wonders to the dead? Do the departed spirits rise up and praise you? (Selah) **11** Is your loving kindness declared in the grave? Or your faithfulness in Destruction? **12** Are your wonders made known in the dark? Or your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness? **13** But to you, LORD, I have cried. In the morning, my prayer comes before you. **14** LORD, why do you reject my soul? Why do you hide your face from me? **15** I am afflicted and

ready to die from my youth up. While I suffer your terrors, I am distracted. **16** Your fierce wrath has gone over me. Your terrors have cut me off. **17** They came around me like water all day long. They completely engulfed me. **18** You have put lover and friend far from me, and my friends into darkness.

**89** A contemplation by Ethan, the Ezrahite. I will sing of the loving kindness of the LORD forever. With my mouth, I will make known your faithfulness to all generations. **2** I indeed declare, "Love stands firm forever. You established the heavens. Your faithfulness is in them." **3** "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 to all generations.'" (Selah) **5** The heavens will praise your wonders, LORD, your faithfulness also in the assembly of the holy ones. **6** For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? Who among the sons of the heavenly beings is like the LORD, **7** a very awesome God in the council of the holy ones, to be feared above all those who are around him? **8** LORD, God of Armies, who is a mighty one, like you? LORD, your faithfulness is around you. **9** You rule the pride of the sea. When its waves rise up, you calm them. **10** You have broken Rahab in pieces, like one of the slain. You have scattered your enemies with your mighty arm. **11** The heavens are yours. The earth also is yours, the world and its fullness. You have founded them. **12** You have created the north and the south. Tabor and Hermon rejoice in your name. **13** You have a mighty arm. Your hand is strong, and your right hand is exalted. **14** Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne. Loving kindness and truth go before your face. **15** Blessed are the people who learn to acclaim you. They walk in the light of your presence, LORD. **16** In your name they rejoice all day. In your righteousness, they are exalted. **17** For you are the glory of their strength. In your favor, our horn will be exalted. **18** For our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the Holy One of Israel. **19** Then you spoke in vision to your saints, and said, "I have given strength to the warrior. I have exalted a young man from the people. **20** I have found David, my servant. I have anointed him with my holy oil, **21** with whom my hand shall be established. My arm will also strengthen him.



22 No enemy will tax him. No wicked man will oppress him. 23 I will beat down his adversaries before him, and strike those who hate him. 24 But my faithfulness and my loving kindness will be with him. In my name, his horn will be exalted. 25 I will set his hand also on the sea, and his right hand on the rivers. 26 He will call to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the rock of my salvation!' 27 I will also appoint him my firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth. 28 I will keep my loving kindness for him forever more. My covenant will stand firm with him. 29 I will also make his offspring endure forever, and his throne as the days of heaven. 30 If his children forsake my law, and do not walk in my ordinances; 31 if they break my statutes, and do not keep my commandments; 32 then I will punish their sin with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. 33 But I will not completely take my loving kindness from him, nor allow my faithfulness to fail. 34 I will not break my covenant, nor alter what my lips have uttered. 35 Once I have sworn by my holiness, I will not lie to David. 36 His offspring will endure forever, his throne like the sun before me. 37 It will be established forever like the moon, the faithful witness in the sky." (Selah) 38 But you have rejected and spurned. You have been angry with your anointed. 39 You have renounced the covenant of your servant. You have defiled his crown in the dust. 40 You have broken down all his hedges. You have brought his strongholds to ruin. 41 All who pass by the way rob him. He has become a reproach to his neighbors. 42 You have exalted the right hand of his adversaries. You have made all of his enemies rejoice. 43 Yes, you turn back the edge of his sword, and have not supported him in battle. 44 You have ended his splendor, and thrown his throne down to the ground. 45 You have shortened the days of his youth. You have covered him with shame. (Selah) 46 How long, LORD? Will you hide yourself forever? Will your wrath burn like fire? 47 Remember how short my time is, for what vanity you have created all the children of men! 48 What man is he who shall live and not see death, who shall deliver his soul from the power of Sheol (Sheol h7585)? (Selah) 49 Lord, where are your former loving kindnesses, which you swore to David in your faithfulness? 50 Remember, Lord, the reproach of your servants, how I bear in my heart

the taunts of all the mighty peoples, 51 With which your enemies have mocked, LORD, with which they have mocked the footsteps of your anointed one. 52 Blessed be the LORD forever more. Amen, and Amen.

**90** A Prayer by Moses, the man of God. Lord, you have been our dwelling place for all generations. 2 Before the mountains were born, before you had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, you are God. 3 You turn man to destruction, saying, "Return, you children of men." 4 For a thousand years in your sight are just like yesterday when it is past, like a watch in the night. 5 You sweep them away as they sleep. In the morning they sprout like new grass. 6 In the morning it sprouts and springs up. By evening, it is withered and dry. 7 For we are consumed in your anger. We are troubled in your wrath. 8 You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. 9 For all our days have passed away in your wrath. We bring our years to an end as a sigh. 10 The days of our years are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty years; yet their pride is but labor and sorrow, for it passes quickly, and we fly away. 11 Who knows the power of your anger, your wrath according to the fear that is due to you? 12 So teach us to count our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. 13 Relent, LORD! How long? Have compassion on your servants! 14 Satisfy us in the morning with your loving kindness, that we may rejoice 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 Let your work appear to your servants, your glory to their children. 17 Let the favor of the Lord our God be on us. Establish the work of our hands for us. Yes, establish the work of our hands.

**91** He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust." 3 For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler, and from the deadly pestilence. 4 He will cover you with his feathers. Under his wings you will take refuge. His faithfulness is your shield and rampart. 5 You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow

that flies by day, 6 nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that wastes at noonday. 7 A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it will not come near you. 8 You will only look with your eyes, and see the recompense of the wicked. 9 Because you have made the LORD your refuge, and the Most High your dwelling place, 10 no evil shall happen to you, neither shall any plague come near your dwelling. 11 For he will put his angels in charge of you, to guard you in all your ways. 12 They will bear you up in their hands, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone. 13 You will tread on the lion and cobra. You will trample the young lion and the serpent underfoot. 14 "Because he has set his love on me, therefore I will deliver him. I will set him on high, because he has known my name. 15 He will call on me, and I will answer him. I will be with him in trouble. I will deliver him, and honor him. 16 I will satisfy him with long life, and show him my salvation."

**92** A Psalm. A song for the Sabbath day. It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, Most High, 2 to proclaim your loving kindness in the morning, and your faithfulness every night, 3 with the ten-stringed lute, with the harp, and with the melody of the lyre. 4 For you, LORD, have made me glad through your work. I will triumph in the works of your hands. 5 How great are your works, LORD! Your thoughts are very deep. 6 A senseless man does not know, neither does a fool understand this: 7 though the wicked spring up as the grass, and all the evildoers flourish, they will be destroyed forever. 8 But you, LORD, are on high forever more. 9 For behold, your enemies, LORD, for behold, your enemies shall perish. All the evildoers will be scattered. 10 But you have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox. I am anointed with fresh oil. 11 My eye has also seen my enemies. My ears have heard of the wicked enemies who rise up against me. 12 The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree. He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon. 13 They are planted in the LORD's house. They will flourish in our God's courts. 14 They will still produce fruit in old age. They will be full of sap and green, 15 to show that the LORD is upright. He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

**93** The LORD reigns! He is clothed with majesty! The LORD is armed with strength. The world also is established. It cannot be moved. 2 Your throne is established from long ago. You are from everlasting. 3 The floods have lifted up, LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice. The floods lift up their waves. 4 Above the voices of many waters, the mighty breakers of the sea, the LORD on high is mighty. 5 Your statutes stand firm. Holiness adorns your house, LORD, forever more.

**94** LORD, you God to whom vengeance belongs, you God to whom vengeance belongs, shine out. 2 Rise up, you judge of the earth. Pay back the proud what they deserve. 3 LORD, how long will the wicked, how long will the wicked triumph? 4 They pour out arrogant words. All the evildoers boast. 5 They break your people in pieces, LORD, and afflict your heritage. 6 They kill the widow and the alien, and murder the fatherless. 7 They say, "The LORD will not see, neither will Jacob's God consider."

8 Consider, you senseless among the people; you fools, when will you be wise? 9 He who implanted the ear, will not he hear? He who formed the eye, will not he see? 10 He who disciplines the nations, will not he punish? He who teaches man knows. 11 The LORD knows the thoughts of man, that they are futile. 12 Blessed is the man whom you discipline, LORD, and teach out of your law, 13 that you may give him rest from the days of adversity, until the pit is dug for the wicked. 14 For the LORD will not reject his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance. 15 For judgment will return to righteousness. All the upright in heart shall follow it. 16 Who will rise up for me against the wicked? Who will stand up for me against the evildoers? 17 Unless the LORD had been my help, my soul would have soon lived in silence. 18 When I said, "My foot is slipping!" Your loving kindness, LORD, held me up. 19 In the multitude of my thoughts within me, your comforts delight my soul. 20 Shall the throne of wickedness have fellowship with you, which brings about mischief by statute? 21 They gather themselves together against the soul of the righteous, and condemn the innocent blood. 22 But the LORD has been my high tower, my God, the rock of my refuge. 23 He has brought on them their own

iniquity, and will cut them off in their own wickedness. The LORD, our God, will cut them off.

**95** Oh come, let's sing to the LORD. Let's shout aloud to the rock of our salvation! **2** Let's come before his presence with thanksgiving. Let's extol him with songs! **3** For the LORD is a great God, a great King above all gods. **4** In his hand are the deep places of the earth. The heights of the mountains are also his. **5** The sea is his, and he made it. His hands formed the dry land. **6** Oh come, let's worship and bow down. Let's kneel before the LORD, our Maker, **7** for he is our God. We are the people of his pasture, and the sheep in his care. Today, oh that you would hear his voice! **8** Do not harden your heart, as at Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the wilderness, **9** when your fathers tempted me, tested me, and saw my work. **10** Forty long years I was grieved with that generation, and said, "They are a people who err in their heart. They have not known my ways." **11** Therefore I swore in my wrath, "They will not enter into my rest."

**96** 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 from day to day! **3** Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples. **4** For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised! He is to be feared above all gods. **5** For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. **6** Honor and majesty are before him. Strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. **7** Ascribe to the LORD, you families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. **8** Ascribe to the LORD the glory due to his name. Bring an offering, and come into his courts. **9** Worship the LORD in holy array. Tremble before him, all the earth. **10** Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns." The world is also established. It cannot be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity. **11** Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice. Let the sea roar, and its fullness! **12** Let the field and all that is in it exult! Then all the trees of the woods shall sing for joy **13** before the LORD; for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, the peoples with his truth.

**97** The LORD reigns! Let the earth rejoice! Let the multitude of islands be glad! **2** Clouds and darkness are around him. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne. **3** A fire goes before him, and burns up his adversaries on every side. **4** His lightning lights up the world. The earth sees, and trembles. **5** The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. **6** The heavens declare his righteousness. All the peoples have seen his glory. **7** Let all them be shamed who serve engraved images, who boast in their idols. Worship him, all you gods! **8** Zion heard and was glad. The daughters of Judah rejoiced because of your judgments, LORD. **9** For you, LORD, are most high above all the earth. You are exalted far above all gods. **10** You who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the souls of his saints. He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked. **11** Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart. **12** Be glad in the LORD, you righteous people! Give thanks to his holy Name.

**98** A Psalm. Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. **2** The LORD has made known his salvation. He has openly shown his righteousness in the sight of the nations. **3** He has remembered his loving kindness and his faithfulness toward 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! Burst out and sing for joy, yes, sing praises! **5** Sing praises to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of melody. **6** With trumpets and sound of the ram's horn, make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD. **7** Let the sea roar with its fullness; the world, and those who dwell therein. **8** Let the rivers clap their hands. Let the mountains sing for joy together. **9** Let them sing 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! Let the peoples tremble. He sits enthroned among the cherubim. Let the earth be moved. **2** The LORD is great in Zion. He is high above all the peoples. **3** Let them praise your great and awesome name. He is Holy! **4** The King's

strength also loves justice. You establish equity. You execute justice and righteousness in Jacob. **5** Exalt the LORD our God. Worship at his footstool. He is Holy! **6** Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel was among those who call on his name. They called on the LORD, and he answered them. **7** He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud. They kept his testimonies, the statute that he gave them. **8** You answered them, LORD our God. You are a God who forgave them, although you took vengeance for their doings. **9** Exalt the LORD, our God. Worship at his holy hill, for the LORD, our God, is holy!

**100** A Psalm of thanksgiving. Shout for joy to the LORD, all you lands! **2** Serve the LORD with gladness. Come before his presence with singing. **3** Know that the LORD, he is God. It is he who has made us, and we are his. We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. **4** Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, and bless his name. **5** For the LORD is good. His loving kindness endures forever, his faithfulness to all generations.

**101** A Psalm by David. I will sing of loving kindness and justice. To you, LORD, I will sing praises. **2** I will be careful to live a blameless life. When will you come to me? I will walk within my house with a blameless heart. **3** I will set no vile thing before my eyes. I hate the deeds of faithless men. They will not cling to me. **4** A perverse heart will be far from me. I will have nothing to do with evil. **5** I will silence whoever secretly slanders his neighbor. I will not tolerate one who is arrogant and conceited. **6** My eyes will be on the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me. He who walks in a perfect way, he will serve me. **7** He who practices deceit will not dwell within my house. He who speaks falsehood will not be established before my eyes. **8** Morning by morning, I will destroy all the wicked of the land, to cut off all the workers of iniquity from the LORD's city.

**102** A Prayer of the afflicted, when he is overwhelmed and pours out his complaint before the LORD. Hear my prayer, LORD! Let my cry come to you. **2** Do not hide your face from me in the day of my distress. Turn your ear to me. Answer me quickly in the day when I call. **3** For my days

consume away like smoke. My bones are burned as a torch. **4** My heart is blighted like grass, and withered, for I forget to eat my bread. **5** By reason of the voice of my groaning, my bones stick to my skin. **6** I am like a pelican of the wilderness. I have become as an owl of the waste places. **7** I watch, and have become like a sparrow that is alone on the housetop. **8** My enemies reproach me all day. Those who are mad at me use my name as a curse. **9** For I have eaten ashes like bread, and mixed my drink with tears, **10** because of your indignation and your wrath; for you have taken me up and thrown me away. **11** My days are like a long shadow. I have withered like grass. **12** But you, LORD, will remain forever; your renown endures to all generations. **13** You will arise and have mercy on Zion, for it is time to have pity on her. Yes, the set time has come. **14** For your servants take pleasure in her stones, and have pity on her dust. **15** So the nations will fear the LORD's name, all the kings of the earth your glory. **16** For the LORD has built up Zion. He has appeared in his glory. **17** He has responded to the prayer of the destitute, and has not despised their prayer. **18** This will be written for the generation to come. A people which will be created will praise the LORD, **19** for he has looked down from the height of his sanctuary. From heaven, the LORD saw the earth, **20** to hear the groans of the prisoner, to free those who are condemned to death, **21** that men may declare the LORD's name in Zion, and his praise in Jerusalem, **22** when the peoples are gathered together, the kingdoms, to serve the LORD. **23** He weakened my strength along the course. He shortened my days. **24** I said, "My God, do not take me away in the middle of my days. Your years are throughout all generations. **25** Of old, you laid the foundation of the earth. The heavens are the work of your hands. **26** They will perish, but you will endure. Yes, all of them will wear out like a garment. You will change them like a cloak, and they will be changed. **27** But you are the same. Your years will have no end. **28** The children of your servants will continue. Their offspring will be established before you."

**103** By David. Praise the LORD, my soul! All that is within me, praise his holy name! **2** Praise the LORD, my soul, and do not forget all his benefits,

3 who forgives all your sins, who heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies, 5 who satisfies your desire with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. 6 The LORD executes righteous acts, and justice for all who are oppressed. 7 He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the children of Israel. 8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in loving kindness. 9 He will not always accuse; neither will he stay angry forever. 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us for our iniquities. 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his loving kindness toward those who fear him. 12 As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. 13 Like a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him. 14 For he knows how we are made. He remembers that we are dust. 15 As for man, his days are like grass. As a flower of the field, so he flourishes. 16 For the wind passes over it, and it is gone. Its place remembers it no more. 17 But the LORD's loving kindness is from everlasting to everlasting with those who fear him, his righteousness to children's children, 18 to those who keep his covenant, to those who remember to obey his precepts. 19 The LORD has established his throne in the heavens. His kingdom rules over all. 20 Praise the LORD, you angels of his, who are mighty in strength, who fulfill his word, obeying the voice of his word. 21 Praise the LORD, all you armies of his, you servants of his, who do his pleasure. 22 Praise the LORD, all you works of his, in all places of his dominion. Praise the LORD, my soul!

**104** Bless the LORD, my soul. The LORD, my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty. 2 He covers himself with light as with a garment. He stretches out the heavens like a curtain. 3 He lays the beams of his rooms in the waters. He makes the clouds his chariot. He walks on the wings of the wind. 4 He makes his messengers winds, and his servants flames of fire. 5 He laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be moved forever. 6 You covered it with the deep as with a cloak. The waters stood above the mountains. 7 At your rebuke they fled. At the voice of your thunder they hurried away. 8 The mountains rose, the valleys sank down, to the place which you had assigned to them. 9 You have set a boundary that they may not pass over, that they do not turn again to cover the earth. 10 He sends springs into the valleys. They run among the mountains. 11 They give drink to every animal of the field. The wild donkeys quench their thirst. 12 The birds of the sky nest by them. They sing among the branches. 13 He waters the mountains from his rooms. The earth is filled with the fruit of your works. 14 He causes the grass to grow for the livestock, and plants for man to cultivate, that he may produce food out of the earth: 15 wine that makes the heart of man glad, oil to make his face to shine, and bread that strengthens man's heart. 16 The LORD's trees are well watered, the cedars of Lebanon, which he has planted, 17 where the birds make their nests. The stork makes its home in the cypress trees. 18 The high mountains are for the wild goats. The rocks are a refuge for the rock badgers. 19 He appointed the moon for seasons. The sun knows when to set. 20 You make darkness, and it is night, in which all the animals of the forest prowl. 21 The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their food from God. 22 The sun rises, and they steal away, and lie down in their dens. 23 Man goes out to his work, to his labor until the evening. 24 LORD, how many are your works! In wisdom, you have made them all. The earth is full of your riches. 25 There is the sea, great and wide, in which are innumerable living things, both small and large animals. 26 There the ships go, and leviathan, whom you formed to play there. 27 These all wait for you, that you may give them their food in due season. 28 You give to them; they gather. You open your hand; they are satisfied with good. 29 You hide your face; they are troubled. You take away their breath; they die and return to the dust. 30 You send out your Spirit and they are created. You renew the face of the ground. 31 Let the LORD's glory endure forever. Let the LORD rejoice in his works. 32 He looks at the earth, and it trembles. He touches the mountains, and they smoke. 33 I will sing to the LORD as long as I live. I will sing praise to my God while I have any being. 34 Let my meditation be sweet to him. I will rejoice in the LORD. 35 Let sinners be consumed out

of the earth. Let the wicked be no more. Bless the LORD, my soul. Praise the LORD!

**105** Give thanks to the LORD! Call on his name!

Make his doings known among the peoples.  
2 Sing to him, sing praises to him! Tell of all his marvelous works. 3 Glory in his holy name. Let the heart of those who seek the LORD rejoice. 4 Seek the LORD and his strength. Seek his face forever more. 5 Remember his marvelous works that he has done: his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth, 6 you offspring of Abraham, his servant, you children of Jacob, his chosen ones. 7 He is the LORD, our God. His judgments are in all the earth. 8 He has remembered his covenant forever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations, 9 the covenant which he made with Abraham, his oath to Isaac, 10 and confirmed it to Jacob for a statute; to Israel for an everlasting covenant, 11 saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance," 12 when they were but a few men in number, yes, very few, and foreigners in it. 13 They went about from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another people. 14 He allowed no one to do them wrong. Yes, he reprov'd kings for their sakes, 15 "Do not touch my anointed ones! Do my prophets no harm!" 16 He called for a famine on the land. He destroyed the food supplies. 17 He sent a man before them. Joseph was sold for a slave. 18 They bruised his feet with shackles. His neck was locked in irons, 19 until the time that his word happened, and the LORD's word proved him true. 20 The king sent and freed him, even the ruler of peoples, and let him go free. 21 He made him lord of his house, and ruler of all of his possessions, 22 to discipline his princes at his pleasure, and to teach his elders wisdom. 23 Israel also came into Egypt. Jacob lived in the land of Ham. 24 He increased his people greatly, and made them stronger than their adversaries. 25 He turned their heart to hate his people, to conspire against his servants. 26 He sent Moses, his servant, and Aaron, whom he had chosen. 27 They performed miracles among them, and wonders in the land of Ham. 28 He sent darkness, and made it dark. They did not rebel against his words. 29 He turned their waters into blood, and killed their fish. 30 Their land swarmed with frogs, even in the rooms of their kings. 31 He

spoke, and swarms of flies came, and lice in all their borders. 32 He gave them hail for rain, with lightning in their land. 33 He struck their vines and also their fig trees, and shattered the trees of their country. 34 He spoke, and the locusts came with the grasshoppers, without number. 35 They ate up every plant in their land, and ate up the fruit of their ground. 36 He struck also all the firstborn in their land, the first fruits of all their manhood. 37 He brought them out with silver and gold. There was not one feeble person among his tribes. 38 Egypt was glad when they departed, for the fear of them had fallen on them. 39 He spread a cloud for a covering, fire to give light in the night. 40 They asked, and he brought quails, and satisfied them with the bread of the sky. 41 He opened the rock, and waters gushed out. They ran as a river in the dry places. 42 For he remembered his holy word, and Abraham, his servant. 43 He brought his people out with joy, his chosen with singing. 44 He gave them the lands of the nations. They took the labor of the peoples in possession, 45 that they might keep his statutes, and observe his laws. Praise the LORD!

**106** Praise the LORD! Give thanks to the LORD,

for he is good, for his loving kindness endures forever. 2 Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD, or fully declare all his praise? 3 Blessed are those who keep justice. Blessed is one who does what is right at all times. 4 Remember me, LORD, with the favor that you show to your people. Visit me with your salvation, 5 that I may see the prosperity of your chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation, that I may glory with your inheritance. 6 We have sinned with our fathers. We have committed iniquity. We have done wickedly. 7 Our fathers did not understand your wonders in Egypt. They did not remember the multitude of your loving kindnesses, but were rebellious at the sea, even at the Red Sea. 8 Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power known. 9 He rebuked the Red Sea also, and it was dried up; so he led them through the depths, as through a desert. 10 He saved them from the hand of him who hated them, and redeemed them from the hand of the enemy. 11 The waters covered their adversaries. There was not one of them left. 12 Then they believed his words. They sang his praise. 13 They soon forgot

his works. They did not wait for his counsel, **14** but gave in to craving in the desert, and tested God in the wasteland. **15** He gave them their request, but sent leanness into their soul. **16** They envied Moses also in the camp, and Aaron, the LORD's saint. **17** The earth opened and swallowed up Dathan, and covered the company of Abiram. **18** A fire was kindled in their company. The flame burned up the wicked. **19** They made a calf in Horeb, and worshiped a molten image. **20** Thus they exchanged their glory for an image of a bull that eats grass. **21** They forgot God, their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt, **22** wondrous works in the land of Ham, and awesome things by the Red Sea. **23** Therefore he said that he would destroy them, had Moses, his chosen, not stood before him in the breach, to turn away his wrath, so that he would not destroy them. **24** Yes, they despised the pleasant land. They did not believe his word, **25** but murmured in their tents, and did not listen to the LORD's voice. **26** Therefore he swore to them that he would overthrow them in the wilderness, **27** that he would overthrow their offspring among the nations, and scatter them in the lands. **28** They joined themselves also to Baal Peor, and ate the sacrifices of the dead. **29** Thus they provoked him to anger with their deeds. The plague broke in on them. **30** Then Phinehas stood up and executed judgment, so the plague was stopped. **31** That was credited to him for righteousness, for all generations to come. **32** They angered him also at the waters of Meribah, so that Moses was troubled for their sakes; **33** because they were rebellious against his spirit, he spoke rashly with his lips. **34** They did not destroy the peoples, as the LORD commanded them, **35** but mixed themselves with the nations, and learned their works. **36** They served their idols, which became a snare to them. **37** Yes, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons. **38** They shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan. The land was polluted with blood. **39** Thus they were defiled with their works, and prostituted themselves in their deeds. **40** Therefore the LORD burned with anger against his people. He abhorred his inheritance. **41** He gave them into the hand of the nations. Those who hated them ruled over them. **42** Their enemies also oppressed

them. They were brought into subjection under their hand. **43** He rescued them many times, but they were rebellious in their counsel, and were brought low in their iniquity. **44** Nevertheless he regarded their distress, when he heard their cry. **45** He remembered for them his covenant, and repented according to the multitude of his loving kindnesses. **46** He made them also to be pitied by all those who carried them captive. **47** Save us, LORD, our God, gather us from among the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, to triumph in your praise! **48** Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting even to everlasting! Let all the people say, "Amen." Praise the LORD!

**107** Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his loving kindness endures forever. **2** Let the redeemed by the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from the hand of the adversary, **3** and gathered out of the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. **4** They wandered in the wilderness in a desert way. They found no city to live in. **5** Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them. **6** Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses. **7** He led them also by a straight way, that they might go to a city to live in. **8** Let them praise the LORD for his loving kindness, for his wonderful deeds to the children of men! **9** For he satisfies the longing soul. He fills the hungry soul with good. **10** Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, being bound in affliction and iron, **11** because they rebelled against the words of God, and condemned the counsel of the Most High. **12** Therefore he brought down their heart with labor. They fell down, and there was no one to help. **13** Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them out of their distresses. **14** He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and broke away their chains. **15** Let them praise the LORD for his loving kindness, for his wonderful deeds to the children of men! **16** For he has broken the gates of bronze, and cut through bars of iron. **17** Fools are afflicted because of their disobedience, and because of their iniquities. **18** Their soul abhors all kinds of food. They draw near to the gates of death. **19** Then they cry to the LORD in their trouble, and he saves them out of

their distresses. 20 He sends his word, and heals them, and delivers them from their graves. 21 Let them praise the LORD for his loving kindness, for his wonderful deeds to the children of men! 22 Let them offer the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his deeds with singing. 23 Those who go down to the sea in ships, who do business in great waters, 24 these see the LORD's deeds, and his wonders in the deep. 25 For he commands, and raises the stormy wind, which lifts up its waves. 26 They mount up to the sky; they go down again to the depths. Their soul melts away because of trouble. 27 They reel back and forth, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end. 28 Then they cry to the LORD in their trouble, and he brings them out of their distress. 29 He makes the storm a calm, so that its waves are still. 30 Then they are glad because it is calm, so he brings them to their desired haven. 31 Let them praise the LORD for his loving kindness, for his wonderful deeds for the children of men! 32 Let them exalt him also in the assembly of the people, and praise him in the seat of the elders. 33 He turns rivers into a desert, water springs into a thirsty ground, 34 and a fruitful land into a salt waste, for the wickedness of those who dwell in it. 35 He turns a desert into a pool of water, and a dry land into water springs. 36 There he makes the hungry live, that they may prepare a city to live in, 37 sow fields, plant vineyards, and reap the fruits of increase. 38 He blesses them also, so that they are multiplied greatly. He does not allow their livestock to decrease. 39 Again, they are diminished and bowed down through oppression, trouble, and sorrow. 40 He pours contempt on princes, and causes them to wander in a trackless waste. 41 Yet he lifts the needy out of their affliction, and increases their families like a flock. 42 The upright will see it, and be glad. All the wicked will shut their mouths. 43 Whoever is wise will pay attention to these things. They will consider the loving kindnesses of the LORD.

**108** A Song. A Psalm by David. My heart is steadfast, God. I will sing and I will make music with my soul. 2 Wake up, harp and lyre! I will wake up the dawn. 3 I will give thanks to you, LORD, among the nations. I will sing praises to you among the peoples. 4 For your loving kindness is great above the heavens. Your faithfulness reaches to

the skies. 5 Be exalted, God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth. 6 That your beloved may be delivered, save with your right hand, and answer us. 7 God has spoken from his sanctuary: "In triumph, I will divide Shechem, and measure out the valley of Succoth. 8 Gilead is mine. Manasseh is mine. Ephraim also is my helmet. Judah is my scepter. 9 Moab is my wash pot. I will toss my sandal on Edom. I will shout over Philistia." 10 Who will bring me into the fortified city? Who will lead me to Edom? 11 Have not you rejected us, God? You do not go out, God, with our armies. 12 Give us help against the enemy, for the help of man is vain. 13 Through God, we will do valiantly, for it is he who will tread down our enemies.

**109** For the Chief Musician. A Psalm by David. God of my praise, do not remain silent, 2 for they have opened the mouth of the wicked and the mouth of deceit against me. They have spoken to me with a lying tongue. 3 They have also surrounded me with words of hatred, and fought against me without a cause. 4 In return for my love, they are my adversaries; but I am in prayer. 5 They have rewarded me evil for good, and hatred for my love. 6 Set a wicked man over him. Let an adversary stand at his right hand. 7 When he is judged, let him come out guilty. Let his prayer be turned into sin. 8 Let his days be few. Let another take his office. 9 Let his children be fatherless, and his wife a widow. 10 Let his children be wandering beggars. Let them be sought from their ruins. 11 Let the creditor seize all that he has. Let strangers plunder the fruit of his labor. 12 Let there be no one to extend kindness to him, neither let there be anyone to have pity on his fatherless children. 13 Let his posterity be cut off. In the generation following let their name be blotted out. 14 Let the iniquity of his fathers be remembered by the LORD. Do not let the sin of his mother be blotted out. 15 Let them be before the LORD continually, that he may cut off their memory from the earth; 16 because he did not remember to show kindness, but persecuted the poor and needy man, the broken in heart, to kill them. 17 Yes, he loved cursing, and it came to him. He did not delight in blessing, and it was far from him. 18 He clothed himself also with cursing as with his garment. It came into his inward parts like



water, like oil into his bones. **19** Let it be to him as the clothing with which he covers himself, for the belt that is always around him. **20** This is the reward of my adversaries from the LORD, of those who speak evil against my soul. **21** But deal with me, GOD the Lord, for your name's sake, because your loving kindness is good, deliver me; **22** for I am poor and needy. My heart is wounded within me. **23** I fade away like an evening shadow. I am shaken off like a locust. **24** My knees are weak through fasting. My body is thin and lacks fat. **25** I have also become a reproach to them. When they see me, they shake their head. **26** Help me, LORD, my God. Save me according to your loving kindness; **27** that they may know that this is your hand; that you, LORD, have done it. **28** They may curse, but you bless. When they arise, they will be shamed, but your servant shall rejoice. **29** Let my adversaries be clothed with dishonor. Let them cover themselves with their own shame as with a robe. **30** I will give great thanks to the LORD with my mouth. Yes, I will praise him among the multitude. **31** For he will stand at the right hand of the needy, to save him from those who judge his soul.

**110** A Psalm by David. The LORD says to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool for your feet." **2** The LORD will send out the rod of your strength out of Zion. Rule among your enemies. **3** Your people offer themselves willingly in the day of your power, in holy array. Out of the womb of the morning, you have the dew of your youth. **4** The LORD has sworn, and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek." **5** The Lord is at your right hand. He will crush kings in the day of his wrath. **6** He will judge among the nations. He will heap up dead bodies. He will crush the ruler of the whole earth. **7** He will drink of the brook on the way; therefore he will lift up his head.

**111** Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the council of the upright, and in the congregation. **2** The LORD's works are great, pondered by all those who delight in them. **3** His work is honor and majesty. His righteousness endures forever. **4** He has caused his wonderful works to be remembered. The LORD is

gracious and merciful. **5** He has given food to those who fear him. He always remembers his covenant. **6** He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations. **7** The works of his hands are truth and justice. All his precepts are sure. **8** They are established forever and ever. They are done in truth and uprightness. **9** He has sent redemption to his people. He has ordained his covenant forever. His name is holy and awesome! **10** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. All those who do his work have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

**112** Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who delights greatly in his commandments. **2** His offspring will be mighty in the land. The generation of the upright will be blessed. **3** Wealth and riches are in his house. His righteousness endures forever. **4** Light dawns in the darkness for the upright, gracious, merciful, and righteous. **5** It is well with the man who deals graciously and lends. He will maintain his cause in judgment. **6** For he will never be shaken. The righteous will be remembered forever. **7** He will not be afraid of evil news. His heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD. **8** His heart is established. He will not be afraid in the end when he sees his adversaries. **9** He has dispersed, he has given to the poor. His righteousness endures forever. His horn will be exalted with honor. **10** The wicked will see it, and be grieved. He shall gnash with his teeth, and melt away. The desire of the wicked will perish.

**113** Praise the LORD! Praise, you servants of the LORD, praise the LORD's name. **2** Blessed be the LORD's name, from this time forward and forever more. **3** From the rising of the sun to its going down, the LORD's name is to be praised. **4** The LORD is high above all nations, his glory above the heavens. **5** Who is like the LORD, our God, who has his seat on high, **6** who stoops down to see in heaven and in the earth? **7** He raises up the poor out of the dust, and lifts up the needy from the ash heap, **8** that he may set him with princes, even with the princes of his people. **9** He settles the barren woman in her home as a joyful mother of children. Praise the LORD!

**114** When Israel went out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of foreign language, 2 Judah became his sanctuary, Israel his dominion. 3 The sea saw it, and fled. The Jordan was driven back. 4 The mountains skipped like rams, the little hills like lambs. 5 What was it, you sea, that you fled? You Jordan, that you turned back? 6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? You little hills, like lambs? 7 Tremble, you earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob, 8 who turned the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a spring of waters.

**115** Not to us, LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for your loving kindness, and for your truth's sake. 2 Why should the nations say, "Where is their God, now?" 3 But our God is in the heavens. He does whatever he pleases. 4 Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. 5 They have mouths, but they do not speak. They have eyes, but they do not see. 6 They have ears, but they do not hear. They have noses, but they do not smell. 7 They have hands, but they do not feel. They have feet, but they do not walk, neither do they speak through their throat. 8 Those who make them will be like them; yes, everyone who trusts in them. 9 Israel, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield. 10 House of Aaron, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield. 11 You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield. 12 The LORD remembers 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, both small and great. 14 May the LORD increase you more and more, you and your children. 15 Blessed are you by the LORD, who made heaven and earth. 16 The heavens are the LORD's heavens, but he has given the earth to the children of men. 17 The dead do not praise the LORD, nor any who go down into silence, 18 but we will bless the LORD, from this time forward and forever more. Praise the LORD!

**116** I love the LORD, because he listens to my voice, and my cries for mercy. 2 Because he has turned his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. 3 The cords of death surrounded me, the pains of Sheol (Sheol h7585) got a hold of me.

I found trouble and sorrow. 4 Then I called on the LORD's name: "LORD, I beg you, deliver my soul." 5 The LORD is gracious and righteous. Yes, our God is merciful. 6 The LORD preserves the simple. I was brought low, and he saved me. 7 Return to your rest, my soul, for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you. 8 For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from falling. 9 I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living. 10 I believed, therefore I said, "I was greatly afflicted." 11 I said in my haste, "All people are liars." 12 What will I give to the LORD for all his benefits toward me? 13 I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the LORD's name. 14 I will pay my vows to the LORD, yes, in the presence of all his people. 15 Precious in the LORD's sight is the death of his saints. 16 LORD, truly I am your servant. I am your servant, the son of your servant girl. You have freed me from my chains. 17 I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call on the LORD's name. 18 I will pay my vows to the LORD, yes, in the presence of all his people, 19 in the courts of the LORD's house, in the middle of you, Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!

**117** Praise the LORD, all you nations! Extol him, all you peoples! 2 For his loving kindness is great toward us. The LORD's faithfulness endures forever. Praise the LORD!

**118** Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his loving kindness endures forever. 2 Let Israel now say that his loving kindness endures forever. 3 Let the house of Aaron now say that his loving kindness endures forever. 4 Now let those who fear the LORD say that his loving kindness endures forever. 5 Out of my distress, I called on the LORD. The LORD answered me with freedom. 6 The LORD is on my side. I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? 7 The LORD is on my side among those who help me. Therefore I will look in triumph at those who hate me. 8 It is better to take refuge in the LORD, than to put confidence in man. 9 It is better to take refuge in the LORD, than to put confidence in princes. 10 All the nations surrounded me, but in the LORD's name I cut them off. 11 They surrounded me, yes, they surrounded me. In the LORD's name I indeed cut them off. 12 They surrounded me like

bees. They are quenched like the burning thorns. In the LORD's name I cut them off. **13** You pushed me back hard, to make me fall, but the LORD helped me. **14** The LORD is my strength and song. He has become my salvation. **15** The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tents of the righteous. "The right hand of the LORD does valiantly. **16** The right hand of the LORD does valiantly!" **17** I will not die, but live, and declare the LORD's works. **18** The LORD has punished me severely, but he has not given me over to death. **19** Open to me the gates of righteousness. I will enter into them. I will give thanks to the LORD. **20** This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous will enter into it. **21** I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me, and have become my salvation. **22** The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. **23** This is the LORD's doing. It is marvelous in our eyes. **24** This is the day that the LORD has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it! **25** Save us now, we beg you, LORD! LORD, we beg you, send prosperity now. **26** Blessed is he who comes in the LORD's name! We have blessed you out of the LORD's house. **27** The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the sacrifice with cords, even to the horns of the altar. **28** You are my God, and I will give thanks to you. You are my God, I will exalt you. **29** Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his loving kindness endures forever.

**119** ALEPH Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the LORD's law. **2** Blessed are those who keep his statutes, who seek him with their whole heart. **3** Yes, they do nothing wrong. They walk in his ways. **4** You have commanded your precepts, that we should fully obey them. **5** Oh that my ways were steadfast to obey your statutes! **6** Then I would not be disappointed, when I consider all of your commandments. **7** I will give thanks to you with uprightness of heart, when I learn your righteous judgments. **8** I will observe your statutes. Do not utterly forsake me. **9** BETH How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. **10** With my whole heart I have sought you. Do not let me wander from your commandments. **11** I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. **12** Blessed are you, LORD. Teach

me your statutes. **13** With my lips, I have declared all the ordinances of your mouth. **14** I have rejoiced in the way of your testimonies, as much as in all riches. **15** I will meditate on your precepts, and consider your ways. **16** I will delight myself in your statutes. I will not forget your word. **17** GIMEL Do good to your servant. I will live and I will obey your word. **18** Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things out of 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 ordinances at all times. **21** You have rebuked the proud who are cursed, who wander from your commandments. **22** Take reproach and contempt away from me, for I have kept your statutes. **23** Though princes sit and slander me, your servant will meditate on your statutes. **24** Indeed your statutes are my delight, and my counselors. **25** DALETH My soul is laid low in the dust. Revive me according to your word! **26** I declared my ways, and you answered me. Teach me your statutes. **27** Let me understand the teaching of your precepts! Then I will meditate on your wondrous works. **28** My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word. **29** Keep me from the way of deceit. Grant me your law graciously! **30** I have chosen the way of truth. I have set your ordinances before me. **31** I cling to your statutes, LORD. Do not let me be disappointed. **32** I run in the path of your commandments, for you have set my heart free. **33** HE Teach me, LORD, the way of your statutes. I will keep them to the end. **34** Give me understanding, and I will keep your law. Yes, I will obey it with my whole heart. **35** Direct me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in them. **36** Turn my heart toward your statutes, not toward selfish gain. **37** Turn my eyes away from looking at worthless things. Revive me in your ways. **38** Fulfill your promise to your servant, that you may be feared. **39** Take away my disgrace that I dread, for your ordinances are good. **40** Behold, I long for your precepts! Revive me in your righteousness. **41** VAV Let your loving kindness also come to me, LORD, your salvation, according to your word. **42** So I will have an answer for him who reproaches me, for I trust in your word. **43** Do not snatch the word of truth out of my mouth, for I put my hope in your ordinances. **44** So I will obey your law continually, forever and ever. **45** I will walk

in liberty, for I have sought your precepts. **46** I will also speak of your statutes before kings, and will not be disappointed. **47** I will delight myself in your commandments, because I love them. **48** I reach out my hands for your commandments, which I love. I will meditate on your statutes. **49** ZAYIN Remember your word to your servant, because you gave me hope. **50** This is my comfort in my affliction, for your word has revived me. **51** The arrogant mock me excessively, but I do not swerve from your law. **52** I remember your ordinances of old, LORD, and have comforted myself. **53** Indignation has taken hold on me, because of the wicked who forsake your law. **54** Your statutes have been my songs in the house where I live. **55** I have remembered your name, LORD, in the night, and I obey your law. **56** This is my way, that I keep your precepts. **57** HETH The LORD is my portion. I promised to obey your words. **58** I sought your favor with my whole heart. Be merciful to me according to your word. **59** I considered my ways, and turned my steps to your statutes. **60** I will hurry, and not delay, to obey your commandments. **61** The ropes of the wicked bind me, but I will not forget your law. **62** At midnight I will rise to give thanks to you, because of your righteous ordinances. **63** I am a friend of all those who fear you, of those who observe your precepts. **64** The earth is full of your loving kindness, LORD. Teach me your statutes. **65** TETH You have treated your servant well, according to your word, LORD. **66** Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments. **67** Before I was afflicted, I went astray; but now I observe your word. **68** You are good, and do good. Teach me your statutes. **69** The proud have smeared a lie upon me. With my whole heart, I will keep your precepts. **70** Their heart is as callous as the fat, but I delight in your law. **71** It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn your statutes. **72** The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of pieces of gold and silver. **73** YODH Your hands have made me and formed me. Give me understanding, that I may learn your commandments. **74** Those who fear you will see me and be glad, because I have put my hope in your word. **75** LORD, I know that your judgments are righteous, that in faithfulness you have afflicted me. **76** Please let your loving kindness be for my comfort, according to your word to your servant. **77** Let your tender mercies come to me, that I may live; for your law is my delight. **78** Let the proud be disappointed, for they have overthrown me wrongfully. I will meditate on your precepts. **79** Let those who fear you turn to me. They will know your statutes. **80** Let my heart be blameless toward your decrees, that I may not be disappointed. **81** KAPF My soul faints for your salvation. I hope in your word. **82** My eyes fail for your word. I say, "When will you comfort me?" **83** For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke. I do not forget your statutes. **84** How many are the days of your servant? When will you execute judgment on those who persecute me? **85** The proud have dug pits for me, contrary to your law. **86** All of your commandments are faithful. They persecute me wrongfully. Help me! **87** They had almost wiped me from the earth, but I did not forsake your precepts. **88** Preserve my life according to your loving kindness, so I will obey the statutes of your mouth. **89** LAMEDH LORD, your word is settled in heaven forever. **90** Your faithfulness is to all generations. You have established the earth, and it remains. **91** Your laws remain to this day, for all things serve you. **92** Unless your law had been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction. **93** I will never forget your precepts, for with them, you have revived me. **94** I am yours. Save me, for I have sought your precepts. **95** The wicked have waited for me, to destroy me. I will consider your statutes. **96** I have seen a limit to all perfection, but your commands are boundless. **97** MEM How I love your law! It is my meditation all day. **98** Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, for your commandments are always with me. **99** I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my (meditation) **100** I understand more than the aged, because I have kept your precepts. **101** I have kept my feet from every evil way, that I might observe your word. **102** I have not turned away from your ordinances, for you have taught me. **103** How sweet are your promises to my taste, more than honey to my mouth! **104** Through your precepts, I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. **105** NUN Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path. **106** I have sworn, and have confirmed it, that I will obey your righteous ordinances. **107** I am

afflicted very much. Revive me, LORD, according to your word. **108** Accept, I beg you, the willing offerings of my mouth. LORD, teach me your ordinances. **109** My soul is continually in my hand, yet I will not forget your law. **110** The wicked have laid a snare for me, yet I have not gone astray from your precepts. **111** I have taken your testimonies as a heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart. **112** I have set my heart to perform your statutes forever, even to the end. **113** SAMEKH I hate double-minded men, but I love your law. **114** You are my hiding place and my shield. I hope in your word. **115** Depart from me, you evildoers, that I may keep the commandments of my God. **116** Uphold me according to your word, that I may live. Let me not be ashamed of my hope. **117** Hold me up, and I will be safe, and will have respect for your statutes continually. **118** You reject all those who stray from your statutes, for their deceit is in vain. **119** You put away all the wicked of the earth like dross. Therefore I love your testimonies. **120** My flesh trembles for fear of you. I am afraid of your judgments. **121** AYIN I have done what is just and righteous. Do not leave me to my oppressors. **122** Ensure your servant's well-being. Do not let the proud oppress me. **123** My eyes fail looking for your salvation, for your righteous word. **124** Deal with your servant according to your loving kindness. Teach me your statutes. **125** I am your servant. Give me understanding, that I may know your testimonies. **126** It is time to act, LORD, for they break your law. **127** Therefore I love your commandments more than gold, yes, more than pure gold. **128** Therefore I consider all of your precepts to be right. I hate every false way. **129** PE Your testimonies are wonderful, therefore my soul keeps them. **130** The entrance of your words gives light. It gives understanding to the simple. **131** I opened my mouth wide and panted, for I longed for your commandments. **132** Turn to me, and have mercy on me, as you always do to those who love your name. **133** Establish my footsteps in your word. Do not let any iniquity have dominion over me. **134** Redeem me from the oppression of man, so I will observe your precepts. **135** Make your face shine on your servant. Teach me your statutes. **136** Streams of tears run down my eyes, because they do not observe your law. **137** TZADHE You are righteous, LORD. Your judgments are upright. **138** You have commanded your statutes in righteousness. They are fully trustworthy. **139** My zeal wears me out, because my enemies ignore your words. **140** Your promises have been thoroughly tested, and your servant loves them. **141** I am small and despised. I do not forget your precepts. **142** Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness. Your law is truth. **143** Trouble and anguish have taken hold of me. Your commandments are my delight. **144** Your testimonies are righteous forever. Give me understanding, that I may live. **145** QOPH I have called with my whole heart. Answer me, LORD! I will keep your statutes. **146** I have called to you. Save me! I will obey your statutes. **147** I rise before dawn and cry for help. I put my hope in your words. **148** My eyes stay open through the night watches, that I might meditate on your word. **149** Hear my voice according to your loving kindness. Revive me, LORD, according to your ordinances. **150** They draw near who follow after wickedness. They are far from your law. **151** You are near, LORD. All your commandments are truth. **152** Of old I have known from your testimonies, that you have founded them forever. **153** RESH Consider my affliction, and deliver me, for I do not forget your law. **154** Plead my cause, and redeem me! Revive me according to your promise. **155** Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek your statutes. **156** Great are your tender mercies, LORD. Revive me according to your ordinances. **157** Many are my persecutors and my adversaries. I have not swerved from your testimonies. **158** I look at the faithless with loathing, because they do not observe your word. **159** Consider how I love your precepts. Revive me, LORD, according to your loving kindness. **160** All of your words are truth. Every one of your righteous ordinances endures forever. **161** SIN AND SHIN Princes have persecuted me without a cause, but my heart stands in awe of your words. **162** I rejoice at your word, as one who finds great plunder. **163** I hate and abhor falsehood. I love your law. **164** Seven times a day, I praise you, because of your righteous ordinances. **165** Those who love your law have great peace. Nothing causes them to stumble. **166** I have hoped for your salvation, LORD. I have done your commandments. **167** My soul has observed

your testimonies. I love them exceedingly. **168** I have obeyed your precepts and your testimonies, for all my ways are before you. **169 TAV** Let my cry come before you, LORD. Give me understanding according to your word. **170** Let my supplication come before you. Deliver me according to your word. **171** Let my lips utter praise, for you teach me your statutes. **172** Let my tongue sing of your word, for all your commandments are righteousness. **173** Let your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts. **174** I have longed for your salvation, LORD. Your law is my delight. **175** Let my soul live, that I may praise you. Let your ordinances help me. **176** I have gone astray like a lost sheep. Seek your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.

**120** A Song of Ascents. In my distress, I cried to the LORD. He answered me. **2** Deliver my soul, LORD, from lying lips, from a deceitful tongue. **3** What will be given to you, and what will be done more to you, you deceitful tongue? **4** Sharp arrows of the mighty, with coals of juniper. **5** Woe is me, that I live in Meshech, that I dwell among the tents of Kedar! **6** My soul has had her dwelling too long with him who hates peace. **7** I am for peace, but when I speak, they are for war.

**121** A Song of Ascents. I will lift up my eyes to the hills. Where does my help come from? **2** My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. **3** He will not allow your foot to be moved. He who keeps you will not slumber. **4** Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. **5** The LORD is your keeper. The LORD is your shade on your right hand. **6** The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. **7** The LORD will keep you from all evil. He will keep your soul. **8** The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in, from this time forward, and forever more.

**122** A Song of Ascents. By David. I was glad when they said to me, "Let's go to the LORD's house!" **2** Our feet are standing within your gates, Jerusalem! **3** Jerusalem is built as a city that is compact together, **4** where the tribes go up, even the LORD's tribes, according to an ordinance for Israel, to give thanks to the LORD's name. **5** For there are set thrones for judgment, the thrones of David's house. **6**

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Those who love you will prosper. **7** Peace be within your walls, and prosperity within your palaces. **8** For my brothers' and companions' sakes, I will now say, "Peace be within you." **9** For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

**123** A Song of Ascents. I lift up my eyes to you, you who sit in the heavens. **2** Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD, our God, until he has mercy on us. **3** Have mercy on us, LORD, have mercy on us, for we have endured much contempt. **4** Our soul is exceedingly filled with the scoffing of those who are at ease, with the contempt of the proud.

**124** A Song of Ascents. By David. If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, let Israel now say, **2** if it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when men rose up against us, **3** then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their wrath was kindled against us, **4** then the waters would have overwhelmed us, the stream would have gone over our soul. **5** Then the proud waters would have gone over our soul. **6** Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as a prey to their teeth. **7** Our soul has escaped like a bird out of the fowler's snare. The snare is broken, and we have escaped. **8** Our help is in the LORD's name, who made heaven and earth.

**125** A Song of Ascents. Those who trust in the LORD are as Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but remains forever. **2** As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people from this time forward and forever more. **3** For the scepter of wickedness will not remain over the allotment of the righteous, so that the righteous will not use their hands to do evil. **4** Do good, LORD, to those who are good, to those who are upright in their hearts. **5** But as for those who turn away to their crooked ways, the LORD will lead them away with the workers of iniquity. Peace be on Israel.

**126** A Song of Ascents. When the LORD brought back those who returned to Zion, we were like those who dream. **2** Then our mouth was filled

with laughter, and our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." 3 The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad. 4 Restore our fortunes again, LORD, like the streams in the Negev. 5 Those who sow in tears will reap in joy. 6 He who goes out weeping, carrying seed for sowing, will certainly come again with joy, carrying his sheaves.

**127** A Song of Ascents. By Solomon. Unless the LORD builds the house, they who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman guards it in vain. 2 It is vain for you to rise up early, to stay up late, eating the bread of toil, for he gives sleep to his loved ones. 3 Behold, children are a heritage of the LORD. The fruit of the womb is his reward. 4 As arrows in the hand of a mighty man, so are the children of youth. 5 Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them. They will not be disappointed when they speak with their enemies in the gate.

**128** A Song of Ascents. Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways. 2 For you will eat the labor of your hands. You will be happy, and it will be well with you. 3 Your wife will be as a fruitful vine in the innermost parts of your house, your children like olive shoots around your table. 4 Behold, this is how the man who fears the LORD is blessed. 5 May the LORD bless you out of Zion, and may you see the good of Jerusalem all the days of your life. 6 Yes, may you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel.

**129** A Song of Ascents. Many times they have afflicted me from my youth up. Let Israel now say: 2 many times they have afflicted me from my youth up, yet they have not prevailed against me. 3 The plowers plowed on my back. They made their furrows long. 4 The LORD is righteous. He has cut apart the cords of the wicked. 5 Let them be disappointed and turned backward, all those who hate Zion. 6 Let them be as the grass on the housetops, which withers before it grows up, 7 with which the reaper does not fill his hand, nor he who binds sheaves, his bosom. 8 Neither do those who go by

say, "The blessing of the LORD be on you. We bless you in the LORD's name."

**130** A Song of Ascents. Out of the depths I have cried to you, LORD. 2 Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my petitions. 3 If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand? 4 But there is forgiveness with you, therefore you are feared. 5 I wait for the LORD. My soul waits. I hope in his word. 6 My soul longs for the Lord more than watchmen long for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. 7 Israel, hope in the LORD, for there is loving kindness with the LORD. Abundant redemption is with him. 8 He will redeem Israel from all their sins.

**131** A Song of Ascents. By David. LORD, my heart is not arrogant, nor my eyes lofty; nor do I concern myself with great matters, or things too wonderful 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 Israel, hope in the LORD, from this time forward and forever more.

**132** A Song of Ascents. LORD, remember David and all his affliction, 2 how he swore to the LORD, and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob: 3 "Surely I will not come into the structure of my house, nor go up into my bed; 4 I will not give sleep to my eyes, or slumber to my eyelids, 5 until I find out a place for the LORD, a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob." 6 Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah. We found it in the field of Jaar. 7 "We will go into his dwelling place. We will worship at his footstool." 8 Arise, LORD, into your resting place, you, and the ark of your strength. 9 Let your priests be clothed with righteousness. Let your saints shout for joy! 10 For your servant David's sake, do not turn away the face of your anointed one. 11 The LORD has sworn to David in truth. He will not turn from it: "I will set the fruit of your body on your throne. 12 If your children will keep my covenant, my testimony that I will teach them, their children also will sit on your throne forever more." 13 For the LORD has chosen Zion. He has desired it for his habitation. 14 "This is my resting place forever. I will live here, for I have desired it. 15 I will abundantly bless her provision. I will satisfy her poor with bread. 16 I will also clothe her priests with

salvation. Her saints will shout aloud for joy. **17** I will make the horn of David to bud there. I have ordained a lamp for my anointed. **18** I will clothe his enemies with shame, but on himself, his crown will shine.”

**133** A Song of Ascents. By David. See how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to live together in unity! **2** It is like the precious oil on the head, that ran down on the beard, even Aaron’s beard, that came down on the edge of his robes, **3** like the dew of Hermon, that comes down on the hills of Zion; for there the LORD gives the blessing, even life forever more.

**134** A Song of Ascents. Look! Praise the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, who stand by night in the LORD’s house! **2** Lift up your hands in the sanctuary. Praise the LORD! **3** May the LORD bless you from Zion, even he who made heaven and earth.

**135** Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD’s name! Praise him, you servants of the LORD, **2** you who stand in the LORD’s house, in the courts of our God’s house. **3** Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good. Sing praises to his name, for that is pleasant. **4** For the LORD has chosen Jacob for himself, Israel for his own possession. **5** For I know that the LORD is great, that our Lord is above all gods. **6** Whatever the LORD pleased, that he has done, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps. **7** He causes the clouds to rise from the ends of the earth. He makes lightnings with the rain. He brings the wind out of his treasuries. **8** He struck the firstborn of Egypt, both of man and animal. **9** He sent signs and wonders into the middle of you, Egypt, on Pharaoh, and on all his servants. **10** He struck many nations, and killed mighty kings— **11** Sihon king of the Amorites, Og king of Bashan, and all the kingdoms of Canaan— **12** and gave their land for a heritage, a heritage to Israel, his people. **13** Your name, LORD, endures forever; your renown, LORD, throughout all generations. **14** For the LORD will judge his people and have compassion on his servants. **15** The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of men’s hands. **16** They have mouths, but they cannot speak. They have eyes, but they cannot see. **17** They have ears, but they cannot hear,

neither is there any breath in their mouths. **18** Those who make them will be like them, yes, everyone who trusts in them. **19** House of Israel, praise the LORD! House of Aaron, praise the LORD! **20** House of Levi, praise the LORD! You who fear the LORD, praise the LORD! **21** Blessed be the LORD from Zion, who dwells in Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!

**136** Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his loving kindness endures forever. **2** Give thanks to the God of gods, for his loving kindness endures forever. **3** Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his loving kindness endures forever; **4** to him who alone does great wonders, for his loving kindness endures forever; **5** to him who by understanding made the heavens, for his loving kindness endures forever; **6** to him who spread out the earth above the waters, for his loving kindness endures forever; **7** to him who made the great lights, for his loving kindness endures forever; **8** the sun to rule by day, for his loving kindness endures forever; **9** the moon and stars to rule by night, for his loving kindness endures forever; **10** to him who struck down the Egyptian firstborn, for his loving kindness endures forever; **11** and brought out Israel from among them, for his loving kindness endures forever; **12** with a strong hand, and with an outstretched arm, for his loving kindness endures forever; **13** to him who divided the Red Sea apart, for his loving kindness endures forever; **14** and made Israel to pass through the middle of it, for his loving kindness endures forever; **15** but overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea, for his loving kindness endures forever; **16** to him who led his people through the wilderness, for his loving kindness endures forever; **17** to him who struck great kings, for his loving kindness endures forever; **18** and killed mighty kings, for his loving kindness endures forever; **19** Sihon king of the Amorites, for his loving kindness endures forever; **20** Og king of Bashan, for his loving kindness endures forever; **21** and gave their land as an inheritance, for his loving kindness endures forever; **22** even a heritage to Israel his servant, for his loving kindness endures forever; **23** who remembered us in our low estate, for his loving kindness endures forever; **24** and has delivered us from our adversaries, for his loving kindness endures forever; **25** who gives food to every creature, for his



loving kindness endures forever. **26** Oh give thanks to the God of heaven, for his loving kindness endures forever.

**137** By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down. Yes, we wept, when we remembered Zion. **2** On the willows in that land, we hung up our harps. **3** For there, those who led us captive asked us for songs. Those who tormented us demanded songs of joy: "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" **4** How can we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land? **5** If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its skill. **6** Let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, if I do not prefer Jerusalem above my chief joy. **7** Remember, LORD, against the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem, who said, "Raze it! Raze it even to its foundation!" **8** Daughter of Babylon, doomed to destruction, he will be happy who repays you, as you have done to us. **9** Happy shall he be, who takes and dashes your little ones against the rock.

**138** By David. I will give you thanks with my whole heart. Before the gods, I will sing praises to you. **2** I will bow down toward your holy temple, and give thanks to your Name for your loving kindness and for your truth; for you have exalted your Name and your Word above all. **3** In the day that I called, you answered me. You encouraged me with strength in my soul. **4** All the kings of the earth will give you thanks, LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth. **5** Yes, they will sing of the ways of the LORD, for the LORD's glory is great! **6** For though the LORD is high, yet he looks after the lowly; but he knows the proud from afar. **7** Though I walk in the middle of trouble, you will revive me. You will stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies. Your right hand will save me. **8** The LORD will fulfill that which concerns me. Your loving kindness, LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the works of your own hands.

**139** For the Chief Musician. A Psalm by David. LORD, you have searched me, and you know me. **2** You know my sitting down and my rising up. You perceive my thoughts from afar. **3** You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. **4** For there is not a word on my tongue,

but behold, LORD, you know it altogether. **5** You hem me in behind and before. You laid your hand on me. **6** This knowledge is beyond me. It's lofty. I cannot attain it. **7** Where could I go from your Spirit? Or where could I flee from your presence? **8** If I ascend up into heaven, you are there. If I make my bed in Sheol (Sheol h7585), behold, you are there! **9** If I take the wings of the dawn, and settle in the uttermost parts of the sea, **10** even there your hand will lead me, and your right hand will hold me. **11** If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me. The light around me will be night," **12** even the darkness does not hide from you, but the night shines as the day. The darkness is like light to you. **13** For you formed my inmost being. You knit me together in my mother's womb. **14** I will give thanks to you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful. My soul knows that very well. **15** My frame was not hidden from you, when I was made in secret, woven together in the depths of the earth. **16** Your eyes saw my body. In your book they were all written, the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there were none of them. **17** How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is their sum! **18** If I would count them, they are more in number than the sand. When I wake up, I am still with you. **19** If only you, God, would kill the wicked. Get away from me, you bloodthirsty men! **20** For they speak against you wickedly. Your enemies take your name in vain. **21** LORD, do not I hate those who hate you? Am I not grieved with those who rise up against you? **22** I hate them with perfect hatred. They have become my enemies. **23** Search me, God, and know my heart. Try me, and know my thoughts. **24** See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.

**140** For the Chief Musician. A Psalm by David. Deliver me, LORD, from evil men. Preserve me from violent men: **2** those who devise mischief in their hearts. They continually gather themselves together for war. **3** They have sharpened their tongues like a serpent. Viper's poison is under their lips. (Selah) **4** LORD, keep me from the hands of the wicked. Preserve me from the violent men who have determined to trip my feet. **5** The proud have hidden a snare for me, they have spread the cords of a net by the path. They have set traps for me. (Selah) **6** I

said to the LORD, "You are my God." Listen to the cry of my petitions, LORD. 7 LORD, the Lord, the strength of my salvation, you have covered my head in the day of battle. 8 LORD, do not grant the desires of the wicked. Do not let their evil plans succeed, or they will become proud. (Selah) 9 As for the head of those who surround me, let the mischief of their own lips cover them. 10 Let burning coals fall on them. Let them be thrown into the fire, into miry pits, from where they never rise. 11 An evil speaker will not be established in the earth. Evil will hunt the violent man to overthrow him. 12 I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and justice for the needy. 13 Surely the righteous will give thanks to your name. The upright will dwell in your presence.

**141** A Psalm by David. LORD, I have called on you. Come to me quickly! Listen to my voice when I call to you. 2 Let my prayer be set before you like incense; the lifting up of my hands like the evening sacrifice. 3 Set a watch, LORD, before my mouth. Keep the door of my lips. 4 Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, to practice deeds of wickedness with men who work iniquity. Do not let me eat of their delicacies. 5 Let the righteous strike me, it is kindness; let him reprove me, it is like oil on the head; do not let my head refuse it; Yet my prayer is always against evil deeds. 6 Their judges are thrown down by the sides of the rock. They will hear my words, for they are well spoken. 7 "As when one plows and breaks up the earth, our bones are scattered at the mouth of Sheol (Sheol h7585)." 8 For my eyes are on you, LORD, the Lord. I take refuge in you. Do not leave my soul destitute. 9 Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, from the traps of the workers of iniquity. 10 Let the wicked fall together into their own nets while I pass by.

**142** A contemplation by David, when he was in the cave. A Prayer. I cry with my voice to the LORD. With my voice, I ask the LORD for mercy. 2 I pour out my complaint before him. I tell him my troubles. 3 When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, you knew my route. On the path in which I walk, they have hidden a snare for me. 4 Look on my right, and see; for there is no one who is concerned for me. Refuge has fled from me. No one cares for my soul.

5 I cried to you, LORD. I said, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living." 6 Listen to my cry, for I am in desperate need. Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me. 7 Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name. The righteous will surround me, for you will be good to me.

**143** A Psalm by David. Hear my prayer, LORD. Listen to my petitions. In your faithfulness and righteousness, relieve me. 2 Do not enter into judgment with your servant, for in your sight no man living is righteous. 3 For the enemy pursues my soul. He has struck my life down to the ground. He has made me live in dark places, as those who have been long dead. 4 Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me. My heart within me is desolate. 5 I remember the days of old. I meditate on all your doings. I contemplate the work of your hands. 6 I spread out my hands to you. My soul thirsts for you, like a parched land. (Selah) 7 Hurry to answer me, LORD. My spirit fails. Do not hide your face from me, so that I do not become like those who go down into the pit. 8 Cause me to hear your loving kindness in the morning, for I trust in you. Cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul to you. 9 Deliver me, LORD, from my enemies. I flee to you to hide me. 10 Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness. 11 Revive me, LORD, for your name's sake. In your righteousness, bring my soul out of trouble. 12 In your loving kindness, cut off my enemies, and destroy all those who afflict my soul, for I am your servant.

**144** By David. Blessed be the LORD, my rock, who trains my hands to war, and my fingers to battle— 2 my loving kindness, my fortress, my high tower, my deliverer, my shield, and he in whom I take refuge, who subdues my people under me. 3 LORD, what is man, that you care for him? Or the son of man, that you think of him? 4 Man is like a breath. His days are like a shadow that passes away. 5 Part your heavens, LORD, and come down. Touch the mountains, and they will smoke. 6 Throw out lightning, and scatter them. Send out your arrows, and rout them. 7 Stretch out your hand from above, rescue

me, and deliver me out of great waters, out of the hands of foreigners, **8** whose mouths speak deceit, whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood. **9** I will sing a new song to you, God. On a ten-stringed lyre, I will sing praises to you. **10** You are he who gives salvation to kings, who rescues David, his servant, from the deadly sword. **11** Rescue me, and deliver me out of the hands of foreigners, whose mouths speak deceit, whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood. **12** Then our sons will be like well-nurtured plants, our daughters like pillars carved to adorn a palace. **13** Our barns are full, filled with all kinds of provision. Our sheep produce thousands and ten thousands in our fields. **14** Our oxen will pull heavy loads. There is no breaking in, and no going away, and no outcry in our streets. **15** Happy are the people who are in such a situation. Happy are the people whose God is the LORD.

**145** A praise psalm by David. I will exalt you, my God, the King. I will praise your name forever and ever. **2** Every day I will praise you. I will extol 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 another, and will declare your mighty acts. **5** I will meditate on the glorious majesty of your honor, on your wondrous works. **6** Men will speak of the might of your awesome acts. I will declare your greatness. **7** They will utter the memory of your great goodness, and will sing of your righteousness. **8** The LORD is gracious, merciful, slow to anger, and of great loving kindness. **9** The LORD is good to all. His tender mercies are over all his works. **10** All your works will give thanks to you, LORD. Your saints will extol you. **11** They will speak of the glory of your kingdom, and talk about your power, **12** to make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, the glory of the majesty of his kingdom. **13** Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. Your dominion endures throughout all generations. The LORD is faithful in all his words, and loving in all his deeds. **14** The LORD upholds all who fall, and raises up all those who are bowed down. **15** The eyes of all wait for you. You give them their food in due season. **16** You open your hand, and satisfy the desire of every living thing. **17**

The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and gracious in all his works. **18** The LORD is near to all those who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. **19** He will fulfill the desire of those who fear him. He also will hear their cry, and will save them. **20** The LORD preserves all those who love him, but he will destroy all the wicked. **21** My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD. Let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

**146** Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, my soul. **2** While I live, I will praise the LORD. I will sing praises to my God as long as I exist. **3** Do not put your trust in princes, in a son of man in whom there is no help. **4** His spirit departs, and he returns to the earth. In that very day, his thoughts perish. **5** Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD, his God, **6** who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps truth forever; **7** who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD frees the prisoners. **8** The LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD raises up those who are bowed down. The LORD loves the righteous. **9** The LORD preserves the foreigners. He upholds the fatherless and widow, but he turns the way of the wicked upside down. **10** The LORD will reign forever; your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!

**147** Praise the LORD, for it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant and fitting to praise him. **2** The LORD builds up Jerusalem. He gathers together the outcasts of Israel. **3** He heals the broken in heart, and binds up their wounds. **4** He counts the number of the stars. He calls them all by their names. **5** Great is our Lord, and mighty in power. His understanding is infinite. **6** The LORD upholds the humble. He brings the wicked down to the ground. **7** Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving. Sing praises on the harp to our God, **8** who covers the sky with clouds, who prepares rain for the earth, who makes grass grow on the mountains. **9** He provides food for the livestock, 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 takes pleasure in those who fear him,

in those who hope in his loving kindness. **12** Praise the LORD, Jerusalem! Praise your God, Zion! **13** For he has strengthened the bars of your gates. He has blessed your children within you. **14** He makes peace in your borders. He fills you with the finest of the wheat. **15** He sends out his commandment to the earth. His word runs very swiftly. **16** He gives snow like wool, and scatters frost like ashes. **17** He hurls down his hail like pebbles. Who can stand before his cold? **18** He sends out his word, and melts them. He causes his wind to blow, and the waters flow. **19** He shows his word to Jacob, his statutes and his ordinances to Israel. **20** He has not done this for just any nation. They do not know his ordinances. Praise the LORD!

**148** Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens! Praise him in the heights! **2** Praise him, all his angels! Praise him, all his army! **3** Praise him, sun and moon! Praise him, all you shining stars! **4** Praise him, you heavens of heavens, you waters that are above the heavens. **5** Let them praise the LORD's name, for he commanded, and they were created. **6** He has also established them forever and ever. He has made a decree which will not pass away. **7** Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures, and all depths, **8** lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy wind, fulfilling his word, **9** mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, **10** wild animals and all livestock, small creatures and flying birds, **11** kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all judges of the earth, **12** both young men and maidens, old men and children. **13** Let them praise the LORD's name, for his name alone is exalted. His glory is above the earth and the heavens. **14** He has lifted up the horn of his people, the praise of all his saints, even of the children of Israel, a people near to him. Praise the LORD!

**149** Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the saints. **2** Let Israel rejoice in him who made them. Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. **3** Let them praise his name in the dance! Let them sing praises to him with tambourine and harp! **4** For the LORD takes pleasure in his people. He crowns the humble with salvation. **5** Let the saints rejoice in honor. Let them

sing for joy on their beds. **6** May the high praises of God be in their mouths, and a two-edged sword in their hand, **7** to execute vengeance on the nations, and punishments on the peoples; **8** to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; **9** to execute on them the written judgment. All his saints have this honor. Praise the LORD!

**150** Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary! Praise him in his heavens for his acts of power! **2** Praise him for his mighty acts! Praise him according to his excellent greatness! **3** Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet! Praise him with harp and lyre! **4** Praise him with tambourine and dancing! Praise him with stringed instruments and flute! **5** Praise him with loud cymbals! Praise him with resounding cymbals! **6** Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

# Proverbs

**1** The proverbs of Solomon, the son of David, king of Israel: **2** to know wisdom and instruction; to discern the words of understanding; **3** to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity; **4** to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young man— **5** that the wise man may hear, and increase in learning; that the man of understanding may attain to sound counsel; **6** to understand a proverb and parables, the words and riddles of the wise. **7** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but the foolish despise wisdom and instruction. **8** My son, listen to your father's instruction, and do not forsake your mother's teaching; **9** for they will be a garland to grace your head, and chains around your neck. **10** My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. **11** If they say, "Come with us. Let's lie in wait for blood. Let's lurk secretly for the innocent without cause. **12** Let's swallow them up alive like Sheol (Sheol h7585), and whole, like those who go down into the pit. **13** We will find all valuable wealth. We will fill our houses with plunder. **14** You shall cast your lot among us. We will all have one purse"— **15** my son, do not walk on the path with them. Keep your foot from their path, **16** for their feet run to evil. They hurry to shed blood. **17** For the net is spread in vain in the sight of any bird; **18** but these lay in wait for their own blood. They lurk secretly for their own lives. **19** So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain. It takes away the life of its owners. **20** Wisdom calls aloud in the street. She utters her voice in the public squares. **21** She calls at the head of noisy places. At the entrance of the city gates, she utters her words: **22** "How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? How long will mockers delight themselves in mockery, and fools hate knowledge? **23** Turn at my reproof. Behold, I will pour out my spirit on you. I will make known my words to you. **24** Because I have called, and you have refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no one has paid attention; **25** but you have ignored all my counsel, and wanted none of my reproof; **26** I also will laugh at your disaster. I will mock when calamity overtakes you, **27** when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when your disaster comes on like a

whirlwind, when distress and anguish come on you. **28** Then they will call on me, but I will not answer. They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me, **29** because they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD. **30** They wanted none of my counsel. They despised all my reproof. **31** Therefore they will eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own schemes. **32** For the backsliding of the simple will kill them. The careless ease of fools will destroy them. **33** But whoever listens to me will dwell securely, and will be at ease, without fear of harm."

**2** My son, if you will receive my words, and store up my commandments within you, **2** so as to turn your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; **3** yes, if you call out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding; **4** if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; **5** then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. **6** For the LORD gives wisdom. Out of his mouth comes knowledge and understanding. **7** He lays up sound wisdom for the upright. He is a shield to those who walk in integrity, **8** that he may guard the paths of justice, and preserve the way of his saints. **9** Then you will understand righteousness and justice, equity and every good path. **10** For wisdom will enter into your heart. Knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. **11** Discretion will watch over you. Understanding will keep you, **12** to deliver you from the way of evil, from the men who speak perverse things, **13** who forsake the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness, **14** who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the perverseness of evil, **15** who are crooked in their ways, and wayward in their paths, **16** to deliver you from the strange woman, even from the foreigner who flatters with her words, **17** who forsakes the friend of her youth, and forgets the covenant of her God; **18** for her house leads down to death, her paths to the departed spirits. **19** None who go to her return again, neither do they attain to the paths of life. **20** Therefore walk in the way of good men, and keep the paths of the righteous. **21** For the upright will dwell in the land. The perfect will remain in it. **22** But the wicked will be cut off from the land. The treacherous will be rooted out of it.

**3** My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, **2** for they will add to you length of days, years of life, and peace. **3** Do not let kindness and truth forsake you. Bind them around your neck. Write them on the tablet of your heart. **4** So you will find favor, and good understanding in the sight of God and man. **5** Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. **6** In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. **7** Do not be wise in your own eyes. Fear the LORD, and depart from evil. **8** It will be health to your body, and nourishment to your bones. **9** Honor the LORD with your substance, with the first fruits of all your increase; **10** so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine. **11** My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline, neither be weary of his correction; **12** for whom the LORD loves, he corrects, even as a father reproveth the son in whom he delights. **13** Happy is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gets understanding. **14** For her good profit is better than getting silver, and her return is better than fine gold. **15** She is more precious than rubies. None of the things you can desire are to be compared to her. **16** Length of days is in her right hand. In her left hand are riches and honor. **17** Her ways are ways of pleasantness. All her paths are peace. **18** She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her. Happy is everyone who retains her. **19** By wisdom the LORD founded the earth. By understanding, he established the heavens. **20** By his knowledge, the depths were broken up, and the skies drop down the dew. **21** My son, let them not depart from your eyes. Keep sound wisdom and discretion, **22** so they will be life to your soul, and grace for your neck. **23** Then you shall walk in your way securely. Your foot will not stumble. **24** When you lie down, you will not be afraid. Yes, you will lie down, and your sleep will be sweet. **25** Do not be afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it comes; **26** for the LORD will be your confidence, and will keep your foot from being taken. **27** Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do it. **28** Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come again; tomorrow I will give it to you," when you have it by you. **29**

Do not devise evil against your neighbor, since he dwells securely by you. **30** Do not strive with a man without cause, if he has done you no harm. **31** Do not envy the man of violence. Choose none of his ways. **32** For the perverse is an abomination to the LORD, but his friendship is with the upright. **33** The LORD's curse is in the house of the wicked, but he blesses the habitation of the righteous. **34** Surely he mocks the mockers, but he gives grace to the humble. **35** The wise will inherit glory, but shame will be the promotion of fools.

**4** Listen, sons, to a father's instruction. Pay attention and know understanding; **2** for I give you sound learning. Do not forsake my law. **3** For I was a son to my father, tender and an only child in the sight of my mother. **4** He taught me, and said to me: "Let your heart retain my words. Keep my commandments, and live. **5** Get wisdom. Get understanding. Do not forget, and do not deviate from the words of my mouth. **6** Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you. Love her, and she will keep you. **7** Wisdom is supreme. Get wisdom. Yes, though it costs all your possessions, get understanding. **8** Esteem her, and she will exalt you. She will bring you to honor when you embrace her. **9** She will give to your head a garland of grace. She will deliver a crown of splendor to you." **10** Listen, my son, and receive my sayings. The years of your life will be many. **11** I have taught you in the way of wisdom. I have led you in straight paths. **12** When you go, your steps will not be hampered. When you run, you will not stumble. **13** Take firm hold of instruction. Do not let her go. Keep her, for she is your life. **14** Do not enter into the path of the wicked. Do not walk in the way of evil men. **15** Avoid it, and do not pass by it. Turn from it, and pass on. **16** For they do not sleep unless they do evil. Their sleep is taken away, unless they make someone fall. **17** For they eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence. **18** But the path of the righteous is like the dawning light that shines more and more until the perfect day. **19** The way of the wicked is like darkness. They do not know what they stumble over. **20** My son, attend to my words. Turn your ear to my sayings. **21** Let them not depart from your eyes. Keep them in the center of your heart. **22** For they are life to those who find them, and health to their whole body. **23** Keep your

heart with all diligence, for out of it is the wellspring of life. **24** Put away from yourself a perverse mouth. Put corrupt lips far from you. **25** Let your eyes look straight ahead. Fix your gaze directly before you. **26** Make the path of your feet level. Let all of your ways be established. **27** Do not turn to the right hand nor to the left. Remove your foot from evil.

**5** My son, pay attention to my wisdom. Turn your ear to my understanding, **2** that you may maintain discretion, that your lips may preserve knowledge. **3** For the lips of an adulteress drip honey. Her mouth is smoother than oil, **4** but in the end she is as bitter as wormwood, and as sharp as a two-edged sword. **5** Her feet go down to death. Her steps lead straight to Sheol (Sheol h7585). **6** She gives no thought to the way of life. Her ways are crooked, and she does not know it. **7** Now therefore, my sons, listen to me. Do not depart from the words of my mouth. **8** Remove your way far from her. Do not come near the door of her house, **9** lest you give your honor to others, and your years to the cruel one; **10** lest strangers feast on your wealth, and your labors enrich another man's house. **11** You will groan at your latter end, when your flesh and your body are consumed, **12** and say, "How I have hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof. **13** I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor turned my ear to those who instructed me! **14** I have come to the brink of utter ruin, among the gathered assembly." **15** Drink water out of your own cistern, running water out of your own well. **16** Should your springs overflow in the streets, streams of water in the public squares? **17** Let them be for yourself alone, not for strangers with you. **18** Let your spring be blessed. Rejoice in the wife of your youth. **19** A loving doe and a graceful deer— let her breasts satisfy you at all times. Be captivated always with her love. **20** For why should you, my son, be captivated with an adulteress? Why embrace the bosom of another? **21** For the ways of man are before the LORD's eyes. He examines all his paths. **22** The evil deeds of the wicked ensnare him. The cords of his sin hold him firmly. **23** He will die for lack of instruction. In the greatness of his folly, he will go astray.

**6** My son, if you have become collateral for your neighbor, if you have struck your hands in pledge for a stranger, **2** you are trapped by the words of your mouth; you are ensnared with the words of your mouth. **3** Do this now, my son, and deliver yourself, since you have come into the hand of your neighbor. Go, humble yourself. Press your plea with your neighbor. **4** Give no sleep to your eyes, nor slumber to your eyelids. **5** Free yourself, like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, like a bird from the snare of the fowler. **6** Go to the ant, you sluggard. Consider her ways, and be wise; **7** which having no chief, overseer, or ruler, **8** provides her bread in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest. **9** How long will you sleep, sluggard? When will you arise out of your sleep? **10** A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep— **11** so your poverty will come as a robber, and your scarcity as an armed man. **12** A worthless person, a man of iniquity, is he who walks with a perverse mouth, **13** who winks with his eyes, who signals with his feet, who motions with his fingers, **14** in whose heart is perverseness, who devises evil continually, who always sows discord. **15** Therefore his calamity will come suddenly. He will be broken suddenly, and that without remedy. **16** There are six things which the LORD hates; yes, seven which are an abomination to him: **17** arrogant eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, **18** a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are swift in running to mischief, **19** a false witness who utters lies, and he who sows discord among brothers. **20** My son, keep your father's commandment, and do not forsake your mother's teaching. **21** Bind them continually on your heart. Tie them around your neck. **22** When you walk, it will lead you. When you sleep, it will watch over you. When you awake, it will talk with you. **23** For the commandment is a lamp, and the law is light. Reproofs of instruction are the way of life, **24** to keep you from the immoral woman, from the flattery of the wayward wife's tongue. **25** Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, neither let her captivate you with her eyelids. **26** For a prostitute reduces you to a piece of bread. The adulteress hunts for your precious life. **27** Can a man scoop fire into his lap, and his clothes not be burned? **28** Or can one walk on hot coals, and his feet not be scorched? **29** So

is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife. Whoever touches her will not be unpunished. **30** Men do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy himself when he is hungry, **31** but if he is found, he shall restore seven times. He shall give all the wealth of his house. **32** He who commits adultery with a woman is void of understanding. He who does it destroys his own soul. **33** He will get wounds and dishonor. His reproach will not be wiped away. **34** For jealousy arouses the fury of the husband. He will not spare in the day of vengeance. **35** He will not regard any ransom, neither will he rest content, though you give many gifts.

**7** My son, keep my words. Lay up my commandments within you. **2** Keep my commandments and live! Guard my teaching as the apple of your eye. **3** Bind them on your fingers. Write them on the tablet of your heart. **4** Tell wisdom, "You are my sister." Call understanding your relative, **5** that they may keep you from the strange woman, from the foreigner who flatters with her words. **6** For at the window of my house, I looked out through my lattice. **7** I saw among the simple ones. I discerned among the youths a young man void of understanding, **8** passing through the street near her corner, he went the way to her house, **9** in the twilight, in the evening of the day, in the middle of the night and in the darkness. **10** Behold, there a woman met him with the attire of a prostitute, and with crafty intent. **11** She is loud and defiant. Her feet do not stay in her house. **12** Now she is in the streets, now in the squares, and lurking at every corner. **13** So she caught him, and kissed him. With an impudent face she said to him: **14** "Sacrifices of peace offerings are with me. Today I have paid my vows. **15** Therefore I came out to meet you, to diligently seek your face, and I have found you. **16** I have spread my couch with carpets of tapestry, with striped cloths of the yarn of Egypt. **17** I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. **18** Come, let's take our fill of loving until the morning. Let's solace ourselves with loving. **19** For my husband is not at home. He has gone on a long journey. **20** He has taken a bag of money with him. He will come home at the full moon." **21** With persuasive words, she led him astray. With the flattering of her lips, she seduced him. **22** He followed her immediately, as an ox goes to the slaughter, as a fool stepping into a

noose. **23** Until an arrow strikes through his liver, as a bird hurries to the snare, and does not know that it will cost his life. **24** Now therefore, sons, listen to me. Pay attention to the words of my mouth. **25** Do not let your heart turn to her ways. Do not go astray in her paths, **26** for she has thrown down many wounded. Yes, all her slain are a mighty army. **27** Her house is the way to Sheol (Sheol h7585), going down to the rooms of death.

**8** Does not wisdom cry out? Does not understanding raise her voice? **2** On the top of high places by the way, where the paths meet, she stands. **3** Beside the gates, at the entry of the city, at the entry doors, she cries aloud: **4** "I call to you men! I send my voice to the sons of mankind. **5** You simple, understand prudence! You fools, be of an understanding heart! **6** Hear, for I will speak excellent things. The opening of my lips is for right things. **7** For my mouth speaks truth. Wickedness is an abomination to my lips. **8** All the words of my mouth are in righteousness. There is nothing crooked or perverse in them. **9** They are all plain to him who understands, right to those who find knowledge. **10** Receive my instruction rather than silver, knowledge rather than choice gold. **11** For wisdom is better than rubies. All the things that may be desired cannot be compared to it. **12** "I, wisdom, have made prudence my dwelling. Find out knowledge and discretion. **13** The fear of the LORD is to hate evil. I hate pride, arrogance, the evil way, and the perverse mouth. **14** Counsel and sound knowledge are mine. I have understanding and power. **15** By me kings reign, and princes decree justice. **16** By me princes rule, nobles, and all the righteous rulers of the earth. **17** I love those who love me. Those who seek me diligently will find me. **18** With me are riches, honor, enduring wealth, and prosperity. **19** My fruit is better than gold, yes, than fine gold, my yield than choice silver. **20** I walk in the way of righteousness, in the middle of the paths of justice, **21** that I may give wealth to those who love me. I fill their treasuries. **22** "The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his work, before his deeds of old. **23** I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, before the earth existed. **24** When there were no depths, I was born, when there were no springs abounding with water. **25** Before the mountains were



settled in place, before the hills, I was born; **26** while as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the beginning of the dust of the world. **27** When he established the heavens, I was there. When he set a circle on the surface of the deep, **28** when he established the clouds above, when the springs of the deep became strong, **29** when he gave to the sea its boundary, that the waters should not violate his commandment, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, **30** then I was the craftsman by his side. I was a delight day by day, always rejoicing before him, **31** rejoicing in his whole world. My delight was with the sons of men. **32** "Now therefore, my sons, listen to me, for blessed are those who keep my ways. **33** Hear instruction, and be wise. Do not refuse it. **34** Blessed is the man who hears me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at my door posts. **35** For whoever finds me finds life, and will obtain favor from the LORD. **36** But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul. All those who hate me love death."

**9** Wisdom has built her house. She has carved out her seven pillars. **2** She has prepared her meat. She has mixed her wine. She has also set her table. **3** She has sent out her maidens. She cries from the highest places of the city: **4** "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" As for him who is void of understanding, she says to him, **5** "Come, eat some of my bread, Drink some of the wine which I have mixed! **6** Leave your simple ways, and live. Walk in the way of understanding." **7** One who corrects a mocker invites insult. One who reproves a wicked man invites abuse. **8** Do not reprove a scoffer, lest he hate you. Reprove a wise person, and he will love you. **9** Instruct a wise person, and he will be still wiser. Teach a righteous person, and he will increase in learning. **10** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. The knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. **11** For by me your days will be multiplied. The years of your life will be increased. **12** If you are wise, you are wise for yourself. If you mock, you alone will bear it. **13** The foolish woman is loud, undisciplined, and knows nothing. **14** She sits at the door of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city, **15** to call to those who pass by, who go straight on their ways, **16** "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here." As for him who is void of understanding, she

says to him, **17** "Stolen water is sweet. Food eaten in secret is pleasant." **18** But he does not know that the departed spirits are there, that her guests are in the depths of Sheol (Sheol h7585).

**10** The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son makes a glad father; but a foolish son brings grief to his mother. **2** Treasures of wickedness profit nothing, but righteousness delivers from death. **3** The LORD will not allow the soul of the righteous to go hungry, but he thrusts away the desire of the wicked. **4** He becomes poor who works with a lazy hand, but the hand of the diligent brings wealth. **5** He who gathers in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during the harvest is a son who causes shame. **6** Blessings are on the head of the righteous, but violence covers the mouth of the wicked. **7** The memory of the righteous is blessed, but the name of the wicked will rot. **8** The wise in heart accept commandments, but a chattering fool will fall. **9** He who walks blamelessly walks surely, but he who perverts his ways will be found out. **10** One who winks with the eye causes sorrow, but a chattering fool will fall. **11** The mouth of the righteous is a spring of life, but violence covers the mouth of the wicked. **12** Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all wrongs. **13** Wisdom is found on the lips of him who has discernment, but a rod is for the back of him who is void of understanding. **14** Wise men lay up knowledge, but the mouth of the foolish is near ruin. **15** The rich man's wealth is his strong city. The destruction of the poor is their poverty. **16** The labor of the righteous leads to life. The increase of the wicked leads to sin. **17** He is in the way of life who heeds correction, but he who forsakes reproof leads others astray. **18** He who hides hatred has lying lips. He who utters a slander is a fool. **19** In the multitude of words there is no lack of disobedience, but he who restrains his lips does wisely. **20** The tongue of the righteous is like choice silver. The heart of the wicked is of little worth. **21** The lips of the righteous feed many, but the foolish die for lack of understanding. **22** The LORD's blessing brings wealth, and he adds no trouble to it. **23** It is a fool's pleasure to do wickedness, but wisdom is a man of understanding's pleasure. **24** What the wicked fear will overtake them, but the desire of the righteous will be granted. **25** When the whirlwind

passes, the wicked is no more; but the righteous stand firm forever. 26 As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to those who send him. 27 The fear of the LORD prolongs days, but the years of the wicked shall be shortened. 28 The prospect of the righteous is joy, but the hope of the wicked will perish. 29 The way of the LORD is a stronghold to the upright, but it is a destruction to the workers of iniquity. 30 The righteous will never be removed, but the wicked will not dwell in the land. 31 The mouth of the righteous produces wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut off. 32 The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked is perverse.

**11** A false balance is an abomination to the LORD, but accurate weights are his delight. 2 When pride comes, then comes shame, but with humility comes wisdom. 3 The integrity of the upright shall guide them, but the perverseness of the treacherous shall destroy them. 4 Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death. 5 The righteousness of the blameless will direct his way, but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness. 6 The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them, but the unfaithful will be trapped by evil desires. 7 When a wicked man dies, hope perishes, and expectation of power comes to nothing. 8 A righteous person is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked takes his place. 9 With his mouth the godless man destroys his neighbor, but the righteous will be delivered through knowledge. 10 When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices. When the wicked perish, there is shouting. 11 By the blessing of the upright, the city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked. 12 One who despises his neighbor is void of wisdom, but a man of understanding holds his peace. 13 One who brings gossip betrays a confidence, but one who is of a trustworthy spirit is one who keeps a secret. 14 Where there is no wise guidance, the nation falls, but in the multitude of counselors there is victory. 15 He who is collateral for a stranger will suffer for it, but he who refuses pledges of collateral is secure. 16 A gracious woman obtains honor, but violent men obtain riches. 17 The merciful man does good to his own soul, but he who is cruel troubles his own flesh. 18 Wicked people earn deceitful wages,

but one who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward. 19 He who is truly righteous gets life. He who pursues evil gets death. 20 Those who are perverse in heart are an abomination to the LORD, but those whose ways are blameless are his delight. 21 Most certainly, the evil man will not be unpunished, but the offspring of the righteous will be delivered. 22 Like a gold ring in a pig's snout, is a beautiful woman who lacks discretion. 23 The desire of the righteous is only good. The expectation of the wicked is wrath. 24 There is one who scatters, and increases yet more. There is one who withholds more than is appropriate, but gains poverty. 25 The liberal soul shall be made fat. He who waters shall be watered also himself. 26 People curse someone who withholds grain, but blessing will be on the head of him who sells it. 27 He who diligently seeks good seeks favor, but he who searches after evil, it shall come to him. 28 He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous shall flourish as the green leaf. 29 He who troubles his own house shall inherit the wind. The foolish shall be servant to the wise of heart. 30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life. He who is wise wins souls. 31 Behold, the righteous shall be repaid in the earth, how much more the wicked and the sinner!

**12** Whoever loves correction loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid. 2 A good man shall obtain favor from the LORD, but he will condemn a man of wicked plans. 3 A man shall not be established by wickedness, but the root of the righteous shall not be moved. 4 A worthy woman is the crown of her husband, but a disgraceful wife is as rotteness in his bones. 5 The thoughts of the righteous are just, but the advice of the wicked is deceitful. 6 The words of the wicked are about lying in wait for blood, but the speech of the upright rescues them. 7 The wicked are overthrown, and are no more, but the house of the righteous shall stand. 8 A man shall be commended according to his wisdom, but he who has a warped mind shall be despised. 9 Better is he who is little known, and has a servant, than he who honors himself and lacks bread. 10 A righteous man respects the life of his animal, but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel. 11 He who tills his land shall have plenty of bread, but he who chases fantasies is void of understanding. 12

The wicked desires the plunder of evil men, but the root of the righteous flourishes. 13 An evil man is trapped by sinfulness of lips, but the righteous shall come out of trouble. 14 A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth. The work of a man's hands shall be rewarded to him. 15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who is wise listens to counsel. 16 A fool shows his annoyance the same day, but one who overlooks an insult is prudent. 17 He who is truthful testifies honestly, but a false witness lies. 18 There is one who speaks rashly like the piercing of a sword, but the tongue of the wise heals. 19 Truth's lips will be established forever, but a lying tongue is only momentary. 20 Deceit is in the heart of those who plot evil, but joy comes to the promoters of peace. 21 No mischief shall happen to the righteous, but the wicked shall be filled with evil. 22 Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who do the truth are his delight. 23 A prudent man keeps his knowledge, but the hearts of fools proclaim foolishness. 24 The hands of the diligent ones shall rule, but laziness ends in slave labor. 25 Anxiety in a man's heart weighs it down, but a kind word makes it glad. 26 A righteous person is cautious in friendship, but the way of the wicked leads them astray. 27 The slothful man does not roast his game, but the possessions of diligent men are prized. 28 In the way of righteousness is life; in its path there is no death.

**13** A wise son listens to his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke. 2 By the fruit of his lips, a man enjoys good things, but the unfaithful crave violence. 3 He who guards his mouth guards his soul. One who opens wide his lips comes to ruin. 4 The soul of the sluggard desires, and has nothing, but the desire of the diligent shall be fully satisfied. 5 A righteous man hates lies, but a wicked man brings shame and disgrace. 6 Righteousness guards the way of integrity, but wickedness overthrows the sinner. 7 There are some who pretend to be rich, yet have nothing. There are some who pretend to be poor, yet have great wealth. 8 The ransom of a man's life is his riches, but the poor hear no threats. 9 The light of the righteous shines brightly, but the lamp of the wicked is snuffed out. 10 Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is with people who take advice.

11 Wealth gained dishonestly dwindles away, but he who gathers by hand makes it grow. 12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when longing is fulfilled, it is a tree of life. 13 Whoever despises instruction will pay for it, but he who respects a command will be rewarded. 14 The teaching of the wise is a spring of life, to turn from the snares of death. 15 Good understanding wins favor, but the way of the unfaithful is hard. 16 Every prudent man acts from knowledge, but a fool exposes folly. 17 A wicked messenger falls into trouble, but a trustworthy envoy gains healing. 18 Poverty and shame come to him who refuses discipline, but he who heeds correction shall be honored. 19 Longing fulfilled is sweet to the soul, but fools detest turning from evil. 20 One who walks with wise men grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm. 21 Misfortune pursues sinners, but prosperity rewards the righteous. 22 A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the wealth of the sinner is stored for the righteous. 23 An abundance of food is in poor people's fields, but injustice sweeps it away. 24 One who spares the rod hates his son, but one who loves him is careful to discipline him. 25 The righteous one eats to the satisfying of his soul, but the belly of the wicked goes hungry.

**14** Every wise woman builds her house, but the foolish one tears it down with her own hands. 2 He who walks in his uprightness fears the LORD, but he who is perverse in his ways despises him. 3 The fool's talk brings a rod to his back, but the lips of the wise protect them. 4 Where no oxen are, the crib is clean, but much increase is by the strength of the ox. 5 A truthful witness will not lie, but a false witness pours out lies. 6 A scoffer seeks wisdom, and does not find it, but knowledge comes easily to a discerning person. 7 Stay away from a foolish man, for you will not find knowledge on his lips. 8 The wisdom of the prudent is to think about his way, but the folly of fools is deceit. 9 Fools mock at making atonement for sins, but among the upright there is good will. 10 The heart knows its own bitterness and joy; he will not share these with a stranger. 11 The house of the wicked will be overthrown, but the tent of the upright will flourish. 12 There is a way which seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death. 13 Even in laughter

the heart may be sorrowful, and mirth may end in heaviness. 14 The unfaithful will be repaid for his own ways; likewise a good man will be rewarded for his ways. 15 A simple man believes everything, but the prudent man carefully considers his ways. 16 A wise man fears and shuns evil, but the fool is hot headed and reckless. 17 He who is quick to become angry will commit folly, and a crafty man is hated. 18 The simple inherit folly, but the prudent are crowned with knowledge. 19 The evil bow down before the good, and the wicked at the gates of the righteous. 20 The poor person is shunned even by his own neighbor, but the rich person has many friends. 21 He who despises his neighbor sins, but he who has pity on the poor is blessed. 22 Do not they go astray who plot evil? But love and faithfulness belong to those who plan good. 23 In all hard work there is profit, but the talk of the lips leads only to poverty. 24 The crown of the wise is their riches, but the folly of fools crowns them with folly. 25 A truthful witness saves souls, but a false witness is deceitful. 26 In the fear of the LORD is a secure fortress, and he will be a refuge for his children. 27 The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning people from the snares of death. 28 In the multitude of people is the king's glory, but in the lack of people is the destruction of the prince. 29 He who is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a quick temper displays folly. 30 The life of the body is a heart at peace, but envy rots the bones. 31 He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for his Maker, but he who is kind to the needy honors him. 32 The wicked is brought down in his calamity, but in death, the righteous has a refuge. 33 Wisdom rests in the heart of one who has understanding, and is even made known in the inward part of fools. 34 Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people. 35 The king's favor is toward a servant who deals wisely, but his wrath is toward one who causes shame.

**15** A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. 2 The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouths of fools gush out folly. 3 The LORD's eyes are everywhere, keeping watch on the evil and the good. 4 A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but deceit in it crushes the spirit. 5 A fool despises his father's correction, but he who

heeds reproof shows prudence. 6 In the house of the righteous is much treasure, but the income of the wicked brings trouble. 7 The lips of the wise spread knowledge; not so with the heart of fools. 8 The sacrifice made by the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is his delight. 9 The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but he loves him who follows after righteousness. 10 There is stern discipline for one who forsakes the way. Whoever hates reproof shall die. 11 Sheol (Sheol h7585) and Abaddon are before the LORD— how much more then the hearts of the children of men! 12 A scoffer does not love to be reproved; he will not go to the wise. 13 A glad heart makes a cheerful face, but an aching heart breaks the spirit. 14 The heart of one who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouths of fools feed on folly. 15 All the days of the afflicted are wretched, but one who has a cheerful heart enjoys a continual feast. 16 Better is little, with the fear of the LORD, than great treasure with trouble. 17 Better is a dinner of herbs, where love is, than a fattened calf with hatred. 18 A wrathful man stirs up contention, but one who is slow to anger appeases strife. 19 The way of the sluggard is like a thorn patch, but the path of the upright is a highway. 20 A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish man despises his mother. 21 Folly is joy to one who is void of wisdom, but a man of understanding keeps his way straight. 22 Where there is no counsel, plans fail; but in a multitude of counselors they are established. 23 Joy comes to a man with the reply of his mouth. How good is a word at the right time! 24 The path of life leads upward for the wise, to keep him from going downward to Sheol (Sheol h7585). 25 The LORD will uproot the house of the proud, but he will keep the widow's borders intact. 26 The LORD detests the thoughts of the wicked, but the thoughts of the pure are pleasing. 27 He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house, but he who hates bribes will live. 28 The heart of the righteous weighs answers, but the mouth of the wicked gushes out evil. 29 The LORD is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous. 30 The light of the eyes rejoices the heart. Good news gives health to the bones. 31 The ear that listens to reproof lives, and will be at home among the wise. 32 He who refuses correction

despises his own soul, but he who listens to reproof gets understanding. **33** The fear of the LORD teaches wisdom. Before honor is humility.

**16** The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD. **2** All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the motives. **3** Commit your deeds to the LORD, and your plans shall succeed. **4** The LORD has made everything for its own end— yes, even the wicked for the day of evil. **5** Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; they shall certainly not be unpunished. **6** By mercy and truth iniquity is atoned for. By the fear of the LORD men depart from evil. **7** When a man's ways please the LORD, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him. **8** Better is a little with righteousness, than great revenues with injustice. **9** A man's heart plans his course, but the LORD directs his steps. **10** Inspired judgments are on the lips of the king. He shall not betray his mouth. **11** Honest balances and scales are the LORD'S; all the weights in the bag are his work. **12** It is an abomination for kings to do wrong, for the throne is established by righteousness. **13** Righteous lips are the delight of kings. They value one who speaks the truth. **14** The king's wrath is a messenger of death, but a wise man will pacify it. **15** In the light of the king's face is life. His favor is like a cloud of the spring rain. **16** How much better it is to get wisdom than gold! Yes, to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver. **17** The highway of the upright is to depart from evil. He who keeps his way preserves his soul. **18** Pride goes before destruction, and an arrogant spirit before a fall. **19** It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor, than to divide the plunder with the proud. **20** He who heeds the Word finds prosperity. Whoever trusts in the LORD is blessed. **21** The wise in heart shall be called prudent. Pleasantness of the lips promotes instruction. **22** Understanding is a fountain of life to one who has it, but the punishment of fools is their folly. **23** The heart of the wise instructs his mouth, and adds learning to his lips. **24** Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones. **25** There is a way which seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death. **26** The appetite of the laboring man labors for him, for his mouth urges him on. **27** A

worthless man devises mischief. His speech is like a scorching fire. **28** A perverse man stirs up strife. A whisperer separates close friends. **29** A man of violence entices his neighbor, and leads him in a way that is not good. **30** One who winks his eyes to plot perversities, one who compresses his lips, is bent on evil. **31** Gray hair is a crown of glory. It is attained by a life of righteousness. **32** One who is slow to anger is better than the mighty; one who rules his spirit, than he who takes a city. **33** The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

**17** Better is a dry morsel with quietness, than a house full of feasting with strife. **2** A servant who deals wisely will rule over a son who causes shame, and shall have a part in the inheritance among the brothers. **3** The refining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests the hearts. **4** An evildoer heeds wicked lips. A liar gives ear to a mischievous tongue. **5** Whoever mocks the poor reproaches his Maker. He who is glad at calamity shall not be unpunished. **6** Children's children are the crown of old men; the glory of children is their parents. **7** Excellent speech is not fitting for a fool, much less do lying lips fit a prince. **8** A bribe is a precious stone in the eyes of him who gives it; wherever he turns, he prospers. **9** He who covers an offense promotes love; but he who repeats a matter separates best friends. **10** A rebuke enters deeper into one who has understanding than a hundred lashes into a fool. **11** An evil man seeks only rebellion; therefore a cruel messenger shall be sent against him. **12** Let a bear robbed of her cubs meet a man, rather than a fool in his folly. **13** Whoever rewards evil for good, evil shall not depart from his house. **14** The beginning of strife is like breaching a dam, therefore stop contention before quarreling breaks out. **15** He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the righteous, both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD. **16** Why is there money in the hand of a fool to buy wisdom, since he has no understanding? **17** A friend loves at all times; and a brother is born for adversity. **18** A man void of understanding strikes hands, and becomes collateral in the presence of his neighbor. **19** He who loves disobedience loves strife. One who builds a high gate seeks destruction. **20** One who has a perverse heart does not find prosperity, and one

who has a deceitful tongue falls into trouble. 21 He who becomes the father of a fool grieves. The father of a fool has no joy. 22 A cheerful heart makes good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones. 23 A wicked man receives a bribe in secret, to pervert the ways of justice. 24 Wisdom is before the face of one who has understanding, 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 Also to punish the righteous is not good, nor to flog officials for their integrity. 27 He who spares his words has knowledge. He who is even tempered is a man of understanding. 28 Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is counted wise. When he shuts his lips, he is thought to be discerning.

**18** A man who isolates himself pursues selfishness, and defies all sound judgment. 2 A fool has no delight in understanding, but only in revealing his own opinion. 3 When wickedness comes, contempt also comes, and with shame comes disgrace. 4 The words of a man's mouth are like deep waters. The fountain of wisdom is like a flowing brook. 5 To be partial to the faces of the wicked is not good, nor to deprive the innocent of justice. 6 A fool's lips come into strife, and his mouth invites beatings. 7 A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are a snare to his soul. 8 The words of a gossip are like dainty morsels: they go down into a person's innermost parts. 9 One who is slack in his work is brother to him who is a master of destruction. 10 The LORD's name is a strong tower: the righteous run to him, and are safe. 11 The rich man's wealth is his strong city, like an unscalable wall in his own imagination. 12 Before destruction the heart of man is proud, but before honor is humility. 13 He who answers before he hears, that is folly and shame to him. 14 A man's spirit will sustain him in sickness, but a crushed spirit, who can bear? 15 The heart of the discerning gets knowledge. The ear of the wise seeks knowledge. 16 A man's gift makes room for him, and brings him before great men. 17 He who pleads his cause first seems right— until another comes and questions him. 18 The lot settles disputes, and keeps strong ones apart. 19 A brother offended is more difficult than a fortified city. Disputes are like the bars of a fortress. 20 A man's stomach is filled with the fruit of his mouth. With the harvest of his lips he is

satisfied. 21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue; those who love it will eat its fruit. 22 Whoever finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor of the LORD. 23 The poor plead for mercy, but the rich answer harshly. 24 A man of many companions may be ruined, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

**19** Better is the poor who walks in his integrity than he who is perverse in his lips and is a fool. 2 It is not good to have zeal without knowledge, nor being hasty with one's feet and missing the way. 3 The foolishness of man subverts his way; his heart rages against the LORD. 4 Wealth adds many friends, but the poor is separated from his friend. 5 A false witness shall not be unpunished. He who pours out lies shall not go free. 6 Many will entreat the favor of a ruler, and everyone is a friend to a man who gives gifts. 7 All the relatives of the poor shun him; how much more do his friends avoid him! He pursues them with pleas, but they are gone. 8 He who gets wisdom loves his own soul. He who keeps understanding shall find good. 9 A false witness shall not be unpunished. He who utters lies shall perish. 10 Delicate living is not appropriate for a fool, much less for a servant to have rule over princes. 11 The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger. It is his glory to overlook an offense. 12 The king's wrath is like the roaring of a lion, but his favor is like dew on the grass. 13 A foolish son is the calamity of his father. A wife's quarrels are a continual dripping. 14 House and riches are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the LORD. 15 Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep. The idle soul shall suffer hunger. 16 He who keeps the commandment keeps his soul, but he who is contemptuous in his ways shall die. 17 He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD; he will reward him. 18 Discipline your son, for there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death. 19 A hot-tempered man must pay the penalty, for if you rescue him, you must do it again. 20 Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter end. 21 There are many plans in a man's heart, but the LORD's counsel will prevail. 22 That which makes a man to be desired is his kindness. A poor man is better than a liar. 23 The fear of the LORD leads to life, then contentment; he rests and will not be

touched by trouble. **24** The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; he will not so much as bring it to his mouth again. **25** Flog a scoffer, and the simple will learn prudence; rebuke one who has understanding, and he will gain knowledge. **26** He who robs his father and drives away his mother is a son who causes the shame and brings reproach. **27** If you stop listening to instruction, my son, you will stray from the words of knowledge. **28** A corrupt witness mocks justice, and the mouth of the wicked gulps down iniquity. **29** Penalties are prepared for scoffers, and beatings for the backs of fools.

**20** Wine is a mocker and beer is a brawler. Whoever is led astray by them is not wise. **2** The terror of a king is like the roaring of a lion. He who provokes him to anger forfeits his own life. **3** It is an honor for a man to keep aloof from strife, but every fool will be quarreling. **4** The sluggard will not plow by reason of the winter; therefore he shall beg in harvest, and have nothing. **5** Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out. **6** Many men claim to be men of unfailing love, but who can find a faithful man? **7** A righteous man walks in integrity. Blessed are his children after him. **8** A king who sits on the throne of judgment scatters away all evil with his eyes. **9** Who can say, "I have made my heart pure. I am clean and without sin"? **10** Differing weights and differing measures, both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD. **11** Even a child makes himself known by his doings, whether his work is pure, and whether it is right. **12** The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD has made even both of them. **13** Do not love sleep, lest you come to poverty. Open your eyes, and you shall be satisfied with bread. **14** "It's no good, it's no good," says the buyer; but when he is gone his way, then he boasts. **15** There is gold and abundance of rubies, but the lips of knowledge are a rare jewel. **16** Take the garment of one who puts up collateral for a stranger; and hold him in pledge for a wayward woman. **17** Fraudulent food is sweet to a man, but afterwards his mouth is filled with gravel. **18** Plans are established by advice; by wise guidance you wage war! **19** He who goes about as a tale-bearer reveals secrets; therefore do not keep company with him who opens wide his lips. **20** Whoever curses his father or his mother, his lamp

shall be put out in blackness of darkness. **21** An inheritance quickly gained at the beginning will not be blessed in the end. **22** Do not say, "I will pay back evil." Wait for the LORD, and he will save you. **23** The LORD detests differing weights, and dishonest scales are not pleasing. **24** A man's steps are from the LORD; how then can man understand his way? **25** It is a snare to a man to make a rash dedication, then later to consider his vows. **26** A wise king winnows out the wicked, and drives the threshing wheel over them. **27** The spirit of man is the LORD's lamp, searching all his innermost parts. **28** Love and faithfulness keep the king safe. His throne is sustained by love. **29** The glory of young men is their strength. The splendor of old men is their gray hair. **30** Wounding blows cleanse away evil, and beatings purge the innermost parts.

**21** The king's heart is in the LORD's hand like the watercourses. He turns it wherever he desires. **2** Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the hearts. **3** To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice. **4** A high look and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, is sin. **5** The plans of the diligent surely lead to profit; and everyone who is hasty surely rushes to poverty. **6** Getting treasures by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor for those who seek death. **7** The violence of the wicked will drive them away, because they refuse to do what is right. **8** The way of the guilty is devious, but the conduct of the innocent is upright. **9** It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop than to share a house with a contentious woman. **10** The soul of the wicked desires evil; his neighbor finds no mercy in his eyes. **11** When the mocker is punished, the simple gains wisdom. When the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge. **12** The Righteous One considers the house of the wicked, and brings the wicked to ruin. **13** Whoever stops his ears at the cry of the poor, he will also cry out, but shall not be heard. **14** A gift in secret pacifies anger, and a bribe in the cloak, strong wrath. **15** It is joy to the righteous to do justice; but it is a destruction to the workers of iniquity. **16** The man who wanders out of the way of understanding shall rest in the assembly of the departed spirits. **17** He who loves pleasure will be a poor man. He who loves wine and oil will not be rich. **18** The wicked is a ransom for the righteous, the

treacherous for the upright. 19 It is better to dwell in a desert land, than with a contentious and fretful woman. 20 There is precious treasure and oil in the dwelling of the wise, but a foolish man swallows it up. 21 He who follows after righteousness and kindness finds life, righteousness, and honor. 22 A wise man scales the city of the mighty, and brings down the strength of its confidence. 23 Whoever guards his mouth and his tongue keeps his soul from troubles. 24 The proud and arrogant man—"Scoffer" is his name—he works in the arrogance of pride. 25 The desire of the sluggard kills him, for his hands refuse to labor. 26 There are those who covet greedily all day long; but the righteous give and do not withhold. 27 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination—how much more, when he brings it with a wicked mind! 28 A false witness will perish. A man who listens speaks to eternity. 29 A wicked man hardens his face; but as for the upright, he establishes his ways. 30 There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD. 31 The horse is prepared for the day of battle; but victory is with the LORD.

**22** A good name is more desirable than great riches, and loving favor is better than silver and gold. 2 The rich and the poor have this in common: The LORD is the maker of them all. 3 A prudent man sees danger and hides himself; but the simple pass on, and suffer for it. 4 The result of humility and the fear of the LORD is wealth, honor, and life. 5 Thorns and snares are in the path of the wicked; whoever 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. The borrower is servant to the lender. 8 He who sows wickedness reaps trouble, and the rod of his fury will be destroyed. 9 He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor. 10 Drive out the mocker, and strife will go out; yes, quarrels and insults will stop. 11 He who loves purity of heart and speaks gracefully is the king's friend. 12 The LORD's eyes watch over knowledge, but he frustrates the words of the unfaithful. 13 The sluggard says, "There is a lion outside! I will be killed in the streets!" 14 The mouth of an adulteress is a deep pit. He who is under the LORD's wrath will fall into it. 15 Folly is bound up in the heart of a child; the

rod of discipline drives it far from him. 16 Whoever oppresses the poor for his own increase and whoever gives to the rich, both come to poverty. 17 Turn your ear, and listen to the words of the wise. Apply your heart to my teaching. 18 For it is a pleasant thing if you keep them within you, if all of them are ready on your lips. 19 I teach you today, even you, so that your trust may be in the LORD. 20 Have not I written to you thirty excellent things of counsel and knowledge, 21 To teach you truth, reliable words, to give sound answers to the ones who sent you? 22 Do not exploit the poor because he is poor; and do not crush the needy in court; 23 for the LORD will plead their case, and plunder the life of those who plunder them. 24 Do not befriend a hot-tempered man. Do not associate with one who harbors anger, 25 lest you learn his ways and ensnare your soul. 26 Do not you be one of those who strike hands, of those who are collateral for debts. 27 If you do not have means to pay, why should he take away your bed from under you? 28 Do not move the ancient boundary stone which your fathers have set up. 29 Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve kings. He will not serve obscure men.

**23** When you sit to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before you; 2 put a knife to your throat if you are a man given to appetite. 3 Do not be desirous of his dainties, since they are deceitful food. 4 Do not weary yourself to be rich. In your wisdom, show restraint. 5 Why do you set your eyes on that which is not? For it certainly sprouts wings like an eagle and flies in the sky. 6 Do not eat the food of him who has a stingy eye, and do not crave his delicacies, 7 for as he thinks about the cost, so he is. "Eat and drink!" he says to you, but his heart is not with you. 8 You will vomit up the morsel which you have eaten and waste your pleasant words. 9 Do not speak in the ears of a fool, for he will despise the wisdom of your words. 10 Do not move the ancient boundary stone. Do not encroach on the fields of the fatherless, 11 for their Defender is strong. He will plead their case against you. 12 Apply your heart to instruction, and your ears to the words of knowledge. 13 Do not withhold correction from a child. If you punish him with the rod, he will not die. 14 Punish him with the rod, and save his soul from Sheol (Sheol



**h7585).** 15 My son, if your heart is wise, then my heart will be glad, even mine. 16 Yes, my heart will rejoice when your lips speak what is right. 17 Do not let your heart envy sinners, but rather fear the LORD all day long. 18 Indeed surely there is a future hope, and your hope will not be cut off. 19 Listen, my son, and be wise, and keep your heart on the right path! 20 Do not be among ones drinking too much wine, or those who gorge themselves on meat; 21 for the drunkard and the glutton shall become poor; and drowsiness clothes them in rags. 22 Listen to your father who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old. 23 Buy the truth, and do not sell it. Get wisdom, discipline, and understanding. 24 The father of the righteous has great joy. Whoever fathers a wise child delights in him. 25 Let your father and your mother be glad! Let her who bore you rejoice! 26 My son, give me your heart; and let your eyes keep in my ways. 27 For a prostitute is a deep pit; and a wayward wife is a narrow well. 28 Yes, she lies in wait like a robber, and increases the unfaithful among men. 29 Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaints? Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes? 30 Those who stay long at the wine; those who go to seek out mixed wine. 31 Do not look at the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly. 32 In the end, it bites like a snake, and poisons like a viper. 33 Your eyes will see strange things, and your mind will imagine confusing things. 34 Yes, you will be as he who lies down in the middle of the sea, or as he who lies on top of the rigging: 35 "They hit me, and I was not hurt! They beat me, and I do not feel it! When will I wake up? I can do it again. I will look for more."

**24** Do not be envious of evil men, neither desire to be with them; 2 for their hearts plot violence and their lips talk about mischief. 3 Through wisdom a house is built; by understanding it is established; 4 by knowledge the rooms are filled with all rare and beautiful treasure. 5 A wise man has great power. A knowledgeable man increases strength, 6 for by wise guidance you wage your war, and victory is in many advisors. 7 Wisdom is too high for a fool. He does not open his mouth in the gate. 8 One who plots to do evil will be called a schemer. 9 The schemes of folly are sin. The mocker is detested by men. 10 If you

falter in the time of trouble, your strength is small. 11 Rescue those who are being led away to death! Indeed, hold back those who are staggering to the slaughter! 12 If you say, "Behold, we did not know this," does not he who weighs the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, does not he know it? Shall he not render to every man according to his work? 13 My son, eat honey, for it is good, the droppings of the honeycomb, which are sweet to your taste; 14 so you shall know wisdom to be to your soul. If you have found it, then there will be a reward: Your hope will not be cut off. 15 Do not lay in wait, wicked man, against the habitation of the righteous. Do not destroy his resting place; 16 for a righteous man falls seven times and rises up again, but the wicked are overthrown by calamity. 17 Do not rejoice when your enemy falls. Do not let your heart be glad when he is overthrown, 18 lest the LORD see it, and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him. 19 Do not fret yourself because of evildoers, neither be envious of the wicked; 20 for there will be no reward to the evil man. The lamp of the wicked will be snuffed out. 21 My son, fear the LORD and the king. Do not join those who are rebellious, 22 for their calamity will rise suddenly. Who knows what destruction may come from them both? 23 These also are sayings of the wise: To show partiality in judgment is not good. 24 He who says to the wicked, "You are righteous," peoples will curse him, and nations will abhor him— 25 but it will go well with those who convict the guilty, and a rich blessing will come on them. 26 An honest answer is like a kiss on the lips. 27 Prepare your work outside, and get your fields ready. Afterwards, build your house. 28 Do not be a witness against your neighbor without cause. 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 by the field of the sluggard, by the vineyard of the man void of understanding. 31 Behold, it was all grown over with thorns. Its surface was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down. 32 Then I saw, and considered well. I saw, and received instruction: 33 a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep, 34 so your poverty will come as a robber and your want as an armed man.

**25** These also are proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out. 2 It is the glory of God to conceal a thing, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter. 3 As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth, so the hearts of kings are unsearchable. 4 Take away the dross from the silver, and material comes out for the refiner. 5 Take away 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, or claim a place among great men; 7 for it is better that it be said to you, "Come up here," than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince, whom your eyes have seen. 8 Do not be hasty in bringing charges to court. What will you do in the end when your neighbor shames you? 9 Debate your case with your neighbor, and do not betray the confidence of another, 10 lest one who hears it put you to shame, and your bad reputation never depart. 11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver. 12 As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprover to an obedient ear. 13 As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to those who send him; for he refreshes the soul of his masters. 14 As clouds and wind without rain, so is he who boasts of gifts deceptively. 15 By patience a ruler is persuaded. A soft tongue breaks the bone. 16 Have you found honey? Eat as much as is sufficient for you, lest you eat too much, and vomit it. 17 Let your foot be seldom in your neighbor's house, lest he be weary of you, and hate you. 18 A man who gives false testimony against his neighbor is like a club, a sword, or a sharp arrow. 19 Confidence in someone unfaithful in time of trouble is like a bad tooth or a lame foot. 20 As one who takes away a garment in cold weather, or vinegar on soda, so is one who sings songs to a heavy heart. 21 If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat. If he is thirsty, give him water to drink; 22 for you will heap coals of fire on his head, and the LORD will reward you. 23 The north wind produces rain; so a backbiting tongue brings an angry face. 24 It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop than to share a house with a contentious woman. 25 Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country. 26 Like a muddied spring and a polluted well, so is a righteous man who

gives way before the wicked. 27 It is not good to eat much honey, nor is it honorable to seek one's own honor. 28 Like a city that is broken down and without walls is a man whose spirit is without restraint.

**26** Like snow in summer, and as rain in harvest, so honor is not fitting for a fool. 2 Like a fluttering sparrow, like a darting swallow, so the undeserved curse does not come to rest. 3 A whip is for the horse, a bridle for the donkey, and a rod for the back of fools! 4 Do not answer a fool according to his folly, lest you also be like him. 5 Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes. 6 One who sends a message by the hand of a fool is cutting off feet and drinking violence. 7 Like the legs of the lame that hang loose, so is a parable in the mouth of fools. 8 As one who binds a stone in a sling, so is he who gives honor to a fool. 9 Like a thorn bush that goes into the hand of a drunkard, so is a parable in the mouth of fools. 10 As an archer who wounds all, so is he who hires a fool or he who hires those who pass by. 11 As a dog that returns to his vomit, so is a fool who repeats his folly. 12 Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him. 13 The sluggard says, "There is a lion in the road! A fierce lion roams the streets!" 14 As the door turns on its hinges, so does the sluggard on his bed. 15 The sluggard buries his hand in the dish. He is too lazy to bring it back to his mouth. 16 The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who answer with discretion. 17 Like one who grabs a dog's ears is one who passes by and meddles in a quarrel not his own. 18 Like a madman who shoots torches, arrows, and death, 19 is the man who deceives his neighbor and says, "Am I not joking?" 20 For lack of wood a fire goes out. Without gossip, a quarrel dies down. 21 As coals are to hot embers, and wood to fire, so is a contentious man to kindling strife. 22 The words of a whisperer are as dainty morsels, they go down into the innermost parts. 23 Like silver dross on an earthen vessel are the lips of a fervent one with an evil heart. 24 A malicious man disguises himself with his lips, but he harbors evil in his heart. 25 When his speech is charming, do not believe him, for there are seven abominations in his heart. 26 His malice may be concealed by deception, but his wickedness will

be exposed in the assembly. 27 Whoever digs a pit shall fall into it. Whoever rolls a stone, it will come back on him. 28 A lying tongue hates those it hurts; and a flattering mouth works ruin.

**27** Do not boast about tomorrow; for you do not know what a day may bring. 2 Let another man 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 a fool's provocation is heavier than both. 4 Wrath is cruel, and anger is overwhelming; but who is able to stand before jealousy? 5 Better is open rebuke than hidden love. 6 The wounds of a friend are faithful, although the kisses of an enemy are profuse. 7 A full soul loathes a honeycomb; but to a hungry soul, every bitter thing is sweet. 8 As a bird that wanders from her nest, so is a man who wanders from his home. 9 Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart; so does earnest counsel from a man's friend. 10 Do not forsake your friend and your father's friend. Do not go to your brother's house in the day of your disaster. A neighbor who is near is better than a distant brother. 11 Be wise, my son, and bring joy to my heart, then I can answer my tormentor. 12 A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge; but the simple pass on, and suffer for it. 13 Take his garment when he puts up collateral for a stranger. Hold it for a wayward woman! 14 He who blesses his neighbor with a loud voice early in the morning, it will be taken as a curse by him. 15 A continual dropping on a rainy day and a contentious wife are alike: 16 restraining her is like restraining the wind, or like grasping oil in his right hand. 17 Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens his friend's countenance. 18 Whoever tends the fig tree shall eat its fruit. He who looks after his master shall be honored. 19 Like water reflects a face, so a man's heart reflects the man. 20 Sheol (Sheol h7585) and Abaddon are never satisfied; and a man's eyes are never satisfied. 21 The crucible is for silver, and the furnace for gold; but man is refined by his praise. 22 Though you grind a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with grain, yet his foolishness will not be removed from him. 23 Know well the state of your flocks, and pay attention to your herds, 24 for riches are not forever, nor does the crown endure to all generations. 25 The hay is removed, and the new

growth appears, the grasses of the hills are gathered in. 26 The lambs are for your clothing, and the goats are the price of a field. 27 There will be plenty of goats' milk for your food, for your family's food, and for the nourishment of your servant girls.

**28** The wicked flee when no one pursues; but the righteous are as bold as a lion. 2 In rebellion, a land has many rulers, but order is maintained by a man of understanding and knowledge. 3 A needy man who oppresses the poor is like a driving rain which leaves no crops. 4 Those who forsake the law praise the wicked; but those who keep the law contend with them. 5 Evil men do not understand justice; but those who seek the LORD understand it fully. 6 Better is the poor who walks in his integrity than he who is perverse in his ways, and he is rich. 7 Whoever keeps the law is a wise son; but he who is a companion of gluttons shames his father. 8 He who increases his wealth by excessive interest gathers it for one who has pity on the poor. 9 He who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination. 10 Whoever causes the upright to go astray in an evil way, he will fall into his own trap; but the blameless will inherit good. 11 The rich man is wise in his own eyes; but the poor who has understanding 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 does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy. 14 Blessed is the man who always fears; but one who hardens his heart falls into trouble. 15 As a roaring lion or a charging bear, so is a wicked ruler over helpless people. 16 A tyrannical ruler lacks judgment. One who hates ill-gotten gain will have long days. 17 A man who is tormented by blood guilt will be a fugitive until death. No one will support him. 18 Whoever walks blamelessly is kept safe; but one with perverse ways will fall suddenly. 19 One who works his land will have an abundance of food; but one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty. 20 A faithful man is rich with blessings; but one who is 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 hurries after riches, and does not know that poverty waits for him. 23 One

who rebukes a man will afterward find more favor than one who flatters with the tongue. **24** Whoever robs his father or his mother and says, "It's not wrong," is a partner with a destroyer. **25** One who is greedy stirs up strife; but one who trusts in the LORD will prosper. **26** One who trusts in himself is a fool; but one who walks in wisdom is kept safe. **27** One who gives to the poor has no lack; but one who closes his eyes will have many curses. **28** When the wicked rise, men hide themselves; but when they perish, the righteous thrive.

**29** He who is often rebuked and stiffens his neck will be destroyed suddenly, with no remedy. **2** When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, the people groan. **3** Whoever loves wisdom brings joy to his father; but a companion of prostitutes squanders his wealth. **4** The king by justice makes the land stable, but he who takes bribes tears it down. **5** A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet. **6** An evil man is snared by his sin, but the righteous can sing and be glad. **7** The righteous care about justice for the poor. The wicked are not concerned about knowledge. **8** Mockers stir up a city, but wise men turn away anger. **9** If a wise man goes to court with a foolish man, the fool rages or scoffs, and there is no peace. **10** The bloodthirsty hate a man of integrity; and they seek the life of the upright. **11** A fool vents all of his anger, but a wise man brings himself under control. **12** If a ruler listens to lies, all of his officials are wicked. **13** The poor man and the oppressor have this in common: The LORD gives sight to the eyes of both. **14** The king who fairly judges the poor, his throne shall be established forever. **15** The rod of correction gives wisdom, but a child left to himself causes shame to his mother. **16** When the wicked increase, sin increases; but the righteous will see their downfall. **17** Correct your son, and he will give you peace; yes, he will bring delight to your soul. **18** Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but one who keeps the law is blessed. **19** A servant cannot be corrected by words. Though he understands, yet he will not respond. **20** Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him. **21** He who pampers his servant from youth will have him become a son in the end. **22** An angry man stirs up strife,

and a wrathful man abounds in sin. **23** A man's pride brings him low, but one of lowly spirit gains honor. **24** Whoever is an accomplice of a thief is an enemy of his own soul. He takes an oath, but dares not testify. **25** The fear of man proves to be a snare, but whoever puts his trust in the LORD is kept safe. **26** Many seek the ruler's favor, but a man's justice comes from the LORD. **27** A dishonest man detests the righteous, and the upright in their ways detest the wicked.

**30** The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, the revelation: the man says to Ithiel, to Ithiel and Ucal: **2** "Surely I am the most ignorant man, and do not have a man's understanding. **3** I have not learned wisdom, neither do I have the knowledge of the Holy One. **4** Who has ascended up into heaven, and descended? Who has gathered the wind in his fists? Who has bound the waters in his garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is his son's name, if you know? **5** "Every word of God is flawless. He is a shield to those who take refuge in him. **6** Do not you add to his words, lest he reprove you, and you be found a liar. **7** "Two things I have asked of you. Do not deny me before I die. **8** Remove far from me falsehood and lies. Give me neither poverty nor riches. Feed me with the food that is needful for me, **9** lest I be full, deny you, and say, 'Who is the LORD?' or lest I be poor, and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God. **10** "Do not slander a servant to his master, lest he curse you, and you be held guilty. **11** There is a generation that curses their father, and does not bless their mother. **12** There is a generation that is pure in their own eyes, yet are not washed from their filthiness. **13** There is a generation, oh how lofty are their eyes! Their eyelids are lifted up. **14** There is a generation whose teeth are like swords, and their jaws like knives, to devour the poor from the earth, and the needy from among men. **15** "The leech has two daughters: 'Give, give.' "There are three things that are never satisfied; four that do not say, 'Enough!': **16** Sheol (Sheol h7585), the barren womb, the earth that is not satisfied with water, and the fire that does not say, 'Enough!' **17** "The eye that mocks at his father, and scorns obedience to his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, the young eagles shall eat it. **18** "There are three things which are too

amazing for me, four which I do not understand: 19 The way of an eagle in the air, the way of a serpent on a rock, the way of a ship in the middle of the sea, and the way of a man with a maiden. 20 "So is the way of an adulterous woman: She eats and wipes her mouth, and says, 'I have done nothing wrong.' 21 "For three things the earth trembles, and under four, it cannot bear up: 22 For a servant when he is king, a fool when he is filled with food, 23 for an unloved woman when she is married, and a servant who is heir to her mistress. 24 "There are four things which are little on the earth, but they are exceedingly wise: 25 The ants are not a strong people, yet they provide their food in the summer. 26 The hyraxes are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks. 27 The locusts have no king, yet they advance in ranks. 28 You can catch a lizard with your hands, yet it is in kings' palaces. 29 "There are three things which are stately in their march, four which are stately in going: 30 The lion, which is mightiest among animals, and does not turn away for any; 31 the greyhound; the male goat; and the king against whom there is no rising up. 32 "If you have done foolishly in lifting up yourself, or if you have thought evil, put your hand over your mouth. 33 For as the churning of milk produces butter, and the wringing of the nose produces blood, so the forcing of wrath produces strife."

**31** The words of King Lemuel—the revelation which his mother taught him: 2 "Oh, my son! Oh, son of my womb! Oh, son of my vows! 3 Do not give your strength to women, nor your ways to that which destroys kings. 4 It is not for kings, Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, nor for princes to say, 'Where is strong drink?' 5 lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the justice due to anyone who is afflicted. 6 Give strong drink to him who is ready to perish, 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 the mute, in the cause of all who are left desolate. 9 Open your mouth, judge righteously, and serve justice to the poor and needy." 10 Who can find a worthy woman? For her value is far above rubies. 11 The heart of her husband trusts in her. He shall have no lack of gain. 12 She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. 13

She seeks wool and flax, and works eagerly with her hands. 14 She is like the merchant ships. She brings her bread from afar. 15 She rises also while it is yet night, gives food to her household, and portions for her servant girls. 16 She considers a field, and buys it. With the fruit of her hands, she plants a vineyard. 17 She arms her waist with strength, and makes her arms strong. 18 She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out by night. 19 She lays her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. 20 She opens her arms to the poor; yes, she extends her hands to the needy. 21 She is not afraid of the snow for her household, for all her household are clothed with scarlet. 22 She makes for herself carpets of tapestry. Her clothing is fine linen and purple. 23 Her husband is respected in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land. 24 She makes linen garments and sells them, and delivers sashes to the merchant. 25 Strength and dignity are her clothing. She laughs at the time to come. 26 She opens her mouth with wisdom. Kind instruction is on her tongue. 27 She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. 28 Her children rise up and call her blessed. Her husband also praises her: 29 "Many women do noble things, but you excel them all." 30 Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised. 31 Give her of the fruit of her hands! Let her works praise her in the gates!

# Jonah

**1** Now the LORD's word came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, **2** "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach against it, for their wickedness has come up before me." **3** But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid its fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. **4** But the LORD sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty storm on the sea, so that the ship was likely to break up. **5** Then the mariners were afraid, and every man cried to his god. They threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone down into the innermost parts of the ship and he was laying down, and was fast asleep. **6** So the ship master came to him, and said to him, "What do you mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God! Maybe your God will notice us, so that we will not perish." **7** They all said to each other, "Come! Let's cast lots, that we may know who is responsible for this evil that is on us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. **8** Then they asked him, "Tell us, please, for whose cause this evil is on us. What is your occupation? Where do you come from? What is your country? Of what people are you?" **9** He said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who has made the sea and the dry land." **10** Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him, "What have you done?" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them. **11** Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may be calm to us?" For the sea grew more and more stormy. **12** He said to them, "Take me up, and throw me into the sea. Then the sea will be calm for you; for I know that because of me this great storm is on you." **13** Nevertheless the men rowed hard to get them back to the land; but they could not, for the sea grew more and more stormy against them. **14** Therefore they cried to the LORD, and said, "We beg you, LORD, we beg you, do not let us die for this man's life, and do not lay on us innocent blood; for you, LORD, have done as it pleased you." **15** So they took up Jonah and threw him into the sea; and the

sea ceased its raging. **16** Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly; and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows. **17** The LORD prepared a huge fish to swallow up Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

**2** Then Jonah prayed to the LORD, his God, out of the fish's belly. **2** He said, "I called because of my affliction to the LORD. He answered me. Out of the belly of Sheol (Sheol [h7585](#)) I cried. You heard my voice. **3** For you threw me into the depths, in the heart of the seas. The flood was all around me. All your waves and your billows passed over me. **4** I said, 'I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.' **5** The waters surrounded me, even to the soul. The deep was around me. The weeds were wrapped around my head. **6** I went down to the bottoms of the mountains. The earth barred me in forever; yet you have brought my life up from the pit, LORD my God. **7** "When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the LORD. My prayer came in to you, into your holy temple. **8** Those who regard vain idols forsake their own mercy. **9** But I will sacrifice to you with the voice of thanksgiving. I will pay that which I have vowed. Salvation belongs to the LORD." **10** Then the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited out Jonah on the dry land.

**3** The LORD's word came to Jonah the second time, saying, **2** "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I give you." **3** So Jonah arose, and went to Nineveh, according to the LORD's word. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey across. **4** Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried out, and said, "In forty days, Nineveh will be overthrown!" **5** The people of Nineveh believed God; and they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from their greatest even to their least. **6** The news reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, took off his royal robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. **7** He made a proclamation and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, "Let neither man nor animal, herd nor flock, taste anything; let them not feed, nor drink water; **8** but let them be covered with sackcloth, both man and animal, and let them cry mightily to

God. Yes, let them turn everyone from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. **9** Who knows whether God will not turn and relent, and turn away from his fierce anger, so that we might not perish?" **10** God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way. God relented of the disaster which he said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

**4** But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. **2** He prayed to the LORD, and said, "Please, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my own country? Therefore I hurried to flee to Tarshish, for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abundant in loving kindness, and you relent of doing harm. **3** Therefore now, LORD, take, I beg you, my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." **4** The LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" **5** Then Jonah went out of the city and sat on the east side of the city, and there made himself a booth and sat under it in the shade, until he might see what would become of the city. **6** The LORD God prepared a vine and made it to come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head to deliver him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the vine. **7** But God prepared a worm at dawn the next day, and it chewed on the vine so that it withered. **8** When the sun arose, God prepared a sultry east wind; and the sun beat on Jonah's head, so that he was faint and requested for himself that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." **9** God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the vine?" He said, "I am right to be angry, even to death." **10** The LORD said, "You have been concerned for the vine, for which you have not labored, neither made it grow; which came up in a night and perished in a night. **11** Should not I be concerned for Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand, and also many animals?"

# Malachi

**1** A revelation, the LORD's word to Israel by Malachi.  
**2** "I have loved you," says the LORD. Yet you say, "How have you loved us?" "Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" says the LORD, "Yet I loved Jacob; **3** but Esau I hated, and made his mountains a desolation, and gave his heritage to the jackals of the wilderness."  
**4** Whereas Edom says, "We are beaten down, but we will return and build the waste places," the LORD of Armies says, "They shall build, but I will throw down; and men will call them 'The Wicked Land,' even the people against whom the LORD shows wrath forever."  
**5** Your eyes will see, and you will say, "The LORD is great—even beyond the border of Israel!" **6** "A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If I am a father, then where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is the respect due me?" says the LORD of Armies to you priests who despise my name. "You say, 'How have we despised your name?' **7** You offer polluted bread on my altar. You say, 'How have we polluted you?' In that you say, 'The LORD's table is contemptible.' **8** When you offer the blind for sacrifice, is not that evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, is not that evil? Present it now to your governor! Will he be pleased with you? Or will he accept your person?" says the LORD of Armies. **9** "Now, please entreat the favor of God, that he may be gracious to us. With this, will he accept any of you?" says the LORD of Armies. **10** "Oh that there were one among you who would shut the doors, that you might not kindle fire on my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you," says the LORD of Armies, "neither will I accept an offering at your hand. **11** For from the rising of the sun even to its going down, my name is great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering; for my name is great among the nations," says the LORD of Armies. **12** "But you profane it when you say, 'The LORD's table is polluted, and its fruit, even its food, is contemptible.' **13** You say also, 'Behold, what a weariness it is! And you have sniffed at it'," says the LORD of Armies; "and you have brought that which was taken by violence, the lame, and the sick; thus you bring the offering. Should I accept this at your hand?" says the LORD. **14** "But the deceiver is cursed

who has in his flock a male, and vows and sacrifices to the Lord a defective thing; for I am a great King," says the LORD of Armies, "and my name is awesome among the nations."

**2** "Now, you priests, this commandment is for you.  
**2** If you will not listen, and if you will not take it to heart, to give glory to my name," says the LORD of Armies, "then I will send the curse on you, and I will curse your blessings. Indeed, I have cursed them already, because you do not take it to heart. **3** Behold, I will rebuke your offspring, and will spread dung on your faces, even the dung of your feasts; and you will be taken away with it. **4** You will know that I have sent this commandment to you, that my covenant may be with Levi," says the LORD of Armies. **5** "My covenant was with him of life and peace; and I gave them to him that he might be reverent toward me; and he was reverent toward me, and stood in awe of my name. **6** The law of truth was in his mouth, and unrighteousness was not found in his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and turned many away from iniquity. **7** For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth; for he is the messenger of the LORD of Armies. **8** But you have turned away from the path. You have caused many to stumble in the law. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi," says the LORD of Armies. **9** "Therefore I have also made you contemptible and wicked before all the people, according to the way you have not kept my ways, but have had respect for persons in the law. **10** Do not we all have one father? Has not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, profaning the covenant of our fathers? **11** Judah has dealt treacherously, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah has profaned the holiness of the LORD which he loves, and has married the daughter of a foreign god. **12** The LORD will cut off the man who does this, him who wakes and him who answers, out of the tents of Jacob and him who offers an offering to the LORD of Armies. **13** "This again you do: you cover the LORD's altar with tears, with weeping, and with sighing, because he does not regard the offering any more, neither receives it with good will at your



hand. **14** Yet you say, 'Why?' Because the LORD has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and the wife of your covenant. **15** Did he not make you one, although he had the residue of the Spirit? Why one? He sought godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of his youth. **16** One who hates and divorces", says the LORD, the God of Israel, "covers his garment with violence!" says the LORD of Armies. "Therefore pay attention to your spirit, that you do not be unfaithful. **17** You have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet you say, 'How have we wearied him?' In that you say, 'Everyone who does evil is good in the LORD's sight, and he delights in them;' or 'Where is the God of justice?'

**3** "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me! The Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to his temple. Behold, the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, is coming!" says the LORD of Armies. **2** "But who can endure the day of his coming? And who will stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire, and like launderers' soap; **3** and he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi, and refine them as gold and silver; and they shall offer to the LORD offerings in righteousness. **4** Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasant to the LORD as in the days of old and as in ancient years. **5** I will come near to you to judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against the perjurers, and against those who oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and who deprive the foreigner of justice, and do not fear me," says the LORD of Armies. **6** "For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, sons of Jacob, are not consumed. **7** From the days of your fathers you have turned away from my ordinances and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD of Armies. "But you say, 'How shall we return?' **8** Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me! But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In tithes and offerings. **9** You are cursed with the curse; for you rob me, even this whole nation. **10** Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house,

and test me now in this," says the LORD of Armies, "if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there will not be enough room for. **11** I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast its fruit before its time in the field," says the LORD of Armies. **12** "All nations shall call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land," says the LORD of Armies. **13** "Your words have been harsh against me," says the LORD. "Yet you say, 'What have we spoken against you?' **14** You have said, 'It is vain to serve God,' and 'What profit is it that we have followed his instructions and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of Armies? **15** Now we call the proud happy; yes, those who work wickedness are built up; yes, they tempt God, and escape.' **16** Then those who feared the LORD spoke one with another, and the LORD listened and heard, and a book of memory was written before him for those who feared the LORD and who honored his name. **17** They shall be mine," says the LORD of Armies, "my own possession in the day that I make. I will spare them, as a man spares his own son who serves him. **18** Then you shall return and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him who serves God and him who does not serve him.

**4** "For behold, the day comes, burning like a furnace, when all the proud and all who work wickedness will be stubble. The day that comes will burn them up," says the LORD of Armies, "so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. **2** But to you who fear my name shall the sun of righteousness arise with healing in its wings. You will go out and leap like calves of the stall. **3** You shall tread down the wicked; for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I make," says the LORD of Armies. **4** "Remember the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded to him in Horeb for all Israel, even statutes and ordinances. **5** Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. **6** He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."



# NEW TESTAMENT



## The Crucifixion

*Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."  
Dividing his garments among them, they cast lots.*

Luke 23:34

# John

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** The same was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through him. Without him, nothing was made that has been made. **4** In him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. **6** There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** The same came as a witness, that he might testify about the light, that all might believe through him. **8** He was not the light, but was sent that he might testify about the light. **9** The true light that enlightens everyone was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world was made through him, and the world did not recognize him. **11** He came to his own, and those who were his own did not receive him. **12** But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become God's children, to those who believe in his name: **13** who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. **14** The Word became flesh and lived among us. We saw his glory, such glory as of the only born Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. **15** John testified about him. He cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me, for he was before me.'" **16** From his fullness we all received grace upon grace. **17** For the law was given through Moses. Grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. **18** No one has seen God at any time. The only born Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, has declared him. **19** This is John's testimony, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" **20** He declared, and did not deny, but he declared, "I am not the Christ." **21** They asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." **22** They said therefore to him, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" **23** He said, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as Isaiah the prophet said." **24** The ones who had been sent were from the Pharisees. **25** They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ,

nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" **26** John answered them, "I baptize in water, but among you stands one whom you do not know. **27** He is the one who comes after me, who is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loosen." **28** These things were done in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing. **29** The next day, he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! **30** This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who is preferred before me, for he was before me.'" **31** I did not know him, but for this reason I came baptizing in water, that he would be revealed to Israel." **32** John testified, saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending like a dove out of heaven, and it remained on him. **33** I did not recognize him, but he who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'On whomever you will see the Spirit descending and remaining on him is he who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.'" **34** I have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God." **35** Again, the next day, John was standing with two of his disciples, **36** and he looked at Jesus as he walked, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" **37** The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. **38** Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, being interpreted, Teacher), "where are you staying?" **39** He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about the tenth hour. **40** One of the two who heard John and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. **41** He first found his own brother, Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah!" (which is, being interpreted, Christ). **42** He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is by interpretation, Peter). **43** On the next day, he was determined to go out into Galilee, and he found Philip. Jesus said to him, "Follow me." **44** Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. **45** Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets, wrote: Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." **46** Nathanael said to him, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." **47** Jesus saw Nathanael coming

to him, and said about him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" **48** Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." **49** Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are King of Israel!" **50** Jesus answered him, "Because I told you, 'I saw you underneath the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these!" **51** He said to him, "Most certainly, I tell you all, hereafter you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

**2** The third day, there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee. Jesus' mother was there. **2** Jesus also was invited, with his disciples, to the wedding. **3** When the wine ran out, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no wine." **4** Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does that have to do with you and me? My hour has not yet come." **5** His mother said to the servants, "Whatever he says to you, do it." **6** Now there were six water pots of stone set there after the Jews' way of purifying, containing two or three metretes apiece. **7** Jesus said to them, "Fill the water pots with water." So they filled them up to the brim. **8** He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the ruler of the feast." So they took it. **9** When the ruler of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the ruler of the feast called the bridegroom **10** and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when the guests have drunk freely, then that which is worse. You have kept the good wine until now!" **11** This beginning of his signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. **12** After this, he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, his brothers, and his disciples; and they stayed there a few days. **13** The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. **14** He found in the temple those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, and the changers of money sitting. **15** He made a whip of cords and drove all out of the temple, both the sheep and the oxen; and he poured out the changers' money and overthrew their tables. **16** To those who sold the doves, he said, "Take these things out of here! Do not make my Father's house a

marketplace!" **17** His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will eat me up." **18** The Jews therefore answered him, "What sign do you show us, seeing that you do these things?" **19** Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." **20** The Jews therefore said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple! Will you raise it up in three days?" **21** But he spoke of the temple of his body. **22** When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said. **23** Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in his name, observing his signs which he did. **24** But Jesus did not entrust himself to them, because he knew everyone, **25** and because he did not need for anyone to testify concerning man; for he himself knew what was in man.

**3** Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. **2** He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do, unless God is with him." **3** Jesus answered him, "Most certainly I tell you, unless one is born anew, he cannot see God's Kingdom." **4** Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" **5** Jesus answered, "Most certainly I tell you, unless one is born of water and Spirit, he cannot enter into God's Kingdom. **6** That which is born of the flesh is flesh. That which is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7** Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born anew.' **8** The wind blows where it wants to, and you hear its sound, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." **9** Nicodemus answered him, "How can these things be?" **10** Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not understand these things? **11** Most certainly I tell you, we speak that which we know and testify of that which we have seen, and you do not receive our witness. **12** If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? **13** No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended out of heaven, the Son of Man,

who is in heaven. 14 As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have consummate (αιῶνιος g166) life. 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have consummate (αιῶνιος g166) life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through him. 18 He who believes in him is not judged. He who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only born Son of God. 19 This is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light, for their works were evil. 20 For everyone who does evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works would be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his works may be revealed, that they have been done in God." 22 After these things, Jesus came with his disciples into the land of Judea. He stayed there with them and baptized. 23 John also was baptizing in Enon near Salim, because there was much water there. They came and were baptized; 24 for John was not yet thrown into prison. 25 Therefore a dispute arose on the part of John's disciples with some Jews about purification. 26 They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified, behold, he baptizes, and everyone is coming to him." 27 John answered, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven. 28 You yourselves testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before him.' 29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore my joy is made full. 30 He must increase, but I must decrease. 31 "He who comes from above is above all. He who is from the earth belongs to the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. 32 What he has seen and heard, of that he testifies; and no one receives his witness. 33 He who has received his witness has set his seal to this, that God is true. 34 For he whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for God gives the Spirit without measure. 35 The Father loves the Son,

and has given all things into his hand. 36 One who believes in the Son has consummate (αιῶνιος g166) life, but one who disobeys the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him."

**4** Therefore when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John 2 (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but his disciples), 3 he left Judea and departed into Galilee. 4 He needed to pass through Samaria. 5 So he came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being tired from his journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. 7 A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." 8 For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. 9 The Samaritan woman therefore said to him, "How is it that you, being a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." 11 The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. So where do you get that living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his children and his livestock?" 13 Jesus answered her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him by no means will thirst for the age (αιῶν g165); but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to consummate (αιῶνιος g166) life." 15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I do not get thirsty, neither come all the way here to draw." 16 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." 17 The woman answered, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You said well, 'I have no husband,' 18 for you have had five husbands; and he whom you now have is not your husband. This you have said truly." 19 The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." 21 Jesus said

to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 You worship that which you do not know. We worship that which we know; for salvation is from the Jews. 23 But the hour comes, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such to be his worshipers. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." 25 The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming, he who is called Christ. When he has come, he will declare to us all things." 26 Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who speaks to you." 27 Just then, his disciples came. They marveled that he was speaking with a woman; yet no one said, "What are you looking for?" or, "Why do you speak with her?" 28 So the woman left her water pot, went away into the city, and said to the people, 29 "Come, see a man who told me everything that I have done. Can this be the Christ?" 30 They went out of the city, and were coming to him. 31 In the meanwhile, the disciples urged him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." 32 But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." 33 The disciples therefore said to one another, "Has anyone brought him something to eat?" 34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. 35 Do not you say, 'There are yet four months until the harvest'? Behold, I tell you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, that they are white for harvest already. 36 He who reaps receives wages and gathers fruit to consummate (αιώνιος g166) life; that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. 37 For in this the saying is true, 'One sows, and another reaps.' 38 I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." 39 From that city many of the Samaritans believed in him because of the word of the woman, who testified, "He told me everything that I have done." 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed there two days. 41 Many more believed because of his word. 42 They said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of your speaking; for we have heard for ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world." 43 After the two days he went

out from there and went into Galilee. 44 For Jesus himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country. 45 So when he came into Galilee, the Galileans received him, having seen all the things that he did in Jerusalem at the feast, for they also went to the feast. 46 Jesus came therefore again to Cana of Galilee, where he made the water into wine. There was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum. 47 When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to him and begged him that he would come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. 48 Jesus therefore said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders, you will in no way believe." 49 The nobleman said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies." 50 Jesus said to him, "Go your way. Your son lives." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way. 51 As he was going down, his servants met him and reported, saying "Your child lives!" 52 So he inquired of them the hour when he began to get better. They said therefore to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour, the fever left him." 53 So the father knew that it was at that hour in which Jesus said to him, "Your son lives." He believed, as did his whole house. 54 This is again the second sign that Jesus did, having come out of Judea into Galilee.

**5** After these things, there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 2 Now in Jerusalem by the sheep gate, there is a pool, which is called in Hebrew, "Bethesda", having five porches. 3 In these lay a great multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame, or paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water; 4 for an angel went down at certain times into the pool and stirred up the water. Whoever stepped in first after the stirring of the water was healed of whatever disease he had. 5 A certain man was there who had been sick for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he had been sick for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to be made well?" 7 The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming, another steps down before me." 8 Jesus said to him, "Arise, take up your mat, and walk." 9 Immediately, the man was made well, and took up his mat and walked. Now that day was a Sabbath. 10 So the Jews said to him



who was cured, "It is the Sabbath. It is not lawful for you to carry the mat." 11 He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your mat and walk.'" 12 Then they asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your mat and walk?'" 13 But he who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a crowd being in the place. 14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "Behold, you are made well. Sin no more, so that nothing worse happens to you." 15 The man went away, and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. 16 For this cause the Jews persecuted Jesus and sought to kill him, because he did these things on the Sabbath. 17 But Jesus answered them, "My Father is still working, so I am working, too." 18 For this cause therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill him, because he not only broke the Sabbath, but also called God his own Father, making himself equal with God. 19 Jesus therefore answered them, "Most certainly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing of himself, but what he sees the Father doing. For whatever things he does, these the Son also does likewise. 20 For the Father has affection for the Son, and shows him all things that he himself does. He will show him greater works than these, that you may marvel. 21 For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom he desires. 22 For the Father judges no one, but he has given all judgment to the Son, 23 that all may honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. 24 "Most certainly I tell you, he who hears my word and believes him who sent me has consummate (αἰώνιος g166) life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. 25 Most certainly I tell you, the hour comes, and now is, when the dead will hear the Son of God's voice; and those who hear will live. 26 For as the Father has life in himself, even so he gave to the Son also to have life in himself. 27 He also gave him authority to execute judgment, because he is a son of man. 28 Do not marvel at this, for the hour comes in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29 and will come out; those who have done good, to the resurrection of life; and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of judgment. 30 I can of myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and my judgment is righteous, because I do not seek my own will, but the will of my Father who sent me. 31 "If I testify about myself, my witness is not valid. 32 It is another who testifies about me. I know that the testimony which he testifies about me is true. 33 You have sent to John, and he has testified to the truth. 34 But the testimony which I receive is not from man. However, I say these things that you may be saved. 35 He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. 36 But the testimony which I have is greater than that of John; for the works which the Father gave me to accomplish, the very works that I do, testify about me, that the Father has sent me. 37 The Father himself, who sent me, has testified about me. You have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his form. 38 You do not have his word living in you, because you do not believe him whom he sent. 39 "You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have consummate (αἰώνιος g166) life; and these are they which testify about me. 40 Yet you will not come to me, that you may have life. 41 I do not receive glory from men. 42 But I know you, that you do not have God's love in yourselves. 43 I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. 44 How can you believe, who receive glory from one another, and you do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? 45 "Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you, even Moses, on whom you have set your hope. 46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote about me. 47 But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"

**6** After these things, Jesus went away to the other side of the sea of Galilee, which is also called the Sea of Tiberias. 2 A great multitude followed him, because they saw his signs which he did on those who were sick. 3 Jesus went up into the mountain, and he sat there with his disciples. 4 Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. 5 Jesus therefore, lifting up his eyes and seeing that a great multitude was coming to him, said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, that these may eat?" 6 He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. 7 Philip answered him, "Two hundred

denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may receive a little." 8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 9 "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these among so many?" 10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in that place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. 11 Jesus took the loaves, and having given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to those who were sitting down, likewise also of the fish as much as they desired. 12 When they were filled, he said to his disciples, "Gather up the broken pieces which are left over, that nothing be lost." 13 So they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with broken pieces from the five barley loaves, which were left over by those who had eaten. 14 When therefore the people saw the sign which Jesus did, they said, "This is truly the prophet who comes into the world." 15 Jesus therefore, perceiving that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, withdrew again to the mountain by himself. 16 When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea. 17 They entered into the boat, and were going over the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not come to them. 18 The sea was tossed by a great wind blowing. 19 When therefore they had rowed about twenty-five or thirty stadia, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near to the boat; and they were afraid. 20 But he said to them, "It is I. Do not be afraid." 21 They were willing therefore to receive him into the boat. Immediately the boat was at the land where they were going. 22 On the next day, the multitude that stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other boat there, except the one in which his disciples had embarked, and that Jesus had not entered with his disciples into the boat, but his disciples had gone away alone. 23 However, boats from Tiberias came near to the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks. 24 When the multitude therefore saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. 25 When they found him on the other side of the sea, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" 26 Jesus answered them, "Most certainly I tell you, you seek me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. 27 Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which remains to consummate (aiōnios g166) life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For God the Father has sealed him." 28 They said therefore to him, "What must we do, that we may work the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." 30 They said therefore to him, "What then do you do for a sign, that we may see and believe you? What work do you do?" 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness. As it is written, 'He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.'" 32 Jesus therefore said to them, "Most certainly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread out of heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread out of heaven. 33 For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven and gives life to the world." 34 They said therefore to him, "Lord, always give us this bread." 35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will not be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. 36 But I told you that you have seen me, and yet you do not believe. 37 All those whom the Father gives me will come to me. He who comes to me I will in no way throw out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. 39 This is the will of my Father who sent me, that of all he has given to me I should lose nothing, but should raise him up at the last day. 40 This is the will of the one who sent me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him should have consummate (aiōnios g166) life; and I will raise him up at the last day." 41 The Jews therefore murmured concerning him, because he said, "I am the bread which came down out of heaven." 42 They said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How then does he say, 'I have come down out of heaven?'" 43 Therefore Jesus answered them, "Do not murmur among yourselves. 44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up in the last day. 45 It is written in the prophets, 'They will all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who hears from the Father and has learned, comes to me. 46 Not that anyone has seen the Father, except he who is from

God. He has seen the Father. 47 Most certainly, I tell you, he who believes in me has consummate (αἰῶνιος g166) life. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness and they died. 50 This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, that anyone may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread which came down out of heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live in this age (αἰῶν g165). Yes, the bread which I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." 52 The Jews therefore contended with one another, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" 53 Jesus therefore said to them, "Most certainly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life in yourselves. 54 He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has consummate (αἰῶνιος g166) life, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. 56 He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on me will also live because of me. 58 This is the bread which came down out of heaven—not as our fathers ate, and died. He who eats this bread will live in this age (αἰῶν g165)." 59 He said these things in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum. 60 Therefore many of his disciples, when they heard this, said, "This is a hard saying! Who can listen to it?" 61 But Jesus knowing in himself that his disciples murmured at this, said to them, "Does this cause you to stumble? 62 Then what if you would see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? 63 It is the spirit who gives life. The flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and are life. 64 But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him. 65 He said, "For this cause I have said to you that no one can come to me, unless it is given to him by my Father." 66 At this, many of his disciples went back and walked no more with him. 67 Jesus said therefore to the twelve, "You do not also want to go away, do you?" 68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words of consummate (αἰῶνιος g166) life. 69 We have come to believe and know that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 70 Jesus answered

them, "Did not I choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?" 71 Now he spoke of Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, for it was he who would betray him, being one of the twelve.

**7** After these things, Jesus was walking in Galilee, for he would not walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill him. 2 Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was at hand. 3 His brothers therefore said to him, "Depart from here and go into Judea, that your disciples also may see your works which you do. 4 For no one does anything in secret while he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, reveal yourself to the world." 5 For even his brothers did not believe in him. 6 Jesus therefore said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready. 7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates me, because I testify about it, that its works are evil. 8 You go up to the feast. I am not yet going up to this feast, because my time is not yet fulfilled." 9 Having said these things to them, he stayed in Galilee. 10 But when his brothers had gone up to the feast, then he also went up, not publicly, but as it were in secret. 11 The Jews therefore sought him at the feast, and said, "Where is he?" 12 There was much murmuring among the multitudes concerning him. Some said, "He is a good man." Others said, "Not so, but he leads the multitude astray." 13 Yet no one spoke openly of him for fear of the Jews. 14 But when it was now the middle of the feast, Jesus went up into the temple and taught. 15 The Jews therefore marveled, saying, "How does this man know letters, having never been educated?" 16 Jesus therefore answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. 17 If anyone desires to do his will, he will know about the teaching, whether it is from God or if I am speaking from myself. 18 He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory, but he who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and no unrighteousness is in him. 19 Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill me?" 20 The multitude answered, "You have a demon! Who seeks to kill you?" 21 Jesus answered them, "I did one work and you all marvel because of it. 22 Moses has given you circumcision (not that it is of Moses, but of the fathers), and on the Sabbath you circumcise a boy.

23 If a boy receives circumcision on the Sabbath, that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because I made a man completely healthy on the Sabbath? 24 Do not judge according to appearance, but judge righteous judgment." 25 Therefore some of them of Jerusalem said, "Is not this he whom they seek to kill?" 26 Behold, he speaks openly, and they say nothing to him. Can it be that the rulers indeed know that this is truly the Christ? 27 However, we know where this man comes from, but when the Christ comes, no one will know where he comes from." 28 Jesus therefore cried out in the temple, teaching and saying, "You both know me, and know where I am from. I have not come of myself, but he who sent me is true, whom you do not know. 29 I know him, because I am from him, and he sent me." 30 They sought therefore to take him; but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come. 31 But of the multitude, many believed in him. They said, "When the Christ comes, he will not do more signs than those which this man has done, will he?" 32 The Pharisees heard the multitude murmuring these things concerning him, and the chief priests and the Pharisees sent officers to arrest him. 33 Then Jesus said, "I will be with you a little while longer, then I go to him who sent me. 34 You will seek me and will not find me. You cannot come where I am." 35 The Jews therefore said among themselves, "Where will this man go that we will not find him? Will he go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks?" 36 What is this word that he said, 'You will seek me, and will not find me;' and 'Where I am, you cannot come'?" 37 Now on the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink! 38 He who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, from within him will flow rivers of living water." 39 But he said this about the Spirit, which those believing in him were to receive. For the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. 40 Many of the multitude therefore, when they heard these words, said, "This is truly the prophet." 41 Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "What, does the Christ come out of Galilee?" 42 Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes of the offspring of David, and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" 43 So

a division arose in the multitude because of him. 44 Some of them would have arrested him, but no one laid hands on him. 45 The officers therefore came to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said to them, "Why did not you bring him?" 46 The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this man!" 47 The Pharisees therefore answered them, "You are not also led astray, are you? 48 Have any of the rulers or any of the Pharisees believed in him? 49 But this multitude that does not know the law is cursed." 50 Nicodemus (he who came to him by night, being one of them) said to them, 51 "Does our law judge a man unless it first hears from him personally and knows what he does?" 52 They answered him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search and see that no prophet has arisen out of Galilee." 53 Everyone went to his own house,

**8** but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. 2 Now very early in the morning, he came again into the temple, and all the people came to him. He sat down and taught them. 3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman taken in adultery. Having set her in the middle, 4 they told him, "Teacher, we found this woman in adultery, in the very act. 5 Now in our law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. What then do you say about her?" 6 They said this testing him, that they might have something to accuse him of. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with his finger. 7 But when they continued asking him, he looked up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw the first stone at her." 8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground with his finger. 9 They, when they heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning from the oldest, even to the last. Jesus was left alone with the woman where she was, in the middle. 10 Jesus, standing up, saw her and said, "Woman, where are your accusers? Did no one condemn you?" 11 She said, "No one, Lord." Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way. From now on, sin no more." 12 Again, therefore, Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life." 13 The Pharisees therefore said to him, "You testify about yourself. Your testimony is not valid." 14 Jesus answered them, "Even if I testify

about myself, my testimony is true, for 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 Even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent me. 17 It's also written in your law that the testimony of two people is valid. 18 I am one who testifies about myself, and the Father who sent me testifies about me." 19 They said therefore to him, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also." 20 Jesus spoke these words in the treasury, as he taught in the temple. Yet no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come. 21 Jesus said therefore again to them, "I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sins. Where I go, you cannot come." 22 The Jews therefore said, "Will he kill himself, because he says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come'?" 23 He said to them, "You are from beneath. I am from above. You are of this world. I am not of this world. 24 I said therefore to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am he, you will die in your sins." 25 They said therefore to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been saying to you from the beginning. 26 I have many things to speak and to judge concerning you. However, he who sent me is true; and the things which I heard from him, these I say to the world." 27 They did not understand that he spoke to them about the Father. 28 Jesus therefore said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and I do nothing of myself, but as my Father taught me, I say these things. 29 He who sent me is with me. The Father has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him." 30 As he spoke these things, many believed in him. 31 Jesus therefore said to those Jews who had believed him, "If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples. 32 You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." 33 They answered him, "We are Abraham's offspring, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How do you say, 'You will be made free'?" 34 Jesus answered them, "Most certainly I tell you, everyone who commits sin is the bondservant of sin. 35 A bondservant does not live in the house for life (αἰὼν γ165). A son remains for a lifetime (αἰὼν γ165). 36 If therefore the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. 37 I know that you are Abraham's offspring, yet you seek to kill me, because my word finds no place in you. 38 I say the things which I have seen with my Father; and you also do the things which you have seen with your father." 39 They answered him, "Our father is Abraham." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. 40 But now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. 41 You do the works of your father." They said to him, "We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father, God." 42 Therefore Jesus said to them, "If God were your father, you would love me, for I came out and have come from God. For I have not come of myself, but he sent me. 43 Why do not you understand my speech? Because you cannot hear my word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks on his own; for he is a liar, and the father of lies. 45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. 46 Which of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? 47 He who is of God hears the words of God. For this cause you do not hear, because you are not of God." 48 Then the Jews answered him, "Do not we say well that you are a Samaritan, and have a demon?" 49 Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father and you dishonor me. 50 But I do not seek my own glory. There is one who seeks and judges. 51 Most certainly, I tell you, if a person keeps my word, he will never see death in this age (αἰὼν γ165)." 52 Then the Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon. Abraham died, as did the prophets; and you say, 'If a man keeps my word, he will never taste of death in this age (αἰὼν γ165).' 53 Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets died. Who do you make yourself out to be?" 54 Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say that he is our God. 55 You have not known him, but I know him. If I said, 'I do not know him,' I

would be like you, a liar. But I know him and keep his word. **56** Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day. He saw it and was glad." **57** The Jews therefore said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old! Have you seen Abraham?" **58** Jesus said to them, "Most certainly, I tell you, before Abraham came into existence, I AM." **59** Therefore they took up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple, having gone through the middle of them, and so passed by.

**9** As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth.

**2** His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" **3** Jesus answered, "This man did not sin, nor did his parents, but that the works of God might be revealed in him. **4** I must work the works of him who sent me while it is day. The night is coming, when no one can work. **5** While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." **6** When he had said this, he spat on the ground, made mud with the saliva, anointed the blind man's eyes with the mud, **7** and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means "Sent"). So he went away, washed, and came back seeing. **8** Therefore the neighbors and those who saw that he was blind before said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" **9** Others were saying, "It is he." Still others were saying, "He looks like him." He said, "I am he." **10** They therefore were asking him, "How were your eyes opened?" **11** He answered, "A man called Jesus made mud, anointed my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went away and washed, and I received sight." **12** Then they asked him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." **13** They brought him who had been blind to the Pharisees. **14** It was a Sabbath when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. **15** Again therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, I washed, and I see." **16** Some therefore of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" So there was division among them. **17** Therefore they asked the blind man again, "What do you say about him, because he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." **18** The Jews therefore did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they

called the parents of him who had received his sight, **19** and asked them, "Is this your son, whom you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" **20** His parents answered them, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; **21** but how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. He is of age. Ask him. He will speak for himself." **22** His parents said these things because they feared the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if any man would confess him as Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. **23** Therefore his parents said, "He is of age. Ask him." **24** So they called the man who was blind a second time, and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." **25** He therefore answered, "I do not know if he is a sinner. One thing I do know: that though I was blind, now I see." **26** They said to him again, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" **27** He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? You do not also want to become his disciples, do you?" **28** They insulted him and said, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. **29** We know that God has spoken to Moses. But as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." **30** The man answered them, "How amazing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. **31** We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, he listens to him. **32** From the age (αιων g165) it has never been heard of that anyone opened the eyes of someone born blind. **33** If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." **34** They answered him, "You were altogether born in sins, and do you teach us?" Then they threw him out. **35** Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and finding him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" **36** He answered, "Who is he, Lord, that I may believe in him?" **37** Jesus said to him, "You have both seen him, and it is he who speaks with you." **38** He said, "Lord, I believe!" and he worshiped him. **39** Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, that those who do not see may see; and that those who see may become blind." **40** Those of the Pharisees who were with him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" **41** Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would

have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains.

**10** "Most certainly, I tell you, one who does not enter by the door into the sheep fold, but climbs up some other way, is a thief and a robber. **2** But one who enters in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. **3** The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **4** Whenever he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. **5** They will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him; for they do not know the voice of strangers." **6** Jesus spoke this parable to them, but they did not understand what he was telling them. **7** Jesus therefore said to them again, "Most certainly, I tell you, I am the sheep's door. **8** All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. **9** I am the door. If anyone enters in by me, he will be saved, and will go in and go out and will find pasture. **10** The thief only comes to steal, kill, and destroy. I came that they may have life, and may have it abundantly. **11** "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. **12** He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming, leaves the sheep, and flees. The wolf snatches the sheep and scatters them. **13** The hired hand flees because he is a hired hand and does not care for the sheep. **14** I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and I am known by my own; **15** even as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. I lay down my life for the sheep. **16** I have other sheep which are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will hear my voice. They will become one flock with one shepherd. **17** Therefore the Father loves me, because I lay down my life, that I may take it again. **18** No one takes it away from me, but I lay it down by myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. I received this commandment from my Father." **19** Therefore a division arose again among the Jews because of these words. **20** Many of them said, "He has a demon and is insane! Why do you listen to him?" **21** Others said, "These are not the sayings of one possessed by a demon. It is not possible for a demon to open the eyes of the blind, is it?" **22** It was the Feast of

the Dedication at Jerusalem. **23** It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in Solomon's porch. **24** The Jews therefore came around him and said to him, "How long will you hold us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." **25** Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name, these testify about me. **26** But you do not believe, because you are not of my sheep, as I told you. **27** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. **28** I give consummate (αιώνιος g166) life to them. They will never perish in this age (αιών g165), and no one will snatch them out of my hand. **29** My Father who has given them to me is greater than all. No one is able to snatch them out of my Father's hand. **30** I and the Father are one." **31** Therefore the Jews took up stones again to stone him. **32** Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from my Father. For which of those works do you stone me?" **33** The Jews answered him, "We do not stone you for a good work, but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God." **34** Jesus answered them, "Is not it written in your law, 'I said, you are gods'? **35** If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), **36** do you say of him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You blaspheme,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? **37** If I do not do the works of my Father, do not believe me. **38** But if I do them, though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in me, and I in the Father." **39** They sought again to seize him, and he went out of their hand. **40** He went away again beyond the Jordan into the place where John was baptizing at first, and he stayed there. **41** Many came to him. They said, "John indeed did no sign, but everything that John said about this man is true." **42** Many believed in him there.

**11** Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus from Bethany, of the village of Mary and her sister, Martha. **2** It was that Mary who had anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. **3** The sisters therefore sent to him, saying, "Lord, behold, he for whom you have great affection is sick." **4** But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This sickness is not to death, but for the glory

of God, that God's Son may be glorified by it." 5 Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus. 6 When therefore he heard that he was sick, he stayed two days in the place where he was. 7 Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let's go into Judea again." 8 The disciples asked him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just trying to stone you. Are you going there again?" 9 Jesus answered, "Are not there twelve hours of daylight? If a man walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. 10 But if a man walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." 11 He said these things, and after that, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going so that I may awake him out of sleep." 12 The disciples therefore said, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." 13 Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he spoke of taking rest in sleep. 14 So Jesus said to them plainly then, "Lazarus is dead. 15 I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe. Nevertheless, let's go to him." 16 Thomas therefore, who is called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, "Let's also go, that we may die with him." 17 So when Jesus came, he found that he had been in the tomb four days already. 18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about fifteen stadia away. 19 Many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to console them concerning their brother. 20 Then when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary stayed in the house. 21 Therefore Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you would have been here, my brother would not have died. 22 Even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will still live, even if he dies. 26 Whoever lives and believes in me will never die in this age (αἰῶν γ165). Do you believe this?" 27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, God's Son, he who comes into the world." 28 When she had said this, she went away and called Mary, her sister, secretly, saying, "The Teacher is here and is calling you." 29 When she heard this, she arose quickly and went to him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was in the place where Martha met him. 31 Then the Jews who were with her in the house and were consoling her, when they saw Mary, that she rose up quickly and went out, followed her, saying, "She is going to the tomb to weep there." 32 Therefore when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you would have been here, my brother would not have died." 33 When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews weeping who came with her, he groaned in the spirit and was troubled, 34 and said, "Where have you laid him?" They told him, "Lord, come and see." 35 Jesus wept. 36 The Jews therefore said, "See how much affection he had for him!" 37 Some of them said, "Could not this man, who opened the eyes of him who was blind, have also kept this man from dying?" 38 Jesus therefore, again groaning in himself, came to the tomb. Now it was a cave, and a stone lay against it. 39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days." 40 Jesus said to her, "Did not I tell you that if you believed, you would see God's glory?" 41 So they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you listened to me. 42 I know that you always listen to me, but because of the multitude standing around I said this, that they may believe that you sent me." 43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 He who was dead came out, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Free him, and let him go." 45 Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary and saw what Jesus did believed in him. 46 But some of them went away to the Pharisees and told them the things which Jesus had done. 47 The chief priests therefore and the Pharisees gathered a council, and said, "What are we doing? For this man does many signs. 48 If we leave him alone like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." 49 But a certain one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, 50 nor do you consider that it is advantageous for us that one man



should die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish.” 51 Now he did not say this of himself, but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, 52 and not for the nation only, but that he might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. 53 So from that day forward they took counsel that they might put him to death. 54 Jesus therefore walked no more openly among the Jews, but departed from there into the country near the wilderness, to a city called Ephraim. He stayed there with his disciples. 55 Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand. Many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover, to purify themselves. 56 Then they sought for Jesus and spoke with one another as they stood in the temple, “What do you think—that he is not coming to the feast at all?” 57 Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had commanded that if anyone knew where he was, he should report it, that they might seize him.

**12** Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, who had been dead, whom he raised from the dead. 2 So they made him a supper there. Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with him. 3 Therefore Mary took a pound of ointment of pure nard, very precious, and anointed Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. 4 Then Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, one of his disciples, who would betray him, said, 5 “Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” 6 Now he said this, not because he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and having the money box, used to steal what was put into it. 7 But Jesus said, “Leave her alone. She has kept this for the day of my burial. 8 For you always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.” 9 A large crowd therefore of the Jews learned that he was there; and they came, not for Jesus’ sake only, but that they might see Lazarus also, whom he had raised from the dead. 10 But the chief priests conspired to put Lazarus to death also, 11 because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus. 12 On the next day a great multitude had come to the feast. When they heard that Jesus was

coming to Jerusalem, 13 they took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet him, and cried out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel!” 14 Jesus, having found a young donkey, sat on it. As it is written, 15 “Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Behold, your King comes, sitting on a donkey’s colt.” 16 His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about him, and that they had done these things to him. 17 The multitude therefore that was with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead was testifying about it. 18 For this cause also the multitude went and met him, because they heard that he had done this sign. 19 The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, “See how you accomplish nothing. Behold, the world has gone after him.” 20 Now there were certain Greeks among those who went up to worship at the feast. 21 Therefore, these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, “Sir, we want to see Jesus.” 22 Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn, Andrew came with Philip, and they told Jesus. 23 Jesus answered them, “The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Most certainly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains by itself alone. But if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25 He who loves his life will lose it. He who hates his life in this world will keep it for consummate (aiōnios g166) life. 26 If anyone serves me, let him follow me. Where I am, there my servant will also be. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. 27 “Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this time’? But I came to this time for this cause. 28 Father, glorify your name!” Then a voice came out of the sky, saying, “I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.” 29 Therefore the multitude who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” 30 Jesus answered, “This voice has not come for my sake, but for your sakes. 31 Now is the judgment of this world. Now the prince of this world will be cast out. 32 And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” 33 But he said this, signifying by what kind of death he should die. 34 The multitude answered him, “We

have heard from of the law that the Christ remains for this age (αἰὼν g165). How do you say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up?' Who is this Son of Man?" 35 Jesus therefore said to them, "Yet a little while the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, that darkness does not overtake you. He who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. 36 While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become children of light." Jesus said these things, and he departed and hid himself from them. 37 But though he had done so many signs before them, yet they did not believe in him, 38 that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: "Lord, who has believed our report? To whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" 39 For this cause they could not believe, for Isaiah said again: 40 "He has blinded their eyes and he hardened their heart, lest they should see with their eyes, and perceive with their heart, and would turn, and I would heal them." 41 Isaiah said these things when he saw his glory, and spoke of him. 42 Nevertheless, even many of the rulers believed in him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue, 43 for they loved men's praise more than God's praise. 44 Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in me, believes not in me, but in him who sent me. 45 He who sees me sees him who sent me. 46 I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in me may not remain in the darkness. 47 If anyone listens to my sayings and does not believe, I do not judge him. For I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. 48 He who rejects me, and does not receive my sayings, has one who judges him. The word that I spoke will judge him in the last day. 49 For I spoke not from myself, but the Father who sent me gave me a commandment, what I should say and what I should speak. 50 I know that his commandment is consummate (αἰῶνιος g166) life. The things therefore which I speak, even as the Father has said to me, so I speak."

**13** Now before the feast of the Passover, Jesus, knowing that his time had come that he would depart from this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. 2 During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, 3

Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he came from God and was going to God, 4 arose from supper, and laid aside his outer garments. He took a towel and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 Then he poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. 6 Then he came to Simon Peter. He said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" 7 Jesus answered him, "You do not know what I am doing now, but you will understand later." 8 Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet in this lifetime (αἰὼν g165)!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with me." 9 Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!" 10 Jesus said to him, "Someone who has bathed only needs to have his feet washed, but is completely clean. You are clean, but not all of you." 11 For he knew him who would betray him; therefore he said, "You are not all clean." 12 So when he had washed their feet, put his outer garment back on, and sat down again, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? 13 You call me, 'Teacher' and 'Lord.' You say so correctly, for so I am. 14 If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you should also do as I have done to you. 16 Most certainly I tell you, a servant is not greater than his lord, neither is one who is sent greater than he who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. 18 I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who eats bread with me has lifted up his heel against me.' 19 From now on, I tell you before it happens, that when it happens, you may believe that I am he. 20 Most certainly I tell you, he who receives whomever I send, receives me; and he who receives me, receives him who sent me." 21 When Jesus had said this, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, "Most certainly I tell you that one of you will betray me." 22 The disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom he spoke. 23 One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was at the table, leaning against Jesus' chest. 24 Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, and said to him, "Tell us who it is of whom he speaks." 25 He,

leaning back, as he was, on Jesus' chest, asked him, "Lord, who is it?" 26 Jesus therefore answered, "It is he to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. 27 After the piece of bread, then Satan entered into him. Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly." 28 Now nobody at the table knew why he said this to him. 29 For some thought, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus said to him, "Buy what things we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor. 30 Therefore having received that morsel, he went out immediately. It was night. 31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. 32 If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and he will glorify him immediately. 33 Little children, I will be with you a little while longer. You will seek me, and as I said to the Jews, 'Where I am going, you cannot come,' so now I tell you. 34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." 36 Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow afterwards." 37 Peter said to him, "Lord, why cannot I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." 38 Jesus answered him, "Will you lay down your life for me? Most certainly I tell you, the rooster will not crow until you have denied me three times.

**14** "Do not let your heart be troubled. Believe in God. Believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many homes. If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. 3 If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will receive you to myself; that where I am, you may be there also. 4 You know where I go, and you know the way." 5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me. 7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on, you know him and

have seen him." 8 Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you such a long time, and do you not know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father. How do you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Do not you believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I tell you, I speak not from myself; but the Father who lives in me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me; or else believe me for the very works' sake. 12 Most certainly I tell you, he who believes in me, the works that I do, he will do also; and he will do greater works than these, because I am going to my Father. 13 Whatever you will ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you will ask anything in my name, I will do it. 15 If you love me, keep my commandments. 16 I will pray to the Father, and he will give you another Comforter, that he may be with you in this age (αἰῶν γ165): 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, for it does not see him and does not know him. You know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you orphans. I will come to you. 19 Yet a little while, and the world will see me no more; but you will see me. Because I live, you will live also. 20 In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 One who has my commandments and keeps them, that person is one who loves me. One who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him, and will reveal myself to him." 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, what has happened that you are about to reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?" 23 Jesus answered him, "If a man 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 He who does not love me does not keep my words. The word which you hear is not mine, but the Father's who sent me. 25 "I have said these things to you while still living with you. 26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things, and will remind you of all that I said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, neither let it be fearful. 28 You heard how I told you, 'I am going away, and I will

come back to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced because I said 'I am going to my Father;' for the Father is greater than I. **29** Now I have told you before it happens so that when it happens, you may believe. **30** I will no more speak much with you, for the prince of the world comes, and he has nothing in me. **31** But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father commanded me, even so I do. Arise, let's go from here.

**15** "I am the true vine, and my Father is the farmer.

**2** Every branch in me that does not bear fruit, he takes away. Every branch that bears fruit, he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. **3** You are already pruned clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. **4** Remain in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it remains in the vine, so neither can you, unless you remain in me. **5** I am the vine. You are the branches. He who remains in me and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. **6** If a man does not remain in me, he is thrown out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned. **7** If you remain in me, and my words remain in you, you will ask whatever you desire, and it will be done for you. **8** "In this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; and so you will be my disciples. **9** Even as the Father has loved me, I also have loved you. Remain in my love. **10** If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, even as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. **11** I have spoken these things to you, that my joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be made full. **12** "This is my commandment, that you love one another, even as I have loved you. **13** Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. **14** You are my friends if you do whatever I command you. **15** No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his lord does. But I have called you friends, for everything that I heard from my Father, I have made known to you. **16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatever you will ask of the Father in my name, he may give it to you. **17** "I command these things to you, that you may love one another. **18** If the world hates you, you

know that it has hated me before it hated you. **19** If you were of the world, the world would love its own. But because you are not of the world, since I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. **20** Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his lord.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. **21** But they will do all these things to you for my name's sake, because they do not know him who sent me. **22** If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have had sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. **23** He who hates me, hates my Father also. **24** If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have had sin. But now they have seen and also hated both me and my Father. **25** But this happened so that the word may be fulfilled which was written in their law, 'They hated me without a cause.' **26** "When the Counselor has come, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will testify about me. **27** You will also testify, because you have been with me from the beginning.

**16** "I have said these things to you so that you would not be caused to stumble. **2** They will put you out of the synagogues. Yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers service to God. **3** They will do these things because they have not known the Father nor me. **4** But I have told you these things so that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you about them. I did not tell you these things from the beginning, because I was with you. **5** But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' **6** But because I have told you these things, sorrow has filled your heart. **7** Nevertheless I tell you the truth: It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. **8** When he has come, he will convict the world about sin, about righteousness, and about judgment; **9** about sin, because they do not believe in me; **10** about righteousness, because I am going to my Father, and you will not see me any more; **11** about judgment, because the prince of this world has been judged. **12** "I still have many things to tell you, but you cannot bear them now. **13** However, when he, the Spirit of truth, has come, he will guide

you into all truth, for he will not speak from himself; but whatever he hears, he will speak. He will declare to you things that are coming. **14** He will glorify me, for he will take from what is mine and will declare it to you. **15** All things that the Father has are mine; therefore I said that he takes of mine and will declare it to you. **16** "A little while, and you will not see me. Again a little while, and you will see me." **17** Some of his disciples therefore said to one another, "What is this that he says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me;' and, 'Because I go to the Father'?" **18** They said therefore, "What is this that he says, 'A little while'? We do not know what he is saying." **19** Therefore Jesus perceived that they wanted to ask him, and he said to them, "Do you inquire among yourselves concerning this, that I said, 'A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'?" **20** Most certainly I tell you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy. **21** A woman, when she gives birth, has sorrow because her time has come. But when she has delivered the child, she does not remember the anguish any more, for the joy that a human being is born into the world. **22** Therefore you now have sorrow, but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you. **23** "In that day you will ask me no questions. Most certainly I tell you, whatever you may ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. **24** Until now, you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be made full. **25** "I have spoken these things to you in figures of speech. But the time is coming when I will no more speak to you in figures of speech, but will tell you plainly about the Father. **26** In that day you will ask in my name; and I do not say to you that I will pray to the Father for you, **27** for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me, and have believed that I came from God. **28** I came from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father." **29** His disciples said to him, "Behold, now you are speaking plainly, and using no figures of speech. **30** Now we know that you know all things, and do not need for anyone to question you. By this we believe that you came

from God." **31** Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? **32** Behold, the time is coming, yes, and has now come, that you will be scattered, everyone to his own place, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. **33** I have told you these things, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have trouble; but cheer up! I have overcome the world."

**17** Jesus said these things, then lifting up his eyes to heaven, he said, "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may also glorify you; **2** even as you gave him authority over all flesh, so he will give consummate (αιώνιος g166) life to all whom you have given him. **3** This is consummate (αιώνιος g166) life, that they should know you, the only true God, and him whom you sent, Jesus Christ. **4** I glorified you on the earth. I have accomplished the work which you have given me to do. **5** Now, Father, glorify me with your own self with the glory which I had with you before the world existed. **6** "I revealed your name to the people whom you have given me out of the world. They were yours, and you have given them to me. They have kept your word. **7** Now they have known that all things whatever you have given me are from you, **8** for the words which you have given me I have given to them; and they received them, and knew for sure that I came from you. They have believed that you sent me. **9** I pray for them. I do not pray for the world, but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. **10** All things that are mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. **11** I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them through your name which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are. **12** While I was with them in the world, I kept them in your name. I have kept those whom you have given me. None of them is lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. **13** But now I come to you, and I say these things in the world, that they may have my joy made full in themselves. **14** I have given them your word. The world hated them because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. **15** I pray not that you would take them from the world, but that you would keep them from the evil one. **16** They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. **17**

Sanctify them in your truth. Your word is truth. **18** As you sent me into the world, even so I have sent them into the world. **19** For their sakes I sanctify myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth. **20** "Not for these only do I pray, but for those also who will believe in me through their word, **21** that they may all be one; even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that you sent me. **22** The glory which you have given me, I have given to them, that they may be one, even as we are one, **23** I in them, and you in me, that they may be perfected into one, that the world may know that you sent me and loved them, even as you loved me. **24** Father, I desire that they also whom you have given me be with me where I am, that they may see my glory which you have given me, for you loved me before the foundation of the world. **25** Righteous Father, the world has not known you, but I knew you; and these knew that you sent me. **26** I made known to them your name, and will make it known; that the love with which you loved me may be in them, and I in them."

**18** When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples over the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, into which he and his disciples entered. **2** Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. **3** Judas then, having taken a detachment of soldiers and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. **4** Jesus therefore, knowing all the things that were happening to him, went out and said to them, "Who are you looking for?" **5** They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas also, who betrayed him, was standing with them. **6** When therefore he said to them, "I am he," they went backward and fell to the ground. **7** Again therefore he asked them, "Who are you looking for?" They said, "Jesus of Nazareth." **8** Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. If therefore you seek me, let these go their way," **9** that the word might be fulfilled which he spoke, "Of those whom you have given me, I have lost none." **10** Simon Peter therefore, having a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. **11** Jesus therefore said to Peter, "Put the sword into

its sheath. The cup which the Father has given me, shall I not surely drink it?" **12** So the detachment, the commanding officer, and the officers of the Jews seized Jesus and bound him, **13** and led him to Annas first, for he was father-in-law to Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. **14** Now it was Caiaphas who advised the Jews that it was expedient that one man should perish for the people. **15** Simon Peter followed Jesus, as did another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and entered in with Jesus into the court of the high priest; **16** but Peter was standing at the door outside. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to her who kept the door, and brought in Peter. **17** Then the maid who kept the door said to Peter, "Are you also one of this man's disciples?" He said, "I am not." **18** Now the servants and the officers were standing there, having made a fire of coals, for it was cold. They were warming themselves. Peter was with them, standing and warming himself. **19** The high priest therefore asked Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. **20** Jesus answered him, "I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet. I said nothing in secret. **21** Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them. Behold, they know the things which I said." **22** When he had said this, one of the officers standing by slapped Jesus with his hand, saying, "Do you answer the high priest like that?" **23** Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken evil, testify of the evil; but if well, why do you beat me?" **24** Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas, the high priest. **25** Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They said therefore to him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." **26** One of the servants of the high priest, being a relative of him whose ear Peter had cut off, said, "Did not I see you in the garden with him?" **27** Peter therefore denied it again, and immediately the rooster crowed. **28** They led Jesus therefore from Caiaphas into the Praetorium. It was early, and they themselves did not enter into the Praetorium, that they might not be defiled, but might eat the Passover. **29** Pilate therefore went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" **30** They answered him, "If this man were not

an evildoer, we would not have delivered him up to you.” 31 Pilate therefore said to them, “Take him yourselves, and judge him according to your law.” Therefore the Jews said to him, “It is illegal for us to put anyone to death,” 32 that the word of Jesus might be fulfilled, which he spoke, signifying by what kind of death he should die. 33 Pilate therefore entered again into the Praetorium, called Jesus, and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” 34 Jesus answered him, “Do you say this by yourself, or did others tell you about me?” 35 Pilate answered, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests delivered you to me. What have you done?” 36 Jesus answered, “My Kingdom is not of this world. If my Kingdom were of this world, then my servants would fight, that I would not be delivered to the Jews. But now my Kingdom is not from here.” 37 Pilate therefore said to him, “Are you a king then?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this reason I have been born, and for this reason I have come into the world, that I should testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” 38 Pilate said to him, “What is truth?” When he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, “I find no basis for a charge against him. 39 But you have a custom that I should release someone to you at the Passover. Therefore, do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” 40 Then they all shouted again, saying, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber.

**19** So Pilate then took Jesus and flogged him. 2 The soldiers twisted thorns into a crown and put it on his head, and dressed him in a purple garment. 3 They kept saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and they kept slapping him. 4 Then Pilate went out again, and said to them, “Behold, I bring him out to you, that you may know that I find no basis for a charge against him.” 5 Jesus therefore came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple garment. Pilate said to them, “Behold, the man!” 6 When therefore the chief priests and the officers saw him, they shouted, saying, “Crucify! Crucify!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no basis for a charge against him.” 7 The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.” 8

When therefore Pilate heard this saying, he was more afraid. 9 He entered into the Praetorium again, and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. 10 Pilate therefore said to him, “Are not you speaking to me? Do not you know that I have power to release you and have power to crucify you?” 11 Jesus answered, “You would have no power at all against me, unless it were given to you from above. Therefore he who delivered me to you has greater sin.” 12 At this, Pilate was seeking to release him, but the Jews cried out, saying, “If you release this man, you are not Caesar’s friend! Everyone who makes himself a king speaks against Caesar!” 13 When Pilate therefore heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called “The Pavement”, but in Hebrew, “Gabbatha.” 14 Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, at about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold, your King!” 15 They cried out, “Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar!” 16 So then he delivered him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led him away. 17 He went out, bearing his cross, to the place called “The Place of a Skull”, which is called in Hebrew, “Golgotha”, 18 where they crucified him, and with him two others, on either side one, and Jesus in the middle. 19 Pilate wrote a title also, and put it on the cross. There was written, “JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.” 20 Therefore many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. 21 The chief priests of the Jews therefore said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but, ‘he said, ‘I am King of the Jews.’” 22 Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.” 23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top throughout. 24 Then they said to one another, “Let’s not tear it, but cast lots for it to decide whose it will be,” that the Scripture might be fulfilled, which says, “They parted my garments among them. They cast lots for my clothing.” Therefore the soldiers did these things. 25 But standing by Jesus’ cross

were his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 Therefore when Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing there, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" 27 Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" From that hour, the disciple took her to his own home. 28 After this, Jesus, seeing that all things were now finished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I am thirsty!" 29 Now a vessel full of vinegar was set there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop, and held it at his mouth. 30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. 31 Therefore the Jews, because it was the Preparation Day, so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a special one), asked of Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. 32 Therefore the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with him; 33 but when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. 34 However, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. 35 He who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, that you may believe. 36 For these things happened that the Scripture might be fulfilled, "A bone of him will not be broken." 37 Again another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they pierced." 38 After these things, Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked of Pilate that he might take away Jesus' body. Pilate gave him permission. He came therefore and took away his body. 39 Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred Roman pounds. 40 So they took Jesus' body, and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury. 41 Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden. In the garden was a new tomb in which no man had ever yet been laid. 42 Then, because of the Jews' Preparation Day (for the tomb was near at hand), they laid Jesus there.

**20** Now on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene went early, while it was still dark, to

the tomb, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. 2 Therefore she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him!" 3 Therefore Peter and the other disciple went out, and they went toward the tomb. 4 They both ran together. The other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. 5 Stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not enter in. 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and entered into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying, 7 and the cloth that had been on his head, not lying with the linen cloths, but rolled up in a place by itself. 8 So then the other disciple who came first to the tomb also entered in, and he saw and believed. 9 For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10 So the disciples went away again to their own homes. 11 But Mary was standing outside at the tomb weeping. So as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb, 12 and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. 13 They asked her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." 14 When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, and did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?" She, supposing him to be the gardener, said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him, "Rabboni!" which is to say, "Teacher!" 17 Jesus said to her, "Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father; but go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" 18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had said these things to her. 19 When therefore it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were locked where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the middle and said to them, "Peace be to you." 20 When he had said this, he showed them his



hands and his side. The disciples therefore were glad when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus therefore said to them again, "Peace be to you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit! 23 If you forgive anyone's sins, they have been forgiven them. If you retain anyone's sins, they have been retained." 24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." 26 After eight days, again his disciples were inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, the doors being locked, and stood in the middle, and said, "Peace be to you." 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Reach here your finger, and see my hands. Reach here your hand, and put it into my side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." 30 Therefore Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

**21** After these things, Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias. He revealed himself this way. 2 Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. 3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They told him, "We are also coming with you." They immediately went out and entered into the boat. That night, they caught nothing. 4 But when day had already come, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5 Jesus therefore said to them, "Children, have you anything to eat?" They answered him, "No." 6 He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." They cast it therefore, and now they were not able to draw it in for the multitude of fish. 7 That disciple therefore whom Jesus loved said to

Peter, "It's the Lord!" So when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he wrapped his coat around himself (for he was naked), and threw himself into the sea. 8 But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from the land, but about two hundred cubits away), dragging the net full of fish. 9 So when they got out on the land, they saw a fire of coals there, with fish and bread laid on it. 10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught." 11 Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land, full of one hundred fifty-three great fish. Even though there were so many, the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, "Come and eat breakfast!" None of the disciples dared inquire of him, "Who are you?" knowing that it was the Lord. 13 Then Jesus came and took the bread, gave it to them, and the fish likewise. 14 This is now the third time that Jesus was revealed to his disciples after he had risen from the dead. 15 So when they had eaten their breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I have affection for you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." 16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I have affection for you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." 17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you have affection for me?" Peter was grieved because he asked him the third time, "Do you have affection for me?" He said to him, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I have affection for you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. 18 Most certainly I tell you, when you were young, you dressed yourself and walked where you wanted to. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." 19 Now he said this, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. When he had said this, he said to him, "Follow me." 20 Then Peter, turning around, saw a disciple following. This was the disciple whom Jesus loved, the one who had also leaned on Jesus' chest at the supper and asked, "Lord, who is going to betray you?" 21 Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?" 22 Jesus said to him, "If I desire that he stay until I come, what is that to you? You follow me." 23 This saying therefore went

out among the brothers that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If I desire that he stay until I come, what is that to you?" <sup>24</sup> This is the disciple who testifies about these things, and wrote these things. We know that his witness is true. <sup>25</sup> There are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they would all be written, I suppose that even the world itself would not have room for the books that would be written.

# Acts

**1** The first book I wrote, Theophilus, concerned all that Jesus began both to do and to teach, **2** until the day in which he was received up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. **3** To these he also showed himself alive after he suffered, by many proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking about God's Kingdom. **4** Being assembled together with them, he commanded them, "Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which you heard from me. **5** For John indeed baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit not many days from now." **6** Therefore, when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, are you now restoring the kingdom to Israel?" **7** He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has set within his own authority. **8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. You will be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth." **9** When he had said these things, as they were looking, he was taken up, and a cloud received him out of their sight. **10** While they were looking steadfastly into the sky as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white clothing, **11** who also said, "You men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who was received up from you into the sky, will come back in the same way as you saw him going into the sky." **12** Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mountain called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. **13** When they had come in, they went up into the upper room where they were staying, that is Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. **14** All these with one accord continued steadfastly in prayer and supplication, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. **15** In these days, Peter stood up in the middle of the disciples (and the number of names was about one hundred twenty), and said, **16** "Brothers, it was necessary that this Scripture should be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David

concerning Judas, who was guide to those who took Jesus. **17** For he was counted with us, and received his portion in this ministry. **18** Now this man obtained a field with the reward for his wickedness; and falling headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines gushed out. **19** It became known to everyone who lived in Jerusalem that in their language that field was called 'Akeldama,' that is, 'The field of blood.' **20** For it is written in the book of Psalms, 'Let his habitation be made desolate. Let no one dwell in it,' and, 'Let another take his office.' **21** "Of the men therefore who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, **22** beginning from the baptism of John to the day that he was received up from us, of these one must become a witness with us of his resurrection." **23** They put forward two: Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. **24** They prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show which one of these two you have chosen **25** to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas fell away, that he might go to his own place." **26** They drew lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was counted with the eleven apostles.

**2** Now when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all with one accord in one place. **2** Suddenly there came from the sky a sound like the rushing of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. **3** Tongues like fire appeared and were distributed to them, and one sat on each of them. **4** They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other languages, as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak. **5** Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under the sky. **6** When this sound was heard, the multitude came together and were bewildered, because everyone heard them speaking in his own language. **7** They were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Behold, are not all these who speak Galileans? **8** How do we hear, everyone in our own native language? **9** Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, **10** Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, the parts of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, **11** Cretans and Arabians—we hear them speaking in our languages the mighty

works of God!" 12 They were all amazed and were perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" 13 Others, mocking, said, "They are filled with new wine." 14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice and spoke out to them, "You men of Judea and all you who dwell at Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to my words. 15 For these are not drunken, as you suppose, seeing it is only the third hour of the day. 16 But this is what has been spoken through the prophet Joel: 17 'It will be in the last days, says God, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions. Your old men will dream dreams. 18 Yes, and on my servants and on my handmaidens in those days, I will pour out my Spirit, and they will prophesy. 19 I will show wonders in the sky above, and signs on the earth beneath: blood, and fire, and billows of smoke. 20 The sun will be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes. 21 It will be that whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.' 22 "Men of Israel, hear these words! Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved by God to you by mighty works and wonders and signs which God did by him among you, even as you yourselves know, 23 him, being delivered up by the determined counsel and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by the hand of lawless men, crucified and killed; 24 whom God raised up, having freed him from the agony of death, because it was not possible that he should be held by it. 25 For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved. 26 Therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced. Moreover my flesh also will dwell in hope, 27 because you will not leave my soul in Hades (Hades 986), neither will you allow your Holy One to see decay. 28 You made known to me the ways of life. You will make me full of gladness with your presence.' 29 "Brothers, I may tell you freely of the patriarch David, that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, he would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, 31 he foreseeing this, spoke about the resurrection of

the Christ, that his soul was not left in Hades (Hades 986), and his flesh did not see decay. 32 This Jesus God raised up, to which we all are witnesses. 33 Being therefore exalted by the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this which you now see and hear. 34 For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit by my right hand 35 until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.'" 36 "Let all the house of Israel therefore know certainly that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." 37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are far off, even as many as the Lord our God will call to himself." 40 With many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation!" 41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized. There were added that day about three thousand souls. 42 They continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and prayer. 43 Fear came on every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 All who believed were together, and had all things in common. 45 They sold their possessions and goods, and distributed them to all, according as anyone had need. 46 Day by day, continuing steadfastly with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread at home, they took their food with gladness and singleness of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. The Lord added to the assembly day by day those who were being saved.

**3** Peter and John were going up into the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. 2 A certain man who was lame from his mother's womb was being carried, whom they laid daily at the door of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask gifts for the needy of those who entered into the temple. 3 Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive gifts for the needy. 4 Peter, fastening his eyes

on him, with John, said, "Look at us." 5 He listened to them, expecting to receive something from them. 6 But Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have, that I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!" 7 He took him by the right hand and raised him up. Immediately his feet and his ankle bones received strength. 8 Leaping up, he stood and began to walk. He entered with them into the temple, walking, leaping, and praising God. 9 All the people saw him walking and praising God. 10 They recognized him, that it was he who used to sit begging for gifts for the needy at the Beautiful Gate of the temple. They were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. 11 As the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering. 12 When Peter saw it, he responded to the people, "You men of Israel, why do you marvel at this man? Why do you fasten your eyes on us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made him walk? 13 The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had determined to release him. 14 But you denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, 15 and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, to which we are witnesses. 16 By faith in his name, his name has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which is through him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. 17 "Now, brothers, I know that you did this in ignorance, as did also your rulers. 18 But the things which God announced by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he thus fulfilled. 19 "Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, so that there may come times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord, 20 and that he may send Christ Jesus, who was ordained for you before, 21 whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God spoke from the age (αἰῶν 9165) by the mouth of his holy prophets. 22 For Moses indeed said to the fathers, 'The Lord God will raise up a prophet for you from among your brothers, like me. You shall listen to him in all things

whatever he says to you. 23 It will be that every soul that will not listen to that prophet will be utterly destroyed from among the people.' 24 Yes, and all the prophets from Samuel and those who followed after, as many as have spoken, also told of these days. 25 You are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, 'All the families of the earth will be blessed through your offspring.' 26 God, having raised up his servant Jesus, sent him to you first to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your wickedness."

**4** As they spoke to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came to them, 2 being upset because they taught the people and proclaimed in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. 3 They laid hands on them, and put them in custody until the next day, for it was now evening. 4 But many of those who heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to be about five thousand. 5 In the morning, their rulers, elders, and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem. 6 Annas the high priest was there, with Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and as many as were relatives of the high priest. 7 When they had stood Peter and John in the middle of them, they inquired, "By what power, or in what name, have you done this?" 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "You rulers of the people and elders of Israel, 9 if we are examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, 10 may it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, this man stands here before you whole in him. 11 He is 'the stone which was regarded as worthless by you, the builders, which has become the head of the corner.' 12 There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven that is given among men, by which we must be saved!" 13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and had perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled. They recognized that they had been with Jesus. 14 Seeing the man who was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. 15 But when they had commanded

them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, **16** saying, "What shall we do to these men? Because indeed a notable miracle has been done through them, as can be plainly seen by all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. **17** But so that this spreads no further among the people, let's threaten them, that from now on they do not speak to anyone in this name." **18** They called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. **19** But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, judge for yourselves, **20** for we cannot help telling the things which we saw and heard." **21** When they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people; for everyone glorified God for that which was done. **22** For the man on whom this miracle of healing was performed was more than forty years old. **23** Being let go, they came to their own company and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. **24** When they heard it, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord and said, "O Lord, you are God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all that is in them; **25** who by the mouth of your servant David, said, 'Why do the nations rage, and the peoples plot a vain thing? **26** The kings of the earth take a stand, and the rulers plot together, against the Lord, and against his Christ.' **27** "For truly, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, **28** to do whatever your hand and your counsel foreordained to happen. **29** Now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness, **30** while you stretch out your hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of your holy Servant Jesus." **31** When they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were gathered together. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness. **32** The multitude of those who believed were of one heart and soul. Not one of them claimed that anything of the things which he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. **33** With great power, the apostles gave their testimony of the resurrection of

the Lord Jesus. Great grace was on them all. **34** For neither was there among them any who lacked, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, **35** and laid them at the apostles' feet; and distribution was made to each, according as anyone had need. **36** Joses, who by the apostles was also called Barnabas (which is, being interpreted, Son of Encouragement), a Levite, a man of Cyprus by race, **37** having a field, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

**5** But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, **2** and kept back part of the price, his wife also being aware of it, then brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. **3** But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the price of the land? **4** While you kept it, did not it remain your own? After it was sold, was not it in your power? How is it that you have conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God." **5** Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and died. Great fear came on all who heard these things. **6** The young men arose and wrapped him up, and they carried him out and buried him. **7** About three hours later, his wife, not knowing what had happened, came in. **8** Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." She said, "Yes, for so much." **9** But Peter asked her, "How is it that you have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." **10** She fell down immediately at his feet and died. The young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her by her husband. **11** Great fear came on the whole assembly, and on all who heard these things. **12** By the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. They were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. **13** None of the rest dared to join them; however, the people honored them. **14** More believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women. **15** They even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mattresses, so that as Peter came by, at least his shadow might overshadow some of them. **16** The multitude also came together from

the cities around Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits; and they were all healed. 17 But the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with jealousy 18 and laid hands on the apostles, then put them in public custody. 19 But an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors by night, and brought them out and said, 20 "Go stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life." 21 When they heard this, they entered into the temple about daybreak and taught. But the high priest and those who were with him came and called the council together, with all the senate of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. 22 But the officers who came did not find them in the prison. They returned and reported, 23 "We found the prison shut and locked, and the guards standing before the doors, but when we opened them, we found no one inside!" 24 Now when the high priest, the captain of the temple, and the chief priests heard these words, they were very perplexed about them and what might become of this. 25 One came and told them, "Behold, the men whom you put in prison are in the temple, standing and teaching the people." 26 Then the captain went with the officers, and brought them without violence, for they were afraid that the people might stone them. 27 When they had brought them, they set them before the council. The high priest questioned them, 28 saying, "Did not we strictly command you not to teach in this name? Behold, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and intend to bring this man's blood on us." 29 But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. 30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you killed, hanging him on a tree. 31 God exalted him with his right hand to be a Prince and a Savior, to give repentance to Israel, and remission of sins. 32 We are his witnesses of these things; and so also is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." 33 But they, when they heard this, were cut to the heart, and were determined to kill them. 34 But one stood up in the council, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, honored by all the people, and commanded to put the apostles out for a little while. 35 He said to them, "You men of Israel, be careful concerning

these men, what you are about to do. 36 For before these days Theudas rose up, making himself out to be somebody; to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves. He was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were dispersed and came to nothing. 37 After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the enrollment, and drew away some people after him. He also perished, and all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered abroad. 38 Now I tell you, withdraw from these men and leave them alone. For if this counsel or this work is of men, it will be overthrown. 39 But if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow it, and you would be found even to be fighting against God!" 40 They agreed with him. Summoning the apostles, they beat them and commanded them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 They therefore departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for Jesus' name. 42 Every day, in the temple and at home, they never stopped teaching and preaching Jesus, the Christ.

**6** Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, a complaint arose from the Hellenists against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily service. 2 The twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not appropriate for us to forsake the word of God and serve tables. 3 Therefore, select from among you, brothers, seven men of good report, full of the Holy Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. 4 But we will continue steadfastly in prayer and in the ministry of the word." 5 These words pleased the whole multitude. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch, 6 whom they set before the apostles. When they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. 7 The word of God increased and the number of the disciples greatly multiplied in Jerusalem. A great company of the priests were obedient to the faith. 8 Stephen, full of faith and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. 9 But some of those who were of the synagogue called "The Libertines", and of the Cyrenians, of the Alexandrians, and of those of Cilicia and Asia arose, disputing with Stephen. 10 They

were not able to withstand the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke. **11** Then they secretly induced men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." **12** They stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes, and came against him and seized him, then brought him in to the council, **13** and set up false witnesses who said, "This man never stops speaking blasphemous words against this holy place and the law. **14** For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place, and will change the customs which Moses delivered to us." **15** All who sat in the council, fastening their eyes on him, saw his face like it was the face of an angel.

**7** The high priest said, "Are these things so?" **2** He said, "Brothers and fathers, listen. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, **3** and said to him, 'Get out of your land and away from your relatives, and come into a land which I will show you.' **4** Then he came out of the land of the Chaldaeans and lived in Haran. From there, when his father was dead, God moved him into this land where you are now living. **5** He gave him no inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on. He promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his offspring after him, when he still had no child. **6** God spoke in this way: that his offspring would live as aliens in a strange land, and that they would be enslaved and mistreated for four hundred years. **7** 'I will judge the nation to which they will be in bondage,' said God, 'and after that they will come out and serve me in this place.' **8** He gave him the covenant of circumcision. So Abraham became the father of Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day. Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob became the father of the twelve patriarchs. **9** "The patriarchs, moved with jealousy against Joseph, sold him into Egypt. God was with him **10** and delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favor and wisdom before Pharaoh, king of Egypt. He made him governor over Egypt and all his house. **11** Now a famine came over all the land of Egypt and Canaan, and great affliction. Our fathers found no food. **12** But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent out our fathers the first time. **13** On the second time Joseph was

made known to his brothers, and Joseph's family was revealed to Pharaoh. **14** Joseph sent and summoned Jacob his father and all his relatives, seventy-five souls. **15** Jacob went down into Egypt and he died, himself and our fathers; **16** and they were brought back to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham bought for a price in silver from the children of Hamor of Shechem. **17** "But as the time of the promise came close which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt, **18** until there arose a different king who did not know Joseph. **19** The same took advantage of our race and mistreated our fathers, and forced them to abandon their babies, so that they would not stay alive. **20** At that time Moses was born, and was exceedingly handsome to God. He was nourished three months in his father's house. **21** When he was abandoned, Pharaoh's daughter took him up and reared him as her own son. **22** Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians. He was mighty in his words and works. **23** But when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brothers, the children of Israel. **24** Seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him and avenged him who was oppressed, striking the Egyptian. **25** He supposed that his brothers understood that God, by his hand, was giving them deliverance; but they did not understand. **26** "The day following, he appeared to them as they fought, and urged them to be at peace again, saying, 'Sirs, you are brothers. Why do you wrong one another?' **27** But he who did his neighbor wrong pushed him away, saying, 'Who made you a ruler and a judge over us? **28** Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?' **29** Moses fled at this saying, and became a stranger in the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons. **30** "When forty years were fulfilled, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush. **31** When Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight. As he came close to see, the voice of the Lord came to him, **32** 'I am the God of your fathers: the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' Moses trembled and dared not look. **33** The Lord said to him, 'Take off your sandals, for the place where you stand is holy ground. **34** I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their groaning. I have come



down to deliver them. Now come, I will send you into Egypt.’ **35** “This Moses whom they refused, saying, ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge?’—God has sent him as both a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel who appeared to him in the bush. **36** This man led them out, having worked wonders and signs in Egypt, in the Red Sea, and in the wilderness for forty years. **37** This is that Moses who said to the children of Israel, ‘The Lord our God will raise up a prophet for you from among your brothers, like me.’ **38** This is he who was in the assembly in the wilderness with the angel that spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, who received living revelations to give to us, **39** to whom our fathers would not be obedient, but rejected him and turned back in their hearts to Egypt, **40** saying to Aaron, ‘Make us gods that will go before us, for as for this Moses who led us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ **41** They made a calf in those days, and brought a sacrifice to the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their hands. **42** But God turned away and gave them up to serve the army of the sky, as it is written in the book of the prophets, ‘Did you offer to me slain animals and sacrifices forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel? **43** You took up the tabernacle of Moloch, the star of your god Rephan, the figures which you made to worship, so I will carry you away beyond Babylon.’ **44** “Our fathers had the tabernacle of the testimony in the wilderness, even as he who spoke to Moses commanded him to make it according to the pattern that he had seen; **45** which also our fathers, in their turn, brought in with Joshua when they entered into the possession of the nations whom God drove out before the face of our fathers to the days of David, **46** who found favor in the sight of God, and asked to find a habitation for the God of Jacob. **47** But Solomon built him a house. **48** However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet says, **49** ‘heaven is my throne, and the earth a footstool for my feet. What kind of house will you build me?’ says the Lord. ‘Or what is the place of my rest? **50** Did not my hand make all these things?’ **51** “You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit! As your fathers did, so you do. **52** Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? They killed those who

foretold the coming of the Righteous One, of whom you have now become betrayers and murderers. **53** You received the law as it was ordained by angels, and did not keep it!” **54** Now when they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. **55** But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, looked up steadfastly into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, **56** and said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” **57** But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears, then rushed at him with one accord. **58** They threw him out of the city and stoned him. The witnesses placed their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. **59** They stoned Stephen as he called out, saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!” **60** He kneeled down and cried with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them!” When he had said this, he fell asleep.

**8** Saul was consenting to his death. A great persecution arose against the assembly which was in Jerusalem in that day. They were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except for the apostles. **2** Devout men buried Stephen and lamented greatly over him. **3** But Saul ravaged the assembly, entering into every house and dragged both men and women off to prison. **4** Therefore those who were scattered abroad went around preaching the word. **5** Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. **6** The multitudes listened with one accord to the things that were spoken by Philip when they heard and saw the signs which he did. **7** For unclean spirits came out of many of those who had them. They came out, crying with a loud voice. Many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed. **8** There was great joy in that city. **9** But there was a certain man, Simon by name, who used to practice sorcery in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, making himself out to be some great one, **10** to whom they all listened, from the least to the greatest, saying, “This man is that great power of God.” **11** They listened to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his sorceries. **12** But when they believed Philip preaching good news concerning God’s Kingdom and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

13 Simon himself also believed. Being baptized, he continued with Philip. Seeing signs and great miracles occurring, he was amazed. 14 Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, 15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit; 16 for as yet he had fallen on none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of Christ Jesus. 17 Then they laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. 18 Now when Simon saw that the Holy Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, 19 saying, "Give me also this power, that whomever I lay my hands on may receive the Holy Spirit." 20 But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! 21 You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. 22 Repent therefore of this, your wickedness, and ask God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. 23 For I see that you are in the poison of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity." 24 Simon answered, "Pray for me to the Lord, that none of the things which you have spoken happen to me." 25 They therefore, when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the Good News to many villages of the Samaritans. 26 Then an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise, and go toward the south to the way that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza. This is a desert." 27 He arose and went; and behold, there was a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was over all her treasure, who had come to Jerusalem to worship. 28 He was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 The Spirit said to Philip, "Go near, and join yourself to this chariot." 30 Philip ran to him, and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" 31 He said, "How can I, unless someone explains it to me?" He begged Philip to come up and sit with him. 32 Now the passage of the Scripture which he was reading was this, "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter. As a lamb before his shearer is silent, so he does not open his mouth. 33 In his

humiliation, his judgment was taken away. Who will declare His generation? For his life is taken from the earth." 34 The eunuch answered Philip, "Who is the prophet talking about? About himself, or about someone else?" 35 Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture, preached to him about Jesus. 36 As they went on the way, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Behold, here is water. What is keeping me from being baptized?" 38 He commanded the chariot to stand still, and they both went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. 39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him any more, for he went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip was found at Azotus. Passing through, he preached the Good News to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.

**9** But Saul, still breathing threats and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked for letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. 3 As he traveled, he got close to Damascus, and suddenly a light from the sky shone around him. 4 He fell on the earth, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" 5 He said, "Who are you, Lord?" The Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 6 But rise up and enter into the city, then you will be told what you must do." 7 The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the sound, but seeing no one. 8 Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened, he saw no one. They led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 He was without sight for three days, and neither ate nor drank. 10 Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias!" He said, "Behold, it's me, Lord." 11 The Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judah for one named Saul, a man of Tarsus. For behold, he is praying, 12 and in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and laying his hands on him, that he might receive his sight." 13 But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he did to your saints

at Jerusalem. **14** Here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.” **15** But the Lord said to him, “Go your way, for he is my chosen vessel to bear my name before the nations and kings, and the children of Israel. **16** For I will show him how many things he must suffer for my name’s sake.” **17** Ananias departed and entered into the house. Laying his hands on him, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord, who appeared to you on the road by which you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” **18** Immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he received his sight. He arose and was baptized. **19** He took food and was strengthened. Saul stayed several days with the disciples who were at Damascus. **20** Immediately in the synagogues he proclaimed the Christ, that he is the Son of God. **21** All who heard him were amazed, and said, “Is not this he who in Jerusalem made havoc of those who called on this name? And he had come here intending to bring them bound before the chief priests!” **22** But Saul increased more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived at Damascus, proving that this is the Christ. **23** When many days were fulfilled, the Jews conspired together to kill him, **24** but their plot became known to Saul. They watched the gates both day and night that they might kill him, **25** but his disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall, lowering him in a basket. **26** When Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join himself to the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. **27** But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles, and declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. **28** He was with them entering into Jerusalem, **29** preaching boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus. He spoke and disputed against the Hellenists, but they were seeking to kill him. **30** When the brothers knew it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. **31** So the assemblies throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were built up. They were multiplied, walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit. **32** As Peter went throughout all those parts, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda. **33** There he

found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden for eight years because he was paralyzed. **34** Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and make your bed!” Immediately he arose. **35** All who lived at Lydda and in Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. **36** Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which when translated means Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and acts of mercy which she did. **37** In those days, she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. **38** As Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. **39** Peter got up and went with them. When he had come, they brought him into the upper room. All the widows stood by him weeping, and showing the tunics and other garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. **40** Peter sent them all out, and knelt down and prayed. Turning to the body, he said, “Tabitha, get up!” She opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. **41** He gave her his hand and raised her up. Calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. **42** This became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. **43** He stayed many days in Joppa with a tanner named Simon.

**10** Now there was a certain man in Caesarea, Cornelius by name, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, **2** a devout man, and one who feared God with all his house, who gave gifts for the needy generously to the people, and always prayed to God. **3** At about the ninth hour of the day, he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God coming to him and saying to him, “Cornelius!” **4** He, fastening his eyes on him and being frightened, said, “What is it, Lord?” He said to him, “Your prayers and your gifts to the needy have gone up for a memorial before God. **5** Now send men to Joppa, and get Simon, who is also called Peter. **6** He is staying with a tanner named Simon, whose house is by the seaside. **7** When the angel who spoke to him had departed, Cornelius called two of his household servants and a devout soldier of those who waited on him continually. **8** Having explained everything to them, he sent them to Joppa. **9** Now on the next day as they were on their journey and got close to the city, Peter went up on the

housetop to pray at about noon. **10** He became hungry and desired to eat, but while they were preparing, he fell into a trance. **11** He saw heaven opened and a certain container descending to him, like a great sheet let down by four corners on the earth, **12** in which were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild animals, reptiles, and birds of the sky. **13** A voice came to him, "Rise, Peter, kill and eat!" **14** But Peter said, "Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean." **15** A voice came to him again the second time, "What God has cleansed, you must not call unclean." **16** This was done three times, and immediately the thing was received up into heaven. **17** Now while Peter was very perplexed in himself what the vision which he had seen might mean, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius, having made inquiry for Simon's house, stood before the gate, **18** and called and asked whether Simon, who was also called Peter, was lodging there. **19** While Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men seek you. **20** But arise, get down, and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them." **21** Peter went down to the men, and said, "Behold, I am he whom you seek. Why have you come?" **22** They said, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous man and one who fears God, and well spoken of by all the nation of the Jews, was directed by a holy angel to invite you to his house, and to listen to what you say." **23** So he called them in and provided a place to stay. On the next day Peter arose and went out with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him. **24** On the next day they entered into Caesarea. Cornelius was waiting for them, having called together his relatives and his near friends. **25** When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, fell down at his feet, and worshiped him. **26** But Peter raised him up, saying, "Stand up! I myself am also a man." **27** As he talked with him, he went in and found many gathered together. **28** He said to them, "You yourselves know how it is an unlawful thing for a man who is a Jew to join himself or come to one of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any man unholy or unclean. **29** Therefore I also came without complaint when I was sent for. I ask therefore, why did you send for me?" **30** Cornelius said, "Four days ago, I was fasting until this hour; and

at the ninth hour, I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing **31** and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer is heard, and your gifts to the needy are remembered in the sight of God. **32** Send therefore to Joppa and summon Simon, who is also called Peter. He is staying in the house of a tanner named Simon, by the seaside. When he comes, he will speak to you.' **33** Therefore I sent to you at once, and it was good of you to come. Now therefore we are all here present in the sight of God to hear all things that have been commanded you by God." **34** Peter opened his mouth and said, "Truly I perceive that God does not show favoritism; **35** but in every nation he who fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him. **36** The word which he sent to the children of Israel, preaching good news of peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all— **37** you yourselves know what happened, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; **38** how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. **39** We are witnesses of everything he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem; whom they also killed, hanging him on a tree. **40** God raised him up the third day and gave him to be revealed, **41** not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen before by God, to us, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. **42** He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that this is he who is appointed by God as the Judge of the living and the dead. **43** All the prophets testify about him, that through his name everyone who believes in him will receive remission of sins." **44** While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all those who heard the word. **45** They of the circumcision who believed were amazed, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was also poured out on the Gentiles. **46** For they heard them speaking in other languages and magnifying God. Then Peter answered, **47** "Can anyone forbid these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just like us." **48** He commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay some days.

**11** Now the apostles and the brothers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. **2** When Peter had come up to Jerusalem, those who were of the circumcision contended with him, **3** saying, "You went in to uncircumcised men and ate with them!" **4** But Peter began, and explained to them in order, saying, **5** "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision: a certain container descending, like it was a great sheet let down from heaven by four corners. It came as far as me. **6** When I had looked intently at it, I considered, and saw the four-footed animals of the earth, wild animals, creeping things, and birds of the sky. **7** I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter, kill and eat!' **8** But I said, 'Not so, Lord, for nothing unholy or unclean has ever entered into my mouth.' **9** But a voice answered me the second time out of heaven, 'What God has cleansed, do not you call unclean.' **10** This was done three times, and all were drawn up again into heaven. **11** Behold, immediately three men stood before the house where I was, having been sent from Caesarea to me. **12** The Spirit told me to go with them without discriminating. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house. **13** He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying to him, 'Send to Joppa and get Simon, who is called Peter, **14** who will speak to you words by which you will be saved, you and all your house.' **15** As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them, even as on us at the beginning. **16** I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John indeed baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.' **17** If then God gave to them the same gift as us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I, that I could withstand God?" **18** When they heard these things, they held their peace and glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life!" **19** They therefore who were scattered abroad by the oppression that arose about Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews only. **20** But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. **21** The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. **22** The report concerning them came to the ears of the assembly which was in Jerusalem. They sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch, **23** who, when he had come, and had seen the grace of God, was glad. He exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they should remain near to the Lord. **24** For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith, and many people were added to the Lord. **25** Barnabas went out to Tarsus to look for Saul. **26** When he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they were gathered together with the assembly, and taught many people. The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch. **27** Now in these days, prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. **28** One of them named Agabus stood up and indicated by the Spirit that there should be a great famine all over the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius. **29** As any of the disciples had plenty, each determined to send relief to the brothers who lived in Judea; **30** which they also did, sending it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

**12** Now about that time, King Herod stretched out his hands to oppress some of the assembly. **2** He killed James, the brother of John, with the sword. **3** When he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This was during the days of unleavened bread. **4** When he had arrested him, he put him in prison and delivered him to four squads of four soldiers each to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. **5** Peter therefore was kept in the prison, but constant prayer was made by the assembly to God for him. **6** The same night when Herod was about to bring him out, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains. Guards in front of the door kept the prison. **7** And behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up, saying, "Stand up quickly!" His chains fell off his hands. **8** The angel said to him, "Get dressed and put on your sandals." He did so. He said to him, "Put on your cloak and follow me." **9** And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he saw a vision. **10** When they were past the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate that leads

into the city, which opened to them by itself. They went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. **11** When Peter had come to himself, he said, "Now I truly know that the Lord has sent out his angel and delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from everything the Jewish people were expecting." **12** Thinking about that, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John who was called Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying. **13** When Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer. **14** When she recognized Peter's voice, she did not open the gate for joy, but ran in and reported that Peter was standing in front of the gate. **15** They said to her, "You are crazy!" But she insisted that it was so. They said, "It is his angel." **16** But Peter continued knocking. When they had opened, they saw him and were amazed. **17** But he, beckoning to them with his hand to be silent, declared to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. He said, "Tell these things to James and to the brothers." Then he departed and went to another place. **18** Now as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers about what had become of Peter. **19** When Herod had sought for him and did not find him, he examined the guards, then commanded that they should be put to death. He went down from Judea to Caesarea, and stayed there. **20** Now Herod was very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon. They came with one accord to him and, having made Blastus, the king's personal aide, their friend, they asked for peace, because their country depended on the king's country for food. **21** On an appointed day, Herod dressed himself in royal clothing, sat on the throne, and gave a speech to them. **22** The people shouted, "The voice of a god, and not of a man!" **23** Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give God the glory. Then he was eaten by worms and died. **24** But the word of God grew and multiplied. **25** Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their service, also taking with them John who was called Mark.

**13** Now in the assembly that was at Antioch there were some prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene,

Manaen the foster brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. **2** As they served the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Separate Barnabas and Saul for me, for the work to which I have called them." **3** Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. **4** So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia. From there they sailed to Cyprus. **5** When they were at Salamis, they proclaimed God's word in the Jewish synagogues. They also had John as their attendant. **6** When they had gone through the island to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar Jesus, **7** who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of understanding. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul, and sought to hear the word of God. **8** But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. **9** But Saul, who is also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fastened his eyes on him **10** and said, "You son of the devil, full of all deceit and all cunning, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?" **11** Now, behold, the hand of the Lord is on you, and you will be blind, not seeing the sun for a season!" Immediately a mist and darkness fell on him. He went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. **12** Then the proconsul, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord. **13** Now Paul and his company set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. John departed from them and returned to Jerusalem. **14** But they, passing on from Perga, came to Antioch of Pisidia. They went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down. **15** After the reading of the law and the prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, speak." **16** Paul stood up, and gesturing with his hand said, "Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen. **17** The God of this people chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they stayed as aliens in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm, he led them out of it. **18** For a period of about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. **19** When he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land for an inheritance for about four hundred

fifty years. 20 After these things, he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. 21 Afterward they asked for a king, and God gave to them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. 22 When he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, to whom he also testified, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after my heart, who will do all my will.' 23 From this man's offspring, God has brought salvation to Israel according to his promise, 24 before his coming, when John had first preached the baptism of repentance to Israel. 25 As John was fulfilling his course, he said, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. But behold, one comes after me, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.' 26 "Brothers, children of the stock of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, the word of this salvation is sent out to you. 27 For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know him, nor the voices of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him. 28 Though they found no cause for death, they still asked Pilate to have him killed. 29 When they had fulfilled all things that were written about him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. 30 But God raised him from the dead, 31 and he was seen for many days by those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses to the people. 32 We bring you good news of the promise made to the fathers, 33 that God has fulfilled this to us, their children, in that he raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second psalm, 'You are my Son. Today I have become your father.' 34 "Concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he has spoken thus: 'I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.' 35 Therefore he says also in another psalm, 'You will not allow your Holy One to see decay.' 36 For David, after he had in his own generation served the counsel of God, fell asleep, was laid with his fathers, and saw decay. 37 But he whom God raised up saw no decay. 38 Be it known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man is proclaimed to you remission of sins; 39 and by him everyone who believes is justified from all things, from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses. 40 Beware therefore, lest that come on you which is spoken in the prophets: 41 'Behold, you

scoffers! Wonder and perish, for I work a work in your days, a work which you will in no way believe, if one declares it to you.'" 42 So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath. 43 Now when the synagogue broke up, many of the Jews and of the devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas; who, speaking to them, urged them to continue in the grace of God. 44 The next Sabbath, almost the whole city was gathered together to hear the word of God. 45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with jealousy, and contradicted the things which were spoken by Paul, and blasphemed. 46 Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, and said, "It was necessary that God's word should be spoken to you first. Since indeed you thrust it from yourselves, and judge yourselves unworthy of consummate (αἰῶνιος g166) life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. 47 For so has the Lord commanded us, saying, 'I have set you as a light for the Gentiles, that you should bring salvation to the uttermost parts of the earth.'" 48 As the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of God. As many as were appointed to consummate (αἰῶνιος g166) life believed. 49 The Lord's word was spread abroad throughout all the region. 50 But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, and stirred up a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and threw them out of their borders. 51 But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came to Iconium. 52 The disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

**14** In Iconium, they entered together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spoke that a great multitude both of Jews and of Greeks believed. 2 But the unbelieving Jews stirred up and embittered the souls of the Gentiles against the brothers. 3 Therefore they stayed there a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord, who testified to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. 4 But the multitude of the city was divided. Part sided with the Jews and part with the apostles. 5 When some of both the Gentiles and the Jews, with their rulers, made a violent attempt to mistreat and stone them, 6 they became aware of it and fled to the

cities of Lycaonia, Lystra, Derbe, and the surrounding region. 7 There they preached the Good News. 8 At Lystra a certain man sat, impotent in his feet, a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked. 9 He was listening to Paul speaking, who, fastening eyes on him and seeing that he had faith to be made whole, 10 said with a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet!" He leaped up and walked. 11 When the multitude saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voice, saying in the language of Lycaonia, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" 12 They called Barnabas "Jupiter", and Paul "Mercury", because he was the chief speaker. 13 The priest of Jupiter, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, and would have made a sacrifice along with the multitudes. 14 But when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of it, they tore their clothes and sprang into the multitude, crying out, 15 "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men of the same nature as you, and bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to the living God, who made the sky, the earth, the sea, and all that is in them; 16 who in the generations gone by allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. 17 Yet he did not leave himself without witness, in that he did good and gave you rains from the sky and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness." 18 Even saying these things, they hardly stopped the multitudes from making a sacrifice to them. 19 But some Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there, and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. 20 But as the disciples stood around him, he rose up, and entered into the city. On the next day he went out with Barnabas to Derbe. 21 When they had preached the Good News to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that through many afflictions we must enter into God's Kingdom. 23 When they had appointed elders for them in every assembly, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord on whom they had believed. 24 They passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. 25 When they had

spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. 26 From there they sailed to Antioch, from where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work which they had fulfilled. 27 When they had arrived and had gathered the assembly together, they reported all the things that God had done with them, and that he had opened a door of faith to the nations. 28 They stayed there with the disciples for a long time.

**15** Some men came down from Judea and taught the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised after the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." 2 Therefore when Paul and Barnabas had no small discord and discussion with them, they appointed Paul, Barnabas, and some others of them to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders about this question. 3 They, being sent on their way by the assembly, passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles. They caused great joy to all the brothers. 4 When they had come to Jerusalem, they were received by the assembly and the apostles and the elders, and they reported everything that God had done with them. 5 But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, "It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses." 6 The apostles and the elders were gathered together to see about this matter. 7 When there had been much discussion, Peter rose up and said to them, "Brothers, you know that a good while ago God made a choice among you that by my mouth the nations should hear the word of the Good News and believe. 8 God, who knows the heart, testified about them, giving them the Holy Spirit, just like he did to us. 9 He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith. 10 Now therefore why do you tempt God, that you should put a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? 11 But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they are." 12 All the multitude kept silence, and they listened to Barnabas and Paul reporting what signs and wonders God had done among the nations through them. 13 After they were silent, James answered, "Brothers, listen to me. 14 Simeon has reported how God first visited the nations to take out of them a people for his name. 15 This agrees with the words of the prophets.



As it is written, **16** 'After these things I will return. I will again build the tabernacle of David, which has fallen. I will again build its ruins. I will set it up **17** that the rest of men may seek after the Lord: all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the Lord, who does all these things.' **18** known from the age (aiōn g165). **19** Therefore my judgment is that we do not trouble those from among the Gentiles who turn to God, **20** but that we write to them that they abstain from the pollution of idols, from sexual immorality, from what is strangled, and from blood. **21** For Moses from generations of old has in every city those who preach him, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath." **22** Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole assembly, to choose men out of their company, and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas: Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, chief men among the brothers. **23** They wrote these things by their hand: "The apostles, the elders, and the brothers, to the brothers who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: greetings. **24** Because we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, 'You must be circumcised and keep the law,' to whom we gave no commandment; **25** it seemed good to us, having come to one accord, to choose out men and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, **26** men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. **27** We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who themselves will also tell you the same things by word of mouth. **28** For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay no greater burden on you than these necessary things: **29** that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality, from which if you keep yourselves, it will be well with you. Farewell." **30** So, when they were sent off, they came to Antioch. Having gathered the multitude together, they delivered the letter. **31** When they had read it, they rejoiced over the encouragement. **32** Judas and Silas, also being prophets themselves, encouraged the brothers with many words and strengthened them. **33** After they had spent some time there, they were dismissed in peace from the brothers to the apostles. **35** But Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch, teaching and

preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also. **36** After some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let's return now and visit our brothers in every city in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, to see how they are doing." **37** Barnabas planned to take John, who was called Mark, with them also. **38** But Paul did not think that it was a good idea to take with them someone who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia, and did not go with them to do the work. **39** Then the contention grew so sharp that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, **40** but Paul chose Silas and went out, being commended by the brothers to the grace of God. **41** He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the assemblies.

**16** He came to Derbe and Lystra; and behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewess who believed, but his father was a Greek. **2** The brothers who were at Lystra and Iconium gave a good testimony about him. **3** Paul wanted to have him go out with him, and he took and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. **4** As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered the decrees to them to keep which had been ordained by the apostles and elders who were at Jerusalem. **5** So the assemblies were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily. **6** When they had gone through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. **7** When they had come opposite Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not allow them. **8** Passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. **9** A vision appeared to Paul in the night. There was a man of Macedonia standing, begging him and saying, "Come over into Macedonia and help us." **10** When he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go out to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the Good News to them. **11** Setting sail therefore from Troas, we made a straight course to Samothrace, and the day following to Neapolis; **12** and from there to Philippi, which is a city of Macedonia, the foremost of the district, a Roman colony. We were staying some days in this city. **13** On the Sabbath day we went outside of the city by a riverside, where we supposed there was a

place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. **14** A certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, one who worshiped God, heard us. The Lord opened her heart to listen to the things which were spoken by Paul. **15** When she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay." So she persuaded us. **16** As we were going to prayer, a certain girl having a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much gain by fortune telling. **17** Following Paul and us, she cried out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us a way of salvation!" **18** She was doing this for many days. But Paul, becoming greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" It came out that very hour. **19** But when her masters saw that the hope of their gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers. **20** When they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, "These men, being Jews, are agitating our city **21** and advocate customs which it is not lawful for us to accept or to observe, being Romans." **22** The multitude rose up together against them and the magistrates tore their clothes from them, then commanded them to be beaten with rods. **23** When they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. **24** Having received such a command, he threw them into the inner prison and secured their feet in the stocks. **25** But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. **26** Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were loosened. **27** The jailer, being roused out of sleep and seeing the prison doors open, drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. **28** But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!" **29** He called for lights, sprang in, fell down trembling before Paul and Silas, **30** brought them out, and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" **31** They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your

household." **32** They spoke the word of the Lord to him, and to all who were in his house. **33** He took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes, and was immediately baptized, he and all his household. **34** He brought them up into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly with all his household, having believed in God. **35** But when it was day, the magistrates sent the sergeants, saying, "Let those men go." **36** The jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent to let you go; now therefore come out and go in peace." **37** But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us publicly without a trial, men who are Romans, and have cast us into prison! Do they now release us secretly? No, most certainly, but let them come themselves and bring us out!" **38** The sergeants reported these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans, **39** and they came and begged them. When they had brought them out, they asked them to depart from the city. **40** They went out of the prison and entered into Lydia's house. When they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them, then departed.

**17** Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. **2** Paul, as was his custom, went in to them; and for three Sabbath days reasoned with them from the Scriptures, **3** explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ." **4** Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas: of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and not a few of the chief women. **5** But the unpersuaded Jews took along some wicked men from the marketplace and gathering a crowd, set the city in an uproar. Assaulting the house of Jason, they sought to bring them out to the people. **6** When they did not find them, they dragged Jason and certain brothers before the rulers of the city, crying, "These who have turned the world upside down have come here also, **7** whom Jason has received. These all act contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus!" **8** The multitude and the rulers of the city were troubled when they heard these things. **9** When they had taken

security from Jason and the rest, they let them go. 10 The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Beroea. When they arrived, they went into the Jewish synagogue. 11 Now these were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so. 12 Many of them therefore believed; also of the prominent Greek women, and not a few men. 13 But when the Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Beroea also, they came there likewise, agitating the multitudes. 14 Then the brothers immediately sent out Paul to go as far as to the sea, and Silas and Timothy still stayed there. 15 But those who escorted Paul brought him as far as Athens. Receiving a commandment to Silas and Timothy that they should come to him very quickly, they departed. 16 Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw the city full of idols. 17 So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who met him. 18 Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also were conversing with him. Some said, "What does this babbler want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be advocating foreign deities," because he preached Jesus and the resurrection. 19 They took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is, which you are speaking about? 20 For you bring certain strange things to our ears. We want to know therefore what these things mean." 21 Now all the Athenians and the strangers living there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell or to hear some new thing. 22 Paul stood in the middle of the Areopagus and said, "You men of Athens, I perceive that you are very religious in all things. 23 For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription: 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' What therefore you worship in ignorance, I announce to you. 24 The God who made the world and all things in it, he, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25 He is not served by men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he himself gives to all life and breath and all things. 26 He made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the surface of the earth, having determined appointed seasons and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 that they should seek the Lord, if perhaps they might reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 28 'For in him we live, move, and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also his offspring.' 29 Being then the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold, or silver, or stone, engraved by art and design of man. 30 The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked. But now he commands that all people everywhere should repent, 31 because he has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he has ordained; of which he has given assurance to all men, in that he has raised him from the dead." 32 Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked; but others said, "We want to hear you again concerning this." 33 Thus Paul went out from among them. 34 But certain men joined with him and believed, including Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

**18** After these things Paul departed from Athens and came to Corinth. 2 He found a certain Jew named Aquila, a man of Pontus by race, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome. He came to them, 3 and because he practiced the same trade, he lived with them and worked, for by trade they were tent makers. 4 He reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath and persuaded Jews and Greeks. 5 When Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. 6 When they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook out his clothing and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am clean. From now on, I will go to the Gentiles!" 7 He departed there and went into the house of a certain man named Justus, one who worshiped God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. 8 Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his house. Many of the Corinthians, when they heard, believed and were baptized. 9 The Lord said to Paul

in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent; 10 for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many people in this city." 11 He lived there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them. 12 But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat, 13 saying, "This man persuades men to worship God contrary to the law." 14 But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If indeed it were a matter of wrong or of wicked crime, you Jews, it would be reasonable that I should bear with you; 15 but if they are questions about words and names and your own law, look to it yourselves. For I do not want to be a judge of these matters." 16 So he drove them from the judgment seat. 17 Then all the Greeks seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him before the judgment seat. Gallio did not care about any of these things. 18 Paul, having stayed after this many more days, took his leave of the brothers, and sailed from there for Syria, together with Priscilla and Aquila. He shaved his head in Cenchreae, for he had a vow. 19 He came to Ephesus, and he left them there; but he himself entered into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. 20 When they asked him to stay with them a longer time, he declined; 21 but taking his leave of them, he said, "I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem, but I will return again to you if God wills." Then he set sail from Ephesus. 22 When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the assembly, and went down to Antioch. 23 Having spent some time there, he departed and went through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, in order, establishing all the disciples. 24 Now a certain Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by race, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus. He was mighty in the Scriptures. 25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, although he knew only the baptism of John. 26 He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside, and explained to him the way of God more accurately. 27 When he had determined to pass over into Achaia, the brothers encouraged him; and wrote

to the disciples to receive him. When he had come, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; 28 for he powerfully refuted the Jews, publicly showing by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

**19** While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul, having passed through the upper country, came to Ephesus and found certain disciples. 2 He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They said to him, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." 3 He said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." 4 Paul said, "John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Christ Jesus." 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them and they spoke with other languages and prophesied. 7 They were about twelve men in all. 8 He entered into the synagogue and spoke boldly for a period of three months, reasoning and persuading about the things concerning God's Kingdom. 9 But when some were hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and separated the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. 10 This continued for two years, so that all those who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks. 11 God worked special miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were carried away from his body to the sick, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out. 13 But some of the itinerant Jews, exorcists, took on themselves to invoke over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, "We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches." 14 There were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did this. 15 The evil spirit answered, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?" 16 The man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. 17 This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived at Ephesus. Fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. 18 Many also

of those who had believed came, confessing and declaring their deeds. **19** Many of those who practiced magical arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. They counted their price, and found it to be fifty thousand pieces of silver. **20** So the word of the Lord was growing and becoming mighty. **21** Now after these things had ended, Paul determined in the Spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome." **22** Having sent into Macedonia two of those who served him, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while. **23** About that time there arose no small disturbance concerning the Way. **24** For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen, **25** whom he gathered together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, "Sirs, you know that by this business we have our wealth. **26** You see and hear that not at Ephesus alone, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are no gods that are made with hands. **27** Not only is there danger that this our trade come into disrepute, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be counted as nothing and her majesty destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worships." **28** When they heard this they were filled with anger, and cried out, saying, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" **29** The whole city was filled with confusion, and they rushed with one accord into the theater, having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel. **30** When Paul wanted to enter in to the people, the disciples did not allow him. **31** Certain also of the Asiarchs, being his friends, sent to him and begged him not to venture into the theater. **32** Some therefore cried one thing, and some another, for the assembly was in confusion. Most of them did not know why they had come together. **33** They brought Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. Alexander beckoned with his hand, and would have made a defense to the people. **34** But when they perceived that he was a Jew, all with one voice for a time of about two hours cried out, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" **35** When the town clerk had quieted the multitude, he said, "You men of Ephesus, what

man is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple keeper of the great goddess Artemis, and of the image which fell down from Zeus? **36** Seeing then that these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and to do nothing rash. **37** For you have brought these men here, who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of your goddess. **38** If therefore Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have a matter against anyone, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. Let them press charges against one another. **39** But if you seek anything about other matters, it will be settled in the regular assembly. **40** For indeed we are in danger of being accused concerning today's riot, there being no cause. Concerning it, we would not be able to give an account of this commotion." **41** When he had thus spoken, he dismissed the assembly.

**20** After the uproar had ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, took leave of them, and departed to go into Macedonia. **2** When he had gone through those parts and had encouraged them with many words, he came into Greece. **3** When he had spent three months there, and a plot was made against him by Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he determined to return through Macedonia. **4** These accompanied him as far as Asia: Sopater of Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, Gaius of Derbe, Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. **5** But these had gone ahead, and were waiting for us at Troas. **6** We sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and came to them at Troas in five days, where we stayed seven days. **7** On the first day of the week, when the disciples were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day; and continued his speech until midnight. **8** There were many lights in the upper room where we were gathered together. **9** A certain young man named Eutychus sat in the window, weighed down with deep sleep. As Paul spoke still longer, being weighed down by his sleep, he fell down from the third floor and was taken up dead. **10** Paul went down and fell upon him, and embracing him said, "Do not be troubled, for his life is in him." **11** When he had gone up, had broken bread and eaten, and had talked with them a long while, even until break of day, he departed. **12** They

brought the boy in alive, and were greatly comforted. **13** But we, going ahead to the ship, set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there; for he had so arranged, intending himself to go by land. **14** When he met us at Assos, we took him aboard and came to Mitylene. **15** Sailing from there, we came the following day opposite Chios. The next day we touched at Samos and stayed at Trogyllium, and the day after we came to Miletus. **16** For Paul had determined to sail past Ephesus, that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening, if it were possible for him, to be in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. **17** From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to himself the elders of the assembly. **18** When they had come to him, he said to them, "You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you all the time, **19** serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears, and with trials which happened to me by the plots of the Jews; **20** how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, teaching you publicly and from house to house, **21** testifying both to Jews and to Greeks repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus. **22** Now, behold, I go bound by the Spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there; **23** except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions wait for me. **24** But these things do not count; nor do I hold my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to fully testify to the Good News of the grace of God. **25** "Now, behold, I know that you all, among whom I went about preaching God's Kingdom, will see my face no more. **26** Therefore I testify to you today that I am clean from the blood of all men, **27** for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. **28** Take heed, therefore, to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the assembly of the Lord and God which he purchased with his own blood. **29** For I know that after my departure, vicious wolves will enter in among you, not sparing the flock. **30** Men will arise from among your own selves, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. **31** Therefore watch, remembering that for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish everyone night and day with tears. **32** Now, brothers, I entrust you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. **33** I coveted no one's silver, gold, or clothing. **34** You yourselves know that these hands served my necessities, and those who were with me. **35** In all things I gave you an example, that so laboring you ought to help the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" **36** When he had spoken these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. **37** They all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him, **38** sorrowing most of all because of the word which he had spoken, that they should see his face no more. Then they accompanied him to the ship.

**21** When we had departed from them and had set sail, we came with a straight course to Cos, and the next day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara. **2** Having found a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, we went aboard and set sail. **3** When we had come in sight of Cyprus, leaving it on the left hand, we sailed to Syria and landed at Tyre, for the ship was there to unload her cargo. **4** Having found disciples, we stayed there seven days. These said to Paul through the Spirit that he should not go up to Jerusalem. **5** When those days were over, we departed and went on our journey. They all, with wives and children, brought us on our way until we were out of the city. Kneeling down on the beach, we prayed. **6** After saying goodbye to each other, we went on board the ship, and they returned home again. **7** When we had finished the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais. We greeted the brothers and stayed with them one day. **8** On the next day, we who were Paul's companions departed and came to Caesarea. We entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. **9** Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied. **10** As we stayed there some days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. **11** Coming to us and taking Paul's belt, he bound his own feet and hands, and said, "The Holy Spirit says: 'So the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt, and will deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" **12** When we heard these things, both we

and the people of that place begged him not to go up to Jerusalem. **13** Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." **14** When he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, "The Lord's will be done." **15** After these days we took up our baggage and went up to Jerusalem. **16** Some of the disciples from Caesarea also went with us, bringing one Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we would stay. **17** When we had come to Jerusalem, the brothers received us gladly. **18** The day following, Paul went in with us to James; and all the elders were present. **19** When he had greeted them, he reported one by one the things which God had worked among the Gentiles through his ministry. **20** They, when they heard it, glorified God. They said to him, "You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed, and they are all zealous for the law. **21** They have been informed about you, that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children and not to walk after the customs. **22** What then? The assembly must certainly meet, for they will hear that you have come. **23** Therefore do what we tell you. We have four men who have taken a vow. **24** Take them and purify yourself with them, and pay their expenses for them, that they may shave their heads. Then all will know that there is no truth in the things that they have been informed about you, but that you yourself also walk keeping the law. **25** But concerning the Gentiles who believe, we have written our decision that they should observe no such thing, except that they should keep themselves from food offered to idols, from blood, from strangled things, and from sexual immorality." **26** Then Paul took the men, and the next day purified himself and went with them into the temple, declaring the fulfillment of the days of purification, until the offering was offered for every one of them. **27** When the seven days were almost completed, the Jews from Asia, when they saw him in the temple, stirred up all the multitude and laid hands on him, **28** crying out, "Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches all men everywhere against the people, and the law, and this place. Moreover, he also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place!" **29** For they had seen Trophimus the Ephesian, with him in the city, and they supposed that Paul had brought him into the temple. **30** All the city was moved and the people ran together. They seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple. Immediately the doors were shut. **31** As they were trying to kill him, news came up to the commanding officer of the regiment that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. **32** Immediately he took soldiers and centurions and ran down to them. They, when they saw the chief captain and the soldiers, stopped beating Paul. **33** Then the commanding officer came near, arrested him, commanded him to be bound with two chains, and inquired who he was and what he had done. **34** Some shouted one thing and some another, among the crowd. When he could not find out the truth because of the noise, he commanded him to be brought into the barracks. **35** When he came to the stairs, he was carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the crowd; **36** for the multitude of the people followed after, crying out, "Away with him!" **37** As Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he asked the commanding officer, "May I speak to you?" He said, "Do you know Greek? **38** Are not you then the Egyptian who before these days stirred up to sedition and led out into the wilderness the four thousand men of the Assassins?" **39** But Paul said, "I am a Jew from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no insignificant city. I beg you, allow me to speak to the people." **40** When he had given him permission, Paul, standing on the stairs, beckoned with his hand to the people. When there was a great silence, he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, saying,

**22** "Brothers and fathers, listen to the defense which I now make to you." **2** When they heard that he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, they were even more quiet. He said, **3** "I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, instructed according to the strict tradition of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God, even as you all are today. **4** I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women, **5** as also the high priest and all the council of the elders testify, from whom also I received letters to the brothers, and traveled to

Damascus to bring them also who were there to Jerusalem in bonds to be punished. **6** "As I made my journey and came close to Damascus, about noon suddenly a great light shone around me from the sky. **7** I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' **8** I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?' He said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you persecute.' **9** "Those who were with me indeed saw the light and were afraid, but they did not understand the voice of him who spoke to me. **10** I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' The Lord said to me, 'Arise, and go into Damascus. There you will be told about all things which are appointed for you to do.' **11** When I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of those who were with me, I came into Damascus. **12** "One Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well reported of by all the Jews who lived in Damascus, **13** came to me, and standing by me said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' In that very hour I looked up at him. **14** He said, 'The God of our fathers has appointed you to know his will, and to see the Righteous One, and to hear a voice from his mouth. **15** For you will be a witness for him to all men of what you have seen and heard. **16** Now why do you wait? Arise, be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.' **17** "When I had returned to Jerusalem and while I prayed in the temple, I fell into a trance **18** and saw him saying to me, 'Hurry and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not receive testimony concerning me from you.' **19** I said, 'Lord, they themselves know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue those who believed in you. **20** When the blood of Stephen, your witness, was shed, I also was standing by, consenting to his death, and guarding the cloaks of those who killed him.' **21** "He said to me, 'Depart, for I will send you out far from here to the Gentiles.'" **22** They listened to him until he said that; then they lifted up their voice and said, "Rid the earth of this fellow, for he is not fit to live!" **23** As they cried out, threw off their cloaks, and threw dust into the air, **24** the commanding officer commanded him to be brought into the barracks, ordering him to be examined by scourging, that he might know for what crime they shouted against him like that. **25** When they had tied him up with thongs,

Paul asked the centurion who stood by, "Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman, and not found guilty?" **26** When the centurion heard it, he went to the commanding officer and told him, "Watch what you are about to do, for this man is a Roman!" **27** The commanding officer came and asked him, "Tell me, are you a Roman?" He said, "Yes." **28** The commanding officer answered, "I bought my citizenship for a great price." Paul said, "But I was born a Roman." **29** Immediately those who were about to examine him departed from him, and the commanding officer also was afraid when he realized that he was a Roman, because he had bound him. **30** But on the next day, desiring to know the truth about why he was accused by the Jews, he freed him from the bonds and commanded the chief priests and all the council to come together, and brought Paul down and set him before them.

**23** Paul, looking steadfastly at the council, said, "Brothers, I have lived before God in all good conscience until today." **2** The high priest, Ananias, commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth. **3** Then Paul said to him, "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! Do you sit to judge me according to the law, and command me to be struck contrary to the law?" **4** Those who stood by said, "Do you malign God's high priest?" **5** Paul said, "I did not know, brothers, that he was high priest. For it is written, 'You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.'" **6** But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "Men and brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. Concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead I am being judged!" **7** When he had said this, an argument arose between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the crowd was divided. **8** For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit; but the Pharisees confess all of these. **9** A great clamor arose, and some of the scribes of the Pharisees' part stood up, and contended, saying, "We find no evil in this man. But if a spirit or angel has spoken to him, let's not fight against God!" **10** When a great argument arose, the commanding officer, fearing that Paul would be torn in pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to



go down and take him by force from among them and bring him into the barracks. **11** The following night, the Lord stood by him and said, "Cheer up, Paul, for as you have testified about me at Jerusalem, so you must testify also at Rome." **12** When it was day, some of the Jews banded together and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul. **13** There were more than forty people who had made this conspiracy. **14** They came to the chief priests and the elders, and said, "We have bound ourselves under a great curse to taste nothing until we have killed Paul. **15** Now therefore, you with the council inform the commanding officer that he should bring him down to you tomorrow, as though you were going to judge his case more exactly. We are ready to kill him before he comes near." **16** But Paul's sister's son heard they were lying in wait, and he came and entered into the barracks and told Paul. **17** Paul summoned one of the centurions and said, "Bring this young man to the commanding officer, for he has something to tell him." **18** So he took him and brought him to the commanding officer and said, "Paul, the prisoner, summoned me and asked me to bring this young man to you. He has something to tell you." **19** The commanding officer took him by the hand, and going aside, asked him privately, "What is it that you have to tell me?" **20** He said, "The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul down to the council tomorrow, as though intending to inquire somewhat more accurately concerning him. **21** Therefore do not yield to them, for more than forty men lie in wait for him, who have bound themselves under a curse to neither eat nor drink until they have killed him. Now they are ready, looking for the promise from you." **22** So the commanding officer let the young man go, charging him, "Tell no one that you have revealed these things to me." **23** He called to himself two of the centurions, and said, "Prepare two hundred soldiers to go as far as Caesarea, with seventy horsemen and two hundred men armed with spears, at the third hour of the night." **24** He asked them to provide mounts, that they might set Paul on one, and bring him safely to Felix the governor. **25** He wrote a letter like this: **26** "Claudius Lysias to the most excellent governor Felix: Greetings. **27** "This man was seized by the Jews, and was about to be killed by them when I came with the soldiers and rescued him, having learned that he was a Roman. **28** Desiring to know the cause why they accused him, I brought him down to their council. **29** I found him to be accused about questions of their law, but not to be charged with anything worthy of death or of imprisonment. **30** When I was told that the Jews lay in wait for the man, I sent him to you immediately, charging his accusers also to bring their accusations against him before you. Farewell." **31** So the soldiers, carrying out their orders, took Paul and brought him by night to Antipatris. **32** But on the next day they left the horsemen to go with him, and returned to the barracks. **33** When they came to Caesarea and delivered the letter to the governor, they also presented Paul to him. **34** When the governor had read it, he asked what province he was from. When he understood that he was from Cilicia, he said, **35** "I will hear you fully when your accusers also arrive." He commanded that he be kept in Herod's palace.

**24** After five days, the high priest, Ananias, came down with certain elders and an orator, one Tertullus. They informed the governor against Paul. **2** When he was called, Tertullus began to accuse him, saying, "Seeing that by you we enjoy much peace, and that prosperity is coming to this nation by your foresight, **3** we accept it in all ways and in all places, most excellent Felix, with all thankfulness. **4** But that I do not delay you, I entreat you to bear with us and hear a few words. **5** For we have found this man to be a plague, an instigator of insurrections among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. **6** He even tried to profane the temple, and we arrested him. **8** By examining him yourself you may ascertain all these things of which we accuse him." **9** The Jews also joined in the attack, affirming that these things were so. **10** When the governor had beckoned to him to speak, Paul answered, "Because I know that you have been a judge of this nation for many years, I cheerfully make my defense, **11** seeing that you can verify that it is not more than twelve days since I went up to worship at Jerusalem. **12** In the temple they did not find me disputing with anyone or stirring up a crowd, either in the synagogues or in the city. **13** Nor can they

prove to you the things of which they now accuse me. **14** But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, so I serve the God of our fathers, believing all things which are according to the law, and which are written in the prophets; **15** having hope toward God, which these also themselves look for, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust. **16** In this I also practice always having a conscience void of offense toward God and men. **17** Now after some years, I came to bring gifts for the needy to my nation, and offerings; **18** amid which certain Jews from Asia found me purified in the temple, not with a mob, nor with turmoil. **19** They ought to have been here before you and to make accusation if they had anything against me. **20** Or else let these men themselves say what injustice they found in me when I stood before the council, **21** unless it is for this one thing that I cried standing among them, 'Concerning the resurrection of the dead I am being judged before you today!'" **22** But Felix, having more exact knowledge concerning the Way, deferred them, saying, "When Lysias, the commanding officer, comes down, I will decide your case." **23** He ordered the centurion that Paul should be kept in custody and should have some privileges, and not to forbid any of his friends to serve him or to visit him. **24** After some days, Felix came with Drusilla his wife, who was a Jewess, and sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ Jesus. **25** As he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was terrified, and answered, "Go your way for this time, and when it is convenient for me, I will summon you." **26** Meanwhile, he also hoped that money would be given to him by Paul, that he might release him. Therefore also he sent for him more often and talked with him. **27** But when two years were fulfilled, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, and desiring to gain favor with the Jews, Felix left Paul in bonds.

**25** Festus therefore, having come into the province, after three days went up to Jerusalem from Caesarea. **2** Then the high priest and the principal men of the Jews informed him against Paul, and they begged him, **3** asking a favor against him, that he would summon him to Jerusalem, plotting to kill him on the way. **4** However Festus answered that

Paul should be kept in custody at Caesarea, and that he himself was about to depart shortly. **5** "Let them therefore", he said, "that are in power among you go down with me, and if there is anything wrong in the man, let them accuse him." **6** When he had stayed among them more than ten days, he went down to Caesarea, and on the next day he sat on the judgment seat, and commanded Paul to be brought. **7** When he had come, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing against him many and grievous charges which they could not prove, **8** while he said in his defense, "Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar, have I sinned at all." **9** But Festus, desiring to gain favor with the Jews, answered Paul and said, "Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and be judged by me there concerning these things?" **10** But Paul said, "I am standing before Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be tried. I have done no wrong to the Jews, as you also know very well. **11** For if I have done wrong and have committed anything worthy of death, I do not refuse to die; but if none of those things is true that they accuse me of, no one can give me up to them. I appeal to Caesar!" **12** Then Festus, when he had conferred with the council, answered, "You have appealed to Caesar. To Caesar you shall go." **13** Now when some days had passed, King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea and greeted Festus. **14** As he stayed there many days, Festus laid Paul's case before the king, saying, "There is a certain man left a prisoner by Felix; **15** about whom, when I was at Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews informed me, asking for a sentence against him. **16** I answered them that it is not the custom of the Romans to give up any man to destruction before the accused has met the accusers face to face and has had opportunity to make his defense concerning the matter laid against him. **17** When therefore they had come together here, I did not delay, but on the next day sat on the judgment seat and commanded the man to be brought. **18** When the accusers stood up, they brought no charges against him of such things as I supposed; **19** but had certain questions against him about their own religion and about one Jesus, who was dead, whom Paul affirmed to be alive. **20** Being perplexed how to

inquire concerning these things, I asked whether he was willing to go to Jerusalem and there be judged concerning these matters. **21** But when Paul had appealed to be kept for the decision of the emperor, I commanded him to be kept until I could send him to Caesar.” **22** Agrippa said to Festus, “I also would like to hear the man myself.” “Tomorrow,” he said, “you shall hear him.” **23** So on the next day, when Agrippa and Bernice had come with great pomp, and they had entered into the place of hearing with the commanding officers and the principal men of the city, at the command of Festus, Paul was brought in. **24** Festus said, “King Agrippa, and all men who are here present with us, you see this man about whom all the multitude of the Jews petitioned me, both at Jerusalem and here, crying that he ought not to live any longer. **25** But when I found that he had committed nothing worthy of death, and as he himself appealed to the emperor, I determined to send him, **26** of whom I have no certain thing to write to my lord. Therefore I have brought him out before you, and especially before you, King Agrippa, that, after examination I may have something to write. **27** For it seems to me unreasonable, in sending a prisoner, not to also specify the charges against him.”

**26** Agrippa said to Paul, “You may speak for yourself.” Then Paul stretched out his hand, and made his defense. **2** “I think myself happy, King Agrippa, that I am to make my defense before you today concerning all the things that I am accused by the Jews, **3** especially because you are expert in all customs and questions which are among the Jews. Therefore I beg you to hear me patiently. **4** “Indeed, all the Jews know my way of life from my youth up, which was from the beginning among my own nation and at Jerusalem; **5** having known me from the first, if they are willing to testify, that after the strictest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee. **6** Now I stand here to be judged for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers, **7** which our twelve tribes, earnestly serving night and day, hope to attain. Concerning this hope I am accused by the Jews, King Agrippa! **8** Why is it judged incredible with you if God does raise the dead? **9** “I myself most certainly thought that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. **10** I also did this in Jerusalem. I

both shut up many of the saints in prisons, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death I gave my vote against them. **11** Punishing them often in all the synagogues, I tried to make them blaspheme. Being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities. **12** “Whereupon as I traveled to Damascus with the authority and commission from the chief priests, **13** at noon, O king, I saw on the way a light from the sky, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who traveled with me. **14** When we had all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ **15** “I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ “He said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. **16** But arise, and stand on your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose: to appoint you a servant and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will reveal to you; **17** delivering you from the people and from the Gentiles, to whom I send you, **18** to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive remission of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’ **19** “Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, **20** but declared first to them of Damascus, at Jerusalem, and throughout all the country of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, doing works worthy of repentance. **21** For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. **22** Having therefore obtained the help that is from God, I stand to this day testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would happen, **23** how the Christ must suffer, and how, by the resurrection of the dead, he would be first to proclaim light both to these people and to the Gentiles.” **24** As he thus made his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, “Paul, you are crazy! Your great learning is driving you insane!” **25** But he said, “I am not crazy, most excellent Festus, but boldly declare words of truth and reasonableness. **26** For the king knows of these things, to whom also I speak freely. For I am persuaded that none of these things is hidden from him, for this has not been done in a corner. **27** King Agrippa, do you believe the

prophets? I know that you believe.” 28 Agrippa said to Paul, “With a little persuasion are you trying to make me a Christian?” 29 Paul said, “I pray to God, that whether with little or with much, not only you, but also all that hear me today, might become such as I am, except for these bonds.” 30 The king rose up with the governor and Bernice, and those who sat with them. 31 When they had withdrawn, they spoke to one another, saying, “This man does nothing worthy of death or of bonds.” 32 Agrippa said to Festus, “This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.”

**27** When it was determined that we should sail for Italy, they delivered Paul and certain other prisoners to a centurion named Julius, of the Augustan band. 2 Embarking in a ship of Adramyttium, which was about to sail to places on the coast of Asia, we put to sea, Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica being with us. 3 The next day, we touched at Sidon. Julius treated Paul kindly and gave him permission to go to his friends and refresh himself. 4 Putting to sea from there, we sailed under the lee of Cyprus, because the winds were contrary. 5 When we had sailed across the sea which is off Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra, a city of Lycia. 6 There the centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing for Italy, and he put us on board. 7 When we had sailed slowly many days, and had come with difficulty opposite Cnidus, the wind not allowing us further, we sailed under the lee of Crete, opposite Salmons. 8 With difficulty sailing along it we came to a certain place called Fair Havens, near the city of Lasea. 9 When much time had passed and the voyage was now dangerous because the Fast had now already gone by, Paul admonished them 10 and said to them, “Sirs, I perceive that the voyage will be with injury and much loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives.” 11 But the centurion gave more heed to the master and to the owner of the ship than to those things which were spoken by Paul. 12 Because the haven was not suitable to winter in, the majority advised going to sea from there, if by any means they could reach Phoenix and winter there, which is a port of Crete, looking southwest and northwest. 13 When the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, they weighed anchor and sailed along Crete, close to

shore. 14 But before long, a stormy wind beat down from shore, which is called Euroclydon. 15 When the ship was caught and could not face the wind, we gave way to it and were driven along. 16 Running under the lee of a small island called Clauda, we were able, with difficulty, to secure the boat. 17 After they had hoisted it up, they used cables to help reinforce the ship. Fearing that they would run aground on the Syrtis sand bars, they lowered the sea anchor, and so were driven along. 18 As we labored exceedingly with the storm, the next day they began to throw things overboard. 19 On the third day, they threw out the ship’s tackle with their own hands. 20 When neither sun nor stars shone on us for many days, and no small storm pressed on us, all hope that we would be saved was now taken away. 21 When they had been long without food, Paul stood up in the middle of them and said, “Sirs, you should have listened to me, and not have set sail from Crete and have gotten this injury and loss. 22 Now I exhort you to cheer up, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. 23 For there stood by me this night an angel, belonging to the God whose I am and whom I serve, 24 saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand before Caesar. Behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.’ 25 Therefore, sirs, cheer up! For I believe God, that it will be just as it has been spoken to me. 26 But we must run aground on a certain island.” 27 But when the fourteenth night had come, as we were driven back and forth in the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors surmised that they were drawing near to some land. 28 They took soundings and found twenty fathoms. After a little while, they took soundings again, and found fifteen fathoms. 29 Fearing that we would run aground on rocky ground, they let go four anchors from the stern, and wished for daylight. 30 As the sailors were trying to flee out of the ship and had lowered the boat into the sea, pretending that they would lay out anchors from the bow, 31 Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, “Unless these stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.” 32 Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the boat and let it fall off. 33 While the day was coming on, Paul begged them all to take some food, saying, “Today is the fourteenth day that you wait and continue fasting, having taken nothing. 34 Therefore I

beg you to take some food, for this is for your safety; for not a hair will perish from any of your heads.”  
35 When he had said this and had taken bread, he gave thanks to God in the presence of all; then he broke it and began to eat. 36 Then they all cheered up, and they also took food. 37 In all, we were two hundred seventy-six souls on the ship. 38 When they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, throwing out the wheat into the sea. 39 When it was day, they did not recognize the land, but they noticed a certain bay with a beach, and they decided to try to drive the ship onto it. 40 Casting off the anchors, they left them in the sea, at the same time untying the rudder ropes. Hoisting up the foresail to the wind, they made for the beach. 41 But coming to a place where two seas met, they ran the vessel aground. The bow struck and remained immovable, but the stern began to break up by the violence of the waves. 42 The soldiers' counsel was to kill the prisoners, so that none of them would swim out and escape. 43 But the centurion, desiring to save Paul, stopped them from their purpose, and commanded that those who could swim should throw themselves overboard first to go toward the land; 44 and the rest should follow, some on planks and some on other things from the ship. So they all escaped safely to the land.

**28** When we had escaped, then they learned that the island was called Malta. 2 The natives showed us uncommon kindness; for they kindled a fire and received us all, because of the present rain and because of the cold. 3 But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened on his hand. 4 When the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, “No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he has escaped from the sea, yet Justice has not allowed to live.” 5 However he shook off the creature into the fire, and was not harmed. 6 But they expected that he would have swollen or fallen down dead suddenly, but when they watched for a long time and saw nothing bad happen to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god. 7 Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the chief man of the island, named Publius, who received us and courteously entertained us for three days. 8 The

father of Publius lay sick of fever and dysentery. Paul entered in to him, prayed, and laying his hands on him, healed him. 9 Then when this was done, the rest also who had diseases in the island came and were cured. 10 They also honored us with many honors; and when we sailed, they put on board the things that we needed. 11 After three months, we set sail in a ship of Alexandria which had wintered in the island, whose figurehead was “The Twin Brothers.” 12 Touching at Syracuse, we stayed there three days. 13 From there we circled around and arrived at Rhegium. After one day, a south wind sprang up, and on the second day we came to Puteoli, 14 where we found brothers, and were entreated to stay with them for seven days. So we came to Rome. 15 From there the brothers, when they heard of us, came to meet us as far as The Market of Appius and The Three Taverns. When Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage. 16 When we entered into Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard, but Paul was allowed to stay by himself with the soldier who guarded him. 17 After three days Paul called together those who were the leaders of the Jews. When they had come together, he said to them, “I, brothers, though I had done nothing against the people or the customs of our fathers, still was delivered prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans, 18 who, when they had examined me, desired to set me free, because there was no cause of death in me. 19 But when the Jews spoke against it, I was constrained to appeal to Caesar, not that I had anything about which to accuse my nation. 20 For this cause therefore I asked to see you and to speak with you. For because of the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain.” 21 They said to him, “We neither received letters from Judea concerning you, nor did any of the brothers come here and report or speak any evil of you. 22 But we desire to hear from you what you think. For, as concerning this sect, it is known to us that everywhere it is spoken against.” 23 When they had appointed him a day, many people came to him at his lodging. He explained to them, testifying about God's Kingdom, and persuading them concerning Jesus, both from the law of Moses and from the prophets, from morning until evening. 24 Some believed the things which were spoken, and

some disbelieved. 25 When they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had spoken one message: "The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers, 26 saying, 'Go to this people and say, in hearing, you will hear, but will in no way understand. In seeing, you will see, but will in no way perceive. 27 For this people's heart has grown callous. Their ears are dull of hearing. Their eyes they have closed. Lest they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and would turn again, then I would heal them.' 28 "Be it known therefore to you that the salvation of God is sent to the nations, and they will listen." 29 When he had said these words, the Jews departed, having a great dispute among themselves. 30 Paul stayed two whole years in his own rented house and received all who were coming to him, 31 preaching God's Kingdom and teaching the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness, without hindrance.

# Romans

**1** Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the Good News of God, **2** which he promised before through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, **3** concerning his Son, who was born of the offspring of David according to the flesh, **4** who was declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, **5** through whom we received grace and apostleship for obedience of faith among all the nations for his name's sake; **6** among whom you are also called to belong to Jesus Christ; **7** to all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **8** First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, that your faith is proclaimed throughout the whole world. **9** For God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the Good News of his Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers, **10** requesting, if by any means now at last I may be prospered by the will of God to come to you. **11** For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, to the end that you may be established; **12** that is, that I with you may be encouraged in you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine. **13** Now I do not desire to have you unaware, brothers, that I often planned to come to you (and was hindered so far), that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles. **14** I am debtor both to Greeks and to foreigners, both to the wise and to the foolish. **15** So as much as is in me, I am eager to preach the Good News to you also who are in Rome. **16** For I am not ashamed of the Good News of Christ, because it is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first, and also for the Greek. **17** For in it is revealed God's righteousness from faith to faith. As it is written, "But the righteous shall live by faith." **18** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, **19** because that which is known of God is revealed in them, for God revealed it to them. **20** For the invisible things of him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that

are made, even his everlasting (**aidios g126**) power and divinity, that they may be without excuse. **21** Because knowing God, they did not glorify him as God, and did not give thanks, but became vain in their reasoning, and their senseless heart was darkened. **22** Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, **23** and traded the glory of the incorruptible God for the likeness of an image of corruptible man, and of birds, four-footed animals, and creeping things. **24** Therefore God also gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to uncleanness, that their bodies should be dishonored among themselves; **25** who exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed for the ages (**aiōn g165**). Amen. **26** For this reason, God gave them up to vile passions. For their women changed the natural function into that which is against nature. **27** Likewise also the men, leaving the natural function of the woman, burned in their lust toward one another, men doing what is inappropriate with men, and receiving in themselves the due penalty of their error. **28** Even as they refused to have God in their knowledge, God gave them up to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not fitting; **29** being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, malice; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil habits, secret slanderers, **30** backbiters, hateful to God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, **31** without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, unforgiving, unmerciful; **32** who, knowing the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but also approve of those who practice them.

**2** Therefore you are without excuse, O man, whoever you are who judge. For in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself. For you who judge practice the same things. **2** We know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. **3** Do you think this, O man who judges those who practice such things, and do the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? **4** Or do you despise the riches of his goodness, forbearance, and patience, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? **5** But according to your hardness and unrepentant heart you are treasuring

up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath, revelation, and of the righteous judgment of God, **6** who “will pay back to everyone according to their works.” **7** to those who by perseverance in well-doing seek for glory, honor, and incorruptibility, consummate (αιώνιος **g166**) life; **8** but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, will be wrath, indignation, **9** oppression, and anguish on every soul of man who does evil, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. **10** But glory, honor, and peace go to every man who does good, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. **11** For there is no partiality with God. **12** For as many as have sinned without the law will also perish without the law. As many as have sinned 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 the doers of the law will be justified **14** (for when Gentiles who do not have the law do by nature the things of the law, these, not having the law, are a law to themselves, **15** in that they show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience testifying with them, and their thoughts among themselves accusing or else excusing them) **16** in the day when God will judge the secrets of men, according to my Good News, by Jesus Christ. **17** Indeed you bear the name of a Jew, rest on the law, glory in God, **18** know his will, and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law, **19** and are confident that you yourself are a guide of the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, **20** a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of babies, having in the law the form of knowledge and of the truth. **21** You therefore who teach another, do not you teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? **22** You who say a man should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? **23** You who glory in the law, do you dishonor God by disobeying the law? **24** For “the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,” just as it is written. **25** For circumcision indeed profits, if you are a doer of the law, but if you are a transgressor of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. **26** If therefore the uncircumcised keep the ordinances of the law, will not his uncircumcision be accounted as circumcision? **27** Will not those who are physically

uncircumcised, but fulfill the law, judge you, who with the letter and circumcision are a transgressor of the law? **28** For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, neither is that circumcision which is outward in the flesh; **29** but he is a Jew who is one inwardly, and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men, but from God.

**3** Then what advantage does the Jew have? Or what is the profit of circumcision? **2** Much in every way! Because first of all, they were entrusted with the revelations of God. **3** For what if some were without faith? Will their lack of faith nullify the faithfulness of God? **4** May it never be! Yes, let God be found true, but every man a liar. As it is written, “that you might be justified in your words, and might prevail when you come into judgment.” **5** But if our unrighteousness commends the righteousness of God, what will we say? Is God unrighteous who inflicts wrath? I speak like men do. **6** May it never be! For then how will God judge the world? **7** For if the truth of God through my lie abounded to his glory, why am I also still judged as a sinner? **8** Why not (as we are slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say), “Let’s do evil, that good may come?” Those who say so are justly condemned. **9** What then? Are we better than they? No, in no way. For we previously warned both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. **10** As it is written, “There is no one righteous; no, not one. **11** There is no one who understands. There is no one who seeks after God. **12** They have all turned away. They have together become unprofitable. There is no one who does good, no, not so much as one.” **13** “Their throat is an open tomb. With their tongues they have used deceit.” “The poison of vipers is under their lips.” **14** “Their mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.” **15** “Their feet are swift to shed blood. **16** Destruction and misery are in their ways. **17** The way of peace, they have not known.” **18** “There is no fear of God before their eyes.” **19** Now we know that whatever things the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be closed, and all the world may be brought under the judgment of God. **20** Because by the works of the law, no flesh will be justified in his sight; for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. **21** But now apart from the law, a righteousness of God has been



revealed, being testified by the law and the prophets; 22 even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ to all and on all those who believe. For there is no distinction, 23 for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God; 24 being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God sent to be an atoning sacrifice through faith in his blood, for a demonstration of his righteousness through the passing over of prior sins, in God's forbearance; 26 to demonstrate his righteousness at this present time, that he might himself be just and the justifier of him who has faith in Jesus. 27 Where then is the boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith. 28 We maintain therefore that a man is justified by faith apart from the works of the law. 29 Or is God the God of Jews only? Is not he the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, 30 since indeed there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. 31 Do we then nullify the law through faith? May it never be! No, we establish the law.

**4** What then will we say that Abraham, our forefather, has found according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not toward God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." 4 Now to him who works, the reward is not counted as grace, but as something owed. 5 But to him who does not work, but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness. 6 Even as David also pronounces blessing on the man to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: 7 "Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, whose sins are covered. 8 Blessed is the man whom the Lord will by no means charge with sin." 9 Is this blessing then pronounced only on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness. 10 How then was it counted? When he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision. 11 He received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while he was in uncircumcision, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they might be in

uncircumcision, that righteousness might also be accounted to them. 12 He is the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had in uncircumcision. 13 For the promise to Abraham and to his offspring that he would be heir of the world was not through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. 14 For if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void, and the promise is made of no effect. 15 For the law produces wrath; for where there is no law, neither is there disobedience. 16 For this cause it is of faith, that it may be according to grace, to the end that the promise may be sure to all the offspring, not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all. 17 As it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations." This is in the presence of him whom he believed: God, who gives life to the dead, and calls the things that are not, as though they were. 18 Against hope, Abraham in hope believed, to the end that he might become a father of many nations, according to that which had been spoken, "So will your offspring be." 19 Without being weakened in faith, he did not consider his own body, already having been worn out, (he being about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. 20 Yet, looking to the promise of God, he did not waver through unbelief, but grew strong through faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully assured that what he had promised, he was also able to perform. 22 Therefore it also was "credited to him for righteousness." 23 Now it was not written that it was accounted to him for his sake alone, 24 but for our sake also, to whom it will be accounted, who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 who was delivered up for our trespasses, and was raised for our justification.

**5** Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ; 2 through whom we also have our access by faith into this grace in which we stand. We rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only this, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; 5 and hope does not

disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. 6 For while we were yet weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man. Yet perhaps for a good person someone would even dare to die. 8 But God commends his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we will be saved from God's wrath through him. 10 For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we will be saved by his life. 11 Not only so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation. 12 Therefore, as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin, so death passed to all men because all sinned. 13 For until the law, sin was in the world; but sin is not charged when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those whose sins were not like Adam's disobedience, who is a foreshadowing of him who was to come. 15 But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if by the trespass of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. 16 The gift is not as through one who sinned; for the judgment came by one to condemnation, but the free gift followed many trespasses to justification. 17 For if by the trespass of the one, death reigned through the one; so much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ. 18 So then as through one trespass, all men were condemned; even so through one act of righteousness, all men were justified to life. 19 For as through the one man's disobedience many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the one, many will be made righteous. 20 The law came in that the trespass might abound; but where sin abounded, grace abounded more exceedingly, 21 that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to consummate (αἰῶνιος g166) life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**6** What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 May it never be! We

who died to sin, how could we live in it any longer? 3 Or do not you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we will also be part of his resurrection; 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be in bondage to sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin. 8 But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him, 9 knowing that Christ, being raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over him! 10 For the death that he died, he died to sin one time; but the life that he lives, he lives to God. 11 Thus consider yourselves also to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 Also, do not present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin will not have dominion over you, for you are not under law, but under grace. 15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! 16 Do not you know that when you present yourselves as servants and obey someone, you are the servants of whomever you obey, whether of sin to death, or of obedience to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God that, whereas you were bondservants of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were delivered. 18 Being made free from sin, you became bondservants of righteousness. 19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh; for as you presented your members as servants to uncleanness and to wickedness upon wickedness, even so now present your members as servants to righteousness for sanctification. 20 For when you were servants of sin, you were free from righteousness. 21 What fruit then did you have at that time in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 22 But now, being

made free from sin and having become servants of God, you have your fruit of sanctification and the result of consummate (αιῶνιος g166) life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is consummate (αιῶνιος g166) life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**7** Or do not you know, brothers (for I speak to men who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man for as long as he lives? 2 For the woman that has a husband is bound by law to the husband while he lives, but if the husband dies, she is discharged from the law of the husband. 3 So then if, while the husband lives, she is joined to another man, she would be called an adulteress. But if the husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is no adulteress, though she is joined to another man. 4 Therefore, my brothers, you also were made dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you would be joined to another, to him who was raised from the dead, that we might produce fruit to God. 5 For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were through the law worked in our members to bring out fruit to death. 6 But now we have been discharged from the law, having died to that in which we were held; so that we serve in newness of the spirit, and not in oldness of the letter. 7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? May it never be! However, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known coveting unless the law had said, "You shall not covet." 8 But sin, finding occasion through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of coveting. For apart from the law, sin is dead. 9 I was alive apart from the law once, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. 10 The commandment which was for life, this I found to be for death; 11 for sin, finding occasion through the commandment, deceived me, and through it killed me. 12 Therefore the law indeed is holy, and the commandment holy, righteous, and good. 13 Did then that which is good become death to me? May it never be! But sin, that it might be shown to be sin, was producing death in me through that which is good; that through the commandment sin might become exceedingly sinful. 14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am fleshly, sold under sin. 15 For I do not understand what I am doing. For I do not practice

what I desire to do; but what I hate, that I do. 16 But if what I do not desire, that I do, I consent to the law that it is good. 17 So now it is no more I that do it, but sin which dwells in me. 18 For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, dwells no good thing. For desire is present with me, but I do not find it doing that which is good. 19 For the good which I desire, I do not do; but the evil which I do not desire, that I practice. 20 But if what I do not desire, that I do, it is no more I that do it, but sin which dwells in me. 21 I find then the law that, while I desire to do good, evil is present. 22 For I delight in God's law after the inward person, 23 but I see a different law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity under the law of sin which is in my members. 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will deliver me out of the body of this death? 25 I thank God through Jesus Christ, our Lord! So then with the mind, I myself serve God's law, but with the flesh, sin's law.

**8** There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus made me free from the law of sin and of death. 3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God did, sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the ordinance of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For 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 toward God, for it is not subject to God's law, neither indeed can it be. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if it is so that the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if any man does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not his. 10 If Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the spirit is alive because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of him who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised up Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. 12 So then, brothers, we are debtors,

not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. **13** For if you live after the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. **14** For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are children of God. **15** For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" **16** The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God; **17** and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with him, that we may also be glorified with him. **18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which will be revealed toward us. **19** For the creation waits with eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. **20** For the creation was subjected to vanity, not of its own will, but because of him who subjected it, in hope **21** that the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of decay into the liberty of the glory of the children of God. **22** For we know that the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now. **23** Not only so, but ourselves also, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for adoption, the redemption of our body. **24** For we were saved in hope, but hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for that which he sees? **25** But if we hope for that which we do not see, we wait for it with patience. **26** In the same way, the Spirit also helps our weaknesses, for we do not know how to pray as we ought. But the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. **27** He who searches the hearts knows what is on the Spirit's mind, because he makes intercession for the saints according to God. **28** We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose. **29** For whom he foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. **30** Whom he predestined, those he also called. Whom he called, those he also justified. Whom he justified, those he also glorified. **31** What then shall we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? **32** He who did not spare his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how would he not also with him freely give

us all things? **33** Who could bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who justifies. **34** Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, yes rather, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. **35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Could oppression, or anguish, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? **36** Even as it is written, "For your sake we are killed all day long. We were accounted as sheep for the slaughter." **37** No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **38** For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from God's love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**9** I tell the truth in Christ. I am not lying, my conscience testifying with me in the Holy Spirit **2** that I have great sorrow and unceasing pain in my heart. **3** For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brothers' sake, my relatives according to the flesh **4** who are Israelites; whose is the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service, and the promises; **5** of whom are the fathers, and from whom is Christ as concerning the flesh, who is over all, God, blessed for the ages (aiōn g165). Amen. **6** But it is not as though the word of God has come to nothing. For they are not all Israel that are of Israel. **7** Neither, because they are Abraham's offspring, are they all children. But, "your offspring will be accounted as from Isaac." **8** That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as heirs. **9** For this is a word of promise: "At the appointed time I will come, and Sarah will have a son." **10** Not only so, but Rebekah also conceived by one, by our father Isaac. **11** For being not yet born, neither having done anything good or bad, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him who calls, **12** it was said to her, "The elder will serve the younger." **13** Even as it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated." **14** What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? May it never be! **15** For he said to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will

have compassion on whom I have compassion.” 16 I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. 4 For Christ is the fulfillment of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. 5 For Moses writes about the righteousness of the law, “The one who does them will live by them.” 6 But the righteousness which is of faith says this, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ (that is, to bring Christ down); 7 or, ‘Who will descend into the Abyss (Abysos g12)?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead.)” 8 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart;” that is, the word of faith which we preach: 9 that if you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes resulting in righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made resulting in salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, and is rich to all who call on him. 13 For, “Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.” 14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in him whom they have not heard? How will they hear without a preacher? 15 And how will they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the Good News of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!” 16 But they did not all listen to the glad news. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our report?” 17 So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. 18 But I say, did not they hear? Yes, most certainly, “Their sound went out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.” 19 But I ask, did not Israel know? First Moses says, “I will provoke you to jealousy with that which is no nation. I will make you angry with a nation void of understanding.” 20 Isaiah is very bold and says, “I was found by those who did not seek me. I was revealed to those who did not ask for me.” 21 But about Israel he says, “All day long I stretched out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people.”

**10** Brothers, my heart’s desire and my prayer to God is for Israel, that they may be saved. 2 For

**11** I ask then, did God reject his people? May it never be! For I also am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. Or do not you know what the Scripture says about Elijah? How he pleads with God against Israel: "Lord, they have killed your prophets. They have broken down your altars. I am left alone, and they seek my life." But how does God answer him? "I have reserved for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal." Even so too at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work. What then? That which Israel seeks for, that he did not obtain, but the chosen ones obtained it, and the rest were hardened. According as it is written, "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear, to this very day." David says, "Let their table be made a snare, a trap, a stumbling block, and a retribution to them. Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see. Always keep their backs bent." I ask then, did they stumble that they might fall? May it never be! But by their fall salvation has come to the Gentiles, to provoke them to jealousy. Now if their fall is the riches of the world, and their loss the riches of the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! For I speak to you who are Gentiles. Since then as I am an apostle to Gentiles, I glorify my ministry, if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh, and may save some of them. For if the rejection of them is the reconciling of the world, what would their acceptance be, but life from the dead? If the first fruit is holy, so is the lump. If the root is holy, so are the branches. But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the root and of the richness of the olive tree, do not boast over the branches. But if you boast, remember that it is not you who support the root, but the root supports you. You will say then, "Branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in." True; by their unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by

your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear; for if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. See then the goodness and severity of God. Toward those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in his goodness; otherwise you also will be cut off. They also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. For if you were cut out of that which is by nature a wild olive tree, and were grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree, how much more will these, which are the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? For I do not desire you to be ignorant, brothers, of this mystery, so that you will not be wise in your own conceits, that a partial hardening has happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in, and so all Israel will be saved. Even as it is written, "There will come out of Zion the Deliverer, and he will turn away ungodliness from Jacob. This is my covenant with them, when I will take away their sins." Concerning the Good News, they are enemies for your sake. But concerning the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sake. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. For as you in time past were disobedient to God, but now have obtained mercy by their disobedience, even so these also have now been disobedient, that by the mercy shown to you they may also obtain mercy. For God has bound all to disobedience, in order to have mercy (ελεῆσε γ1653) on all. Oh the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past tracing out! "For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" "Or who has first given to him, and it will be repaid to him again?" For of him, and through him, and to him are all things. To him be the glory for the ages (αἰῶν γ165) Amen.

**12** Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service. Do not be conformed to this age (αἰῶν γ165), but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and perfect will of God. For I say through the grace that was given me, to everyone who is among you, not to think

of yourself more highly than you ought to think; but to think reasonably, as God has apportioned to each person a measure of faith. **4** For even as we have many members in one body, and all the members do not have the same function, **5** so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another, **6** having gifts differing according to the grace that was given to us: if prophecy, let's prophesy according to the proportion of our faith; **7** or service, let's give ourselves to service; or he who teaches, to his teaching; **8** or he who exhorts, to his exhorting; he who gives, let him do it with generosity; he who rules, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. **9** Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor that which is evil. Cling to that which is good. **10** In love of the brothers be tenderly affectionate to one another; in honor prefer one another, **11** not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord, **12** rejoicing in hope, enduring in troubles, continuing steadfastly in prayer, **13** contributing to the needs of the saints, and given to hospitality. **14** Bless those who persecute you; bless, and do not curse. **15** Rejoice with those who rejoice. Weep with those who weep. **16** Be of the same mind one toward another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own conceits. **17** Repay no one evil for evil. Respect what is honorable in the sight of all men. **18** If it is possible, as much as it is up to you, be at peace with all men. **19** Do not seek revenge yourselves, beloved, but give place to God's wrath. For it is written, "Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay, says the Lord." **20** Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in doing so, you will heap coals of fire on his head." **21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**13** Let every soul be in subjection to the higher authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those who exist are ordained by God. **2** Therefore he who resists the authority withstands the ordinance of God; and those who withstand will receive to themselves judgment. **3** For rulers are not a terror to the good work, but to the evil. Do you desire to have no fear of the authority? Do that which is good, and you will have praise from the authority, **4** for he is a servant of God to you for good. But if

you do that which is evil, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is a servant of God, an avenger for wrath to him who does evil. **5** Therefore you need to be in subjection, not only because of the wrath, but also for conscience' sake. **6** For this reason you also pay taxes, for they are servants of God's service, continually doing this very thing. **7** Therefore give everyone what you owe: if you owe taxes, pay taxes; if customs, then customs; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. **8** Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. **9** For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other commandments there are, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." **10** Love does not harm a neighbor. Love therefore is the fulfillment of the law. **11** Do this, knowing the time, that it is already time for you to awaken out of sleep, for salvation is now nearer to us than when we first believed. **12** The night is far gone, and the day is near. Let's therefore throw off the deeds of darkness, and let's put on the armor of light. **13** Let's walk properly, as in the day; not in reveling and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and lustful acts, and not in strife and jealousy. **14** But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, for its lusts.

**14** Now accept one who is weak in faith, but not for disputes over opinions. **2** One man has faith to eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. **3** Do not let him who eats despise him who does not eat. Do not let him who does not eat judge him who eats, for God has accepted him. **4** Who are you who judge another's servant? To his own lord he stands or falls. Yes, he will be made to stand, for God has power to make him stand. **5** One man esteems one day as more important. Another esteems every day alike. Let each man be fully assured in his own mind. **6** He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks. He who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks. **7** For none of us lives to himself, and none dies to himself. **8** For if we live,

we live to the Lord. Or if we die, we die to the Lord. If therefore we live or die, we are the Lord's. **9** For to this end Christ died, rose, and lived again, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. **10** But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. **11** For it is written, "As I live," says the Lord, "to me every knee will bow. Every tongue will confess to God." **12** So then each one of us will give account of himself to God. **13** Therefore let's not judge one another any more, but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block in his brother's way, or an occasion for falling. **14** I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean of itself; except that to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean. **15** Yet if because of food your brother is grieved, you walk no longer in love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died. **16** Then do not let your good be slandered, **17** for God's Kingdom is not eating and drinking, but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. **18** For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men. **19** So then, let's follow after things which make for peace, and things by which we may build one another up. **20** Do not overthrow God's work for food's sake. All things indeed are clean, however it is evil for that man who creates a stumbling block by eating. **21** It is good to not eat meat, drink wine, nor do anything by which your brother stumbles, is offended, or is made weak. **22** Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Happy is he who does not judge himself in that which he approves. **23** But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because it is not of faith; and whatever is not of faith is sin.

**15** Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of the weak, and not to please ourselves. **2** Let each one of us please his neighbor for that which is good, to be building him up. **3** For even Christ did not please himself. But, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me." **4** For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that through perseverance and through encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. **5** Now the God of perseverance and of encouragement grant you to

be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, **6** that with one accord you may with one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. **7** Therefore accept one another, even as Christ also accepted you, to the glory of God. **8** Now I say that Christ has been made a servant of the circumcision for the truth of God, that he might confirm the promises given to the fathers, **9** and that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will give praise to you among the Gentiles and sing to your name." **10** Again he says, "Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people." **11** Again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Let all the peoples praise him." **12** Again, Isaiah says, "There will be the root of Jesse, he who arises to rule over the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles will hope." **13** Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope in the power of the Holy Spirit. **14** I myself am also persuaded about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish others. **15** But I write the more boldly to you in part as reminding you, because of the grace that was given to me by God, **16** that I should be a servant of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, serving as a priest of the Good News of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be made acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. **17** I have therefore my boasting in Christ Jesus in things pertaining to God. **18** For I will not dare to speak of any things except those which Christ worked through me for the obedience of the Gentiles, by word and deed, **19** in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of God's Spirit; so that from Jerusalem and around as far as to Illyricum, I have fully preached the Good News of Christ; **20** yes, making it my aim to preach the Good News, not where Christ was already named, that I might not build on another's foundation. **21** But, as it is written, "They will see, to whom no news of him came. They who have not heard will understand." **22** Therefore also I was hindered these many times from coming to you, **23** but now, no longer having any place in these regions, and having these many years a longing to come to you, **24** whenever I travel to Spain, I will come to you. For I hope to see you on my journey, and to be helped on my way there by you, if first I



may enjoy your company for a while. **25** But now, I say, I am going to Jerusalem, serving the saints. **26** For it has been the good pleasure of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are at Jerusalem. **27** Yes, it has been their good pleasure, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, they owe it to them also to serve them in material things. **28** When therefore I have accomplished this, and have sealed to them this fruit, I will go on by way of you to Spain. **29** I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of the Good News of Christ. **30** Now I beg you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in your prayers to God for me, **31** that I may be delivered from those who are disobedient in Judea, and that my service which I have for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, **32** that I may come to you in joy through the will of God, and together with you, find rest. **33** Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

**16** I commend to you Phoebe, our sister, who is a servant of the assembly that is at Cenchreae, **2** that you receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and that you assist her in whatever matter she may need from you, for she herself also has been a helper of many, and of my own self. **3** Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, **4** who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the assemblies of the Gentiles. **5** Greet the assembly that is in their house. Greet Epänetus, my beloved, who is the first fruits of Achaia to Christ. **6** Greet Mary, who labored much for us. **7** Greet Andronicus and Junia, my relatives and my fellow prisoners, who are notable among the apostles, who were also in Christ before me. **8** Greet Amplias, my beloved in the Lord. **9** Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and Stachys, my beloved. **10** Greet Apelles, the approved in Christ. Greet those who are of the household of Aristobulus. **11** Greet Herodion, my kinsman. Greet them of the household of Narcissus, who are in the Lord. **12** Greet Tryphaena and Tryphosa, who labor in the Lord. Greet Persis, the beloved, who labored much in the Lord. **13** Greet Rufus, the chosen in the Lord, and

his mother and mine. **14** Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers who are with them. **15** Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them. **16** Greet one another with a holy kiss. The assemblies of Christ greet you. **17** Now I beg you, brothers, look out for those who are causing the divisions and occasions of stumbling, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and turn away from them. **18** For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the innocent. **19** For your obedience has become known to all. I rejoice therefore over you. But I desire to have you wise in that which is good, but innocent in that which is evil. **20** And the God of peace will quickly crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **21** Timothy, my fellow worker, greets you, as do Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my relatives. **22** I, Tertius, who write the letter, greet you in the Lord. **23** Gaius, my host and host of the whole assembly, greets you. Erastus, the treasurer of the city, greets you, as does Quartus, the brother. **24** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all! Amen. **25** Now to him who is able to establish you according to my Good News and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret through long ages (aiōnios g166), **26** but now is revealed, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the consummate (aiōnios g166) God, is made known for obedience of faith to all the nations; **27** to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for the ages (aiōn g165) of the ages (aiōn g165)! Amen.

# Ephesians

**1** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, to the saints who are at Ephesus, and the faithful in Christ Jesus: **2** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, **4** even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and without defect before him in love, **5** having predestined us for adoption as children through Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his desire, **6** to the praise of the glory of his grace, by which he freely gave us favor in the Beloved. **7** In him we have our redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace **8** which he made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, **9** making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he purposed in him **10** to an administration of the fullness of the times, to sum up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in him. **11** We were also assigned an inheritance in him, having been foreordained according to the purpose of him who does all things after the counsel of his will, **12** to the end that we should be to the praise of his glory, we who had before hoped in Christ. **13** In him you also, having heard the word of the truth, the Good News of your salvation—in whom, having also believed, you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, **14** who is a pledge of our inheritance, to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of his glory. **15** For this cause I also, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which is among you and the love which you have toward all the saints, **16** do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers, **17** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him, **18** having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of his calling, and what are the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, **19** and what is the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to that working of

the strength of his might **20** which he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and made him to sit at his right hand in the heavenly places, **21** far above all rule, authority, power, dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age (αἰὼν g165), but also in that which is to come. **22** He put all things in subjection under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things for the assembly, **23** which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

**2** You were made alive when you were dead in transgressions and sins, **2** in which you once walked according to the course of this age (αἰὼν g165), according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the children of disobedience. **3** We also all once lived among them in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. **4** But God, being rich in mercy, for his great love with which he loved us, **5** even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— **6** and raised us up with him, and made us to sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** that in the ages (αἰὼν g165) to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus; **8** for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, **9** not of works, that no one would boast. **10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before that we would walk in them. **11** Therefore remember that once you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “uncircumcision” by that which is called “circumcision” (in the flesh, made by hands), **12** that you were at that time separate from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of the promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **13** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off are made near in the blood of Christ. **14** For he is our peace, who made both one, and broke down the middle wall of separation, **15** having abolished in his flesh the hostility, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man of the two, making peace, **16** and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, having killed the

hostility through it. 17 He came and preached peace to you who were far off and to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God, 20 being built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief cornerstone; 21 in whom the whole building, fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord; 22 in whom you also are built together for a habitation of God in the Spirit.

**3** For this cause I, Paul, am the prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles, 2 if it is so that you have heard of the administration of that grace of God which was given me toward you, 3 how that by revelation the mystery was made known to me, as I wrote before in few words, 4 by which, when you read, you can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ, 5 which in other generations was not made known to the children of men, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit, 6 that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of his promise in Christ Jesus through the Good News, 7 of which I was made a servant according to the gift of that grace of God which was given me according to the working of his power. 8 To me, the very least of all saints, was this grace given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to make all men see what is the administration of the mystery which for ages (αιῶν g165) has been hidden in God, who created all things through Jesus Christ, 10 to the intent that now through the assembly the manifold wisdom of God might be made known to the principalities and the powers in the heavenly places, 11 according to the purpose of the ages (αιῶν g165) which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. 12 In him we have boldness and access in confidence through our faith in him. 13 Therefore I ask that you may not lose heart at my troubles for you, which are your glory. 14 For this cause, I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, that you may be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner person, 17 that Christ may dwell in

your hearts through faith, to the end that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be strengthened to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and height and depth, 19 and to know Christ's love which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to him be the glory in the assembly and in Christ Jesus to all generations for the age (αιῶν g165) of the ages (αιῶν g165). Amen.

**4** I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and humility, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 being eager to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, even as you also were called in one hope of your calling, 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. 7 But to each one of us, the grace was given according to the measure of the gift of Christ. 8 Therefore he says, "When he ascended on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts to people." 9 Now this, "He ascended", what is it but that he also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things. 11 He gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, shepherds and teachers; 12 for the perfecting of the saints, to the work of serving, to the building up of the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a full grown man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 that we may no longer be children, tossed back and forth and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in craftiness, after the wiles of error; 15 but speaking truth in love, we may grow up in all things into him who is the head, Christ, 16 from whom all the body, being fitted and knit together through that which every joint supplies, according to the working in measure of each individual part, makes the body increase to the building up of itself in love. 17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles also

walk, in the futility of their mind, **18** being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardening of their hearts. **19** They, having become callous, gave themselves up to lust, to work all uncleanness with greediness. **20** But you did not learn Christ that way, **21** if indeed you heard him and were taught in him, even as truth is in Jesus: **22** that you put away, as concerning your former way of life, the old man that grows corrupt after the lusts of deceit, **23** and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, **24** and put on the new man, who in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of truth. **25** Therefore, putting away falsehood, speak truth each one with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. **26** "Be angry, and do not sin." Do not let the sun go down on your wrath, **27** and do not give place to the devil. **28** Let him who stole steal no more; but rather let him labor, producing with his hands something that is good, that he may have something to give to him who has need. **29** Let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth, but only what is good for building others up as the need may be, that it may give grace to those who hear. **30** Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **31** Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, outcry, and slander be put away from you, with all malice. **32** And be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving each other, just as God also in Christ forgave you.

**5** Be therefore imitators of God, as beloved children.

**2** Walk in love, even as Christ also loved us and gave himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling fragrance. **3** But sexual immorality, and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be mentioned among you, as becomes saints; **4** nor filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not appropriate, but rather giving of thanks. **5** Know this for sure, that no sexually immoral person, nor unclean person, nor covetous man (who is an idolater), has any inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and God. **6** Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes on the children of disobedience. **7** Therefore do not be partakers with them. **8** For you were once darkness, but are now light in the Lord. Walk as children of

light, **9** for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth, **10** proving what is well pleasing to the Lord. **11** Have no fellowship with the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but rather even reprove them. **12** For it is a shame even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. **13** But all things, when they are reproved, are revealed by the light, for everything that reveals is light. **14** Therefore he says, "Awake, you who sleep, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." **15** Therefore watch carefully 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 what the will of the Lord is. **18** Do not be drunken with wine, in which is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, **19** speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs; singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; **20** giving thanks always concerning all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; **21** subjecting yourselves to one another in the fear of Christ. **22** Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. **23** For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the assembly, being himself the savior of the body. **24** But as the assembly is subject to Christ, so let the wives also be to their own husbands in everything. **25** Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the assembly and gave himself up for her, **26** that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, **27** that he might present the assembly to himself gloriously, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without defect. **28** Even so husbands also ought to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself. **29** For no man ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, even as the Lord also does the assembly, **30** because we are members of his body, of his flesh and bones. **31** "For this cause a man will leave his father and mother and will be joined to his wife. Then the two will become one flesh." **32** This mystery is great, but I speak concerning Christ and the assembly. **33** Nevertheless each of you must also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

**6** 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 be well with you, and you may live long on the earth." **4** You fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but nurture them in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. **5** Servants, be obedient to those who according to the flesh are your masters, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as to Christ, **6** not in the way of service only when eyes are on you, as men pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, **7** with good will doing service as to the Lord and not to men, **8** knowing that whatever good thing each one does, he will receive the same good again from the Lord, whether he is bound or free. **9** You masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with him. **10** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. **11** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. **12** For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world's rulers of this darkness, and against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. **13** Therefore put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. **14** Stand therefore, having the utility belt of truth buckled around your waist, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, **15** and having fitted your feet with the preparation of the Good News of peace, **16** above all, taking up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. **17** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; **18** with all prayer and requests, praying at all times in the Spirit, and being watchful to this end in all perseverance and requests for all the saints. **19** Pray for me, that utterance may be given to me in opening my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the Good News, **20** for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. **21** But that you also may know my affairs, how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful servant in the Lord,

will make known to you all things. **22** I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know our state and that he may comfort your hearts. **23** Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **24** Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love. Amen.

# Titus

**1** Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's chosen ones and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, **2** in hope of the consummate (αἰῶνιος g166) life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began; **3** but in his own time revealed his word in the message with which I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior, **4** to Titus, my true child according to a common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior. **5** I left you in Crete for this reason, that you would set in order the things that were lacking and appoint elders in every city, as I directed you— **6** if anyone is blameless, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, who are not accused of loose or unruly behavior. **7** For the overseer must be blameless, as God's steward, not self-pleasing, not easily angered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for dishonest gain; **8** but given to hospitality, a lover of good, sober minded, fair, holy, self-controlled, **9** holding to the faithful word which is according to the teaching, that he may be able to exhort in the sound doctrine, and to convict those who contradict him. **10** For there are also many unruly men, vain talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, **11** whose mouths must be stopped: men who overthrow whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for dishonest gain's sake. **12** One of them, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, and idle gluttons." **13** This testimony is true. For this cause, reprove them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, **14** not paying attention to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn away from the truth. **15** To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their mind and their conscience are defiled. **16** They profess that they know God, but by their deeds they deny him, being abominable, disobedient, and unfit for any good work.

**2** But say the things which fit sound doctrine, **2** that older men should be temperate, sensible, sober minded, sound in faith, in love, and in perseverance, **3**

and that older women likewise be reverent in behavior, not slanderers nor enslaved to much wine, teachers of that which is good, **4** that they may train the young wives to love their husbands, to love their children, **5** to be sober minded, chaste, workers at home, kind, being in subjection to their own husbands, that God's word may not be blasphemed. **6** Likewise, exhort the younger men to be sober minded. **7** In all things show yourself an example of good works. In your teaching, show integrity, seriousness, incorruptibility, **8** and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, that he who opposes you may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say about us. **9** Exhort servants to be in subjection to their own masters and to be well-pleasing in all things, not contradicting, **10** not stealing, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God, our Savior, in all things. **11** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, **12** instructing us to the intent that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we would live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age (αἰῶν g165); **13** looking for the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, **14** who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people for his own possession, zealous for good works. **15** Say these things and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one despise you.

**3** Remind them to be in subjection to rulers and to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, **2** to speak evil of no one, not to be contentious, to be gentle, showing all humility toward all men. **3** For we were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. **4** But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love toward mankind appeared, **5** not by works of righteousness which we did ourselves, but according to his mercy, he saved us through the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, **6** whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior; **7** that being justified by his grace, we might be made heirs according to the hope of the consummate (αἰῶνιος g166) life. **8** This saying is faithful, and concerning these things I desire that you insist confidently, so that those who have believed God

may be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men; **9** but shun foolish questionings, genealogies, strife, and disputes about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain. **10** Avoid a factious man after a first and second warning, **11** knowing that such a one is perverted and sinful, being self-condemned. **12** When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, be diligent to come to me to Nicopolis, for I have determined to winter there. **13** Send Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey speedily, that nothing may be lacking for them. **14** Let our people also learn to maintain good works to meet necessary needs, that they may not be unfruitful. **15** All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

# Hebrews

**1** God, having in the past spoken to the fathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, **2** has at the end of these days spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom also he made the ages (αἰῶν γ165). **3** His Son is the radiance of his glory, the very image of his substance, and upholding all things by the word of his power, who, when he had by himself purified us of our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high, **4** having become as much better than the angels as the more excellent name he has inherited is better than theirs. **5** For to which of the angels did he say at any time, "You are my Son. Today I have become your father?" and again, "I will be to him a Father, and he will be to me a Son?" **6** When he again brings in the firstborn into the world he says, "Let all the angels of God worship him." **7** Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants a flame of fire." **8** But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is for the age (αἰῶν γ165) of the ages (αἰῶν γ165). The scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your Kingdom. **9** You have loved righteousness and hated iniquity; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellows." **10** And, "You, Lord, in the beginning, laid the foundation of the earth. The heavens are the works of your hands. **11** They will perish, but you continue. They all will grow old like a garment does. **12** You will roll them up like a mantle, and they will be changed; but you are the same. Your years will not fail." **13** But which of the angels has he told at any time, "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies the footstool of your feet?" **14** Are not they all serving spirits, sent out to do service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

**2** Therefore we ought to pay greater attention to the things that were heard, lest perhaps we drift away. **2** For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, **3** how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation—which at the first having been spoken through the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard, **4** God also testifying with

them, both by signs and wonders, by various works of power, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his own will? **5** For he did not subject the world to come, of which we speak, to angels. **6** But one has somewhere testified, saying, "What is man, that you think of him? Or the son of man, that you care for him? **7** You made him a little lower than the angels. You crowned him with glory and honor. **8** You have put all things in subjection under his feet." For in that he subjected all things to him, he left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him. **9** But we see him who has been made a little lower than the angels, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of God he should taste of death for everyone. **10** For it became him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in bringing many children to glory, to make the author of their salvation perfect through sufferings. **11** For both he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one, for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brothers, **12** saying, "I will declare your name to my brothers. Among the congregation I will sing your praise." **13** Again, "I will put my trust in him." Again, "Behold, here I am with the children whom God has given me." **14** Since then the children have shared in flesh and blood, he also himself in the same way partook of the same, that through death he might bring to nothing him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, **15** and might deliver all of them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. **16** For most certainly, he does not give help to angels, but he gives help to the offspring of Abraham. **17** Therefore he was obligated in all things to be made like his brothers, that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make atonement for the sins of the people. **18** For in that he himself has suffered being tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

**3** Therefore, holy brothers, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession: Jesus, **2** who was faithful to him who appointed him, as also Moses was in all his house. **3** For he has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, because he who built the house has more honor than the house. **4** For every house



is built by someone; but he who built all things is God. **5** Moses indeed was faithful in all his house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were afterward to be spoken, **6** but Christ is faithful as a Son over his house. We are his house, if we hold fast our confidence and the glorying of our hope firm to the end. **7** Therefore, even as the Holy Spirit says, "Today if you will hear his voice, **8** do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of the trial in the wilderness, **9** where your fathers tested me and tried me, and saw my deeds for forty years. **10** Therefore I was displeased with that generation, and said, 'They always err in their heart, but they did not know my ways.' **11** As I swore in my wrath, 'They will not enter into my rest.'" **12** Beware, brothers, lest perhaps there might be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief, in falling away from the living God; **13** but exhort one another day by day, so long as it is called "today", lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. **14** For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence firm to the end, **15** while it is said, "Today if you will hear his voice, do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion." **16** For who, when they heard, rebelled? Was not it all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses? **17** With whom was he displeased forty years? Was not it with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? **18** To whom did he swear that they would not enter into his rest, but to those who were disobedient? **19** We see that they were not able to enter in because of unbelief.

**4** Let's fear therefore, lest perhaps anyone of you should seem to have come short of a promise of entering into his rest. **2** For indeed we have had good news preached to us, even as they also did, but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not mixed with faith by those who heard. **3** For we who have believed do enter into that rest, even as he has said, "As I swore in my wrath, they will not enter into my rest;" although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. **4** For he has said this somewhere about the seventh day, "God rested on the seventh day from all his works;" **5** and in this place again, "They will not enter into my rest." **6** Seeing therefore it remains that some should enter into it, and they to whom the good news was preached before

failed to enter in because of disobedience, **7** he again defines a certain day, "today", saying through David so long a time afterward (just as has been said), "Today if you will hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." **8** For if Joshua had given them rest, he would not have spoken afterward of another day. **9** There remains therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of God. **10** For he who has entered into his rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from his. **11** Let's therefore give diligence to enter into that rest, lest anyone fall after the same example of disobedience. **12** For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and is able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart. **13** There is no creature that is hidden from his sight, but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him to whom we must give an account. **14** Having then a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let's hold tightly to our confession. **15** For we do not have a high priest who cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but one who has been in all points tempted like we are, yet without sin. **16** Let's therefore draw near with boldness to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace for help in time of need.

**5** For every high priest, being taken from among men, is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. **2** The high priest can deal gently with those who are ignorant and going astray, because he himself is also surrounded with weakness. **3** Because of this, he must offer sacrifices for sins for the people, as well as for himself. **4** Nobody takes this honor on himself, but he is called by God, just like Aaron was. **5** So also Christ did not glorify himself to be made a high priest, but it was he who said to him, "You are my Son. Today I have become your father." **6** As he says also in another place, "You are a priest for the age (αιων g165), after the order of Melchizedek." **7** He, in the days of his flesh, having offered up prayers and petitions with strong crying and tears to him who was able to save him from death, and having been heard for his godly fear, **8** though he was a Son, yet learned obedience by the things which he

suffered. **9** Having been made perfect, he became to all of those who obey him the author of consummate (αιῶnios g166) salvation, **10** named by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek. **11** About him we have many words to say, and hard to interpret, seeing you have become dull of hearing. **12** For although by this time you should be teachers, you again need to have someone teach you the rudiments of the first principles of the revelations of God. You have come to need milk, and not solid food. **13** For everyone who lives on milk is not experienced in the word of righteousness, for he is a baby. **14** But solid food is for those who are full grown, who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern good and evil.

**6** Therefore leaving the teaching of the first principles of Christ, let's press on to perfection—not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works, of faith toward God, **2** of the teaching of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of consummate (αιῶnios g166) judgment. **3** This will we do, if God permits. **4** For concerning those who were once enlightened and tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, **5** and tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age (αιῶν g165) to come, **6** and then fell away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance; seeing they crucify the Son of God for themselves again, and put him to open shame. **7** For the land which has drunk the rain that comes often on it and produces a crop suitable for them for whose sake it is also tilled, receives blessing from God; **8** but if it bears thorns and thistles, it is rejected and near being cursed, whose end is to be burned. **9** But, beloved, we are persuaded of better things for you, and things that accompany salvation, even though we speak like this. **10** For God is not unrighteous, so as to forget your work and the labor of love which you showed toward his name, in that you served the saints, and still do serve them. **11** We desire that each one of you may show the same diligence to the fullness of hope even to the end, **12** that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and perseverance inherited the promises. **13** For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he could swear by no one greater, he swore by himself, **14** saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply

you." **15** Thus, having patiently endured, he obtained the promise. **16** For men indeed swear by a greater one, and in every dispute of theirs the oath is final for confirmation. **17** In this way God, being determined to show more abundantly to the heirs of the promise the immutability of his counsel, interposed with an oath, **18** that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we may have a strong encouragement, who have fled for refuge to take hold of the hope set before us. **19** This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and entering into that which is within the veil, **20** where as a forerunner Jesus entered for us, having become a high priest for the age (αιῶν g165) after the order of Melchizedek.

**7** For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of God Most High, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, **2** to whom also Abraham divided a tenth part of all (being first, by interpretation, "king of righteousness", and then also "king of Salem", which means "king of peace", **3** without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God), remains a priest continually. **4** Now consider how great this man was, to whom even Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth out of the best plunder. **5** They indeed of the sons of Levi who receive the priest's office have a commandment to take tithes from the people according to the law, that is, of their brothers, though these have come out of the body of Abraham, **6** but he whose genealogy is not counted from them has accepted tithes from Abraham, and has blessed him who has the promises. **7** But without any dispute the lesser is blessed by the greater. **8** Here people who die receive tithes, but there one receives tithes of whom it is testified that he lives. **9** We can say that through Abraham even Levi, who receives tithes, has paid tithes, **10** for he was yet in the body of his father when Melchizedek met him. **11** Now if perfection was through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people have received the law), what further need was there for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, and not be called after the order of Aaron? **12** For the priesthood being changed, there is of necessity a change made also in the law. **13** For he of whom these things

are said belongs to another tribe, from which no one has officiated at the altar. **14** For it is evident that our Lord has sprung out of Judah, about which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. **15** This is yet more abundantly evident, if after the likeness of Melchizedek there arises another priest, **16** who has been made, not after the law of a fleshly commandment, but after the power of an endless life; **17** for it is testified, "You are a priest for the age (αιῶν g165), according to the order of Melchizedek." **18** For there is an annulling of a foregoing commandment because of its weakness and uselessness **19** (for the law made nothing perfect), and a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God. **20** Inasmuch as he was not made priest without the taking of an oath **21** (for they indeed have been made priests without an oath), but he with an oath by him that says of him, "The Lord swore and will not change his mind, 'You are a priest for the age (αιῶν g165), according to the order of Melchizedek.'" **22** By so much, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant. **23** Many, indeed, have been made priests, because they are hindered from continuing by death. **24** But he, because he lives for the age (αιῶν g165), has his priesthood unchangeable. **25** Therefore he is also able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, seeing that he lives forever to make intercession for them. **26** For such a high priest was fitting for us: holy, guileless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; **27** who does not need, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices daily, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. For he did this once for all, when he offered up himself. **28** For the law appoints men as high priests who have weakness, but the word of the oath which came after the law appoints a Son for the age (αιῶν g165) who has been perfected.

**8** Now in the things which we are saying, the main point is this: we have such a high priest, who sat down on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, **2** a servant of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord pitched, not man. **3** For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this high priest also have something to offer. **4** For if he

were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, seeing there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law, **5** who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, even as Moses was warned by God when he was about to make the tabernacle, for he said, "See, you shall make everything according to the pattern that was shown to you on the mountain." **6** But now he has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as he is also the mediator of a better covenant, which on better promises has been given as law. **7** For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. **8** For finding fault with them, he said, "Behold, the days are coming", says the Lord, "that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah; **9** not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; for they did not continue in my covenant, and I disregarded them," says the Lord. **10** "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days," says the Lord: "I will put my laws into their mind; I will also write them on their heart. I will be their God, and they will be my people. **11** They will not teach every man his fellow citizen and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all will know me, from their least to their greatest. **12** For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness. I will remember their sins and lawless deeds no more." **13** In that he says, "A new covenant", he has made the first obsolete. But that which is becoming obsolete and grows aged is near to vanishing away.

**9** Now indeed even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and an earthly sanctuary. **2** For a tabernacle was prepared. In the first part were the lamp stand, the table, and the show bread, which is called the Holy Place. **3** After the second veil was the tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies, **4** having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which was a golden pot holding the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; **5** and above it cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat, of which things we cannot speak now in detail. **6** Now these things having been thus prepared, the priests go in

continually into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the services, 7 but into the second the high priest alone, once in the year, not without blood, which he offers for himself and for the errors of the people. 8 The Holy Spirit is indicating this, that the way into the Holy Place was not yet revealed while the first tabernacle was still standing. 9 This is a symbol of the present age, where gifts and sacrifices are offered that are incapable, concerning the conscience, of making the worshiper perfect, 10 being only (with foods and drinks and various washings) fleshly ordinances, imposed until a time of reformation. 11 But Christ having come as a high priest of the coming good things, through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation, 12 nor yet through the blood of goats and calves, but through his own blood, entered in once for all into the Holy Place, having obtained consummate (αἰῶνιος g166) redemption. 13 For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled, sanctify to the cleanness of the flesh, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the consummate (αἰῶνιος g166) Spirit offered himself without defect to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? 15 For this reason he is the mediator of a new covenant, since a death has occurred for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first covenant, that those who have been called may receive the promise of the consummate (αἰῶνιος g166) inheritance. 16 For where a last will and testament is, there must of necessity be the death of him who made it. 17 For a will is in force where there has been death, for it is never in force while he who made it lives. 18 Therefore even the first covenant has not been dedicated without blood. 19 For when every commandment had been spoken by Moses to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of the calves and the goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, 20 saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you." 21 He sprinkled the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry in the same way with the blood. 22 According to the law, nearly everything is cleansed with blood, and apart from shedding of blood there is no remission. 23 It

was necessary therefore that the copies of the things in the heavens should be cleansed with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ has not entered into holy places made with hands, which are representations of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; 25 nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest enters into the holy place year by year with blood not his own, 26 or else he must have suffered often since the foundation of the world. But now once at the consummation of the ages (αἰῶν g165), he has been revealed to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27 Inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once, and after this, judgment, 28 so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

**10** For the law, having a shadow of the good to come, not the very image of the things, can never with the same sacrifices year by year, which they offer continually, make perfect those who draw near. 2 Or else would not they have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having been once cleansed, would have had no more consciousness of sins? 3 But in those sacrifices there is a yearly reminder of sins. 4 For it is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins. 5 Therefore when he comes into the world, he says, "You did not desire sacrifice and offering, but you prepared a body for me. 6 You had no pleasure in whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin. 7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come (in the scroll of the book it is written of me) to do your will, O God.'" 8 Previously saying, "Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin you did not desire, neither had pleasure in them" (those which are offered according to the law), 9 then he has said, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He takes away the first, that he may establish the second, 10 by which will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. 11 Every priest indeed stands day by day serving and offering often the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins, 12 but he, when he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on

the right hand of God, 13 from that time waiting until his enemies are made the footstool of his feet. 14 For by one offering he has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. 15 The Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying, 16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days," says the Lord, "I will put my laws on their heart, I will also write them on their mind;" then he says, 17 "I will remember their sins and their iniquities no more." 18 Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. 19 Having therefore, brothers, boldness to enter into the holy place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the way which he dedicated for us, a new and living way, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh, 21 and having a great priest over God's house, 22 let's draw near with a true heart in fullness of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and having our body washed with pure water, 23 let's hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering; for he who promised is faithful. 24 Let's consider how to provoke one another to love and good works, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as the custom of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. 26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and a fierceness of fire which will devour the adversaries. 28 A man who disregards Moses' law dies without compassion on the word of two or three witnesses. 29 How much worse punishment do you think he will be judged worthy of who has trodden under foot the Son of God, and has counted the blood of the covenant with which he was sanctified an unholy thing, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him who said, "Vengeance belongs to me. I will repay," says the Lord. Again, "The Lord will judge his people." 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. 32 But remember the former days, in which, after you were enlightened, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: 33 partly, being exposed to both reproaches and oppressions, and partly, becoming partakers with those who were treated so. 34 For you both had compassion on me in my chains and joyfully accepted the plundering of your possessions, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and

an enduring one in the heavens. 35 Therefore do not throw away your boldness, which has a great reward. 36 For you need endurance so that, having done the will of God, you may receive the promise. 37 "In a very little while, he who comes will come and will not wait. 38 But the righteous one will live by faith. If he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him." 39 But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the saving of the soul.

**11** Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, proof of things not seen. 2 For by this, the elders obtained approval. 3 By faith, we understand that the ages (αιῶν g165) have been aligned by the word of God, so that what is seen has not been made out of things which are visible. 4 By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he had testimony given to him that he was righteous, God testifying with respect to his gifts; and through it he, being dead, still speaks. 5 By faith Enoch was taken away, so that he would not see death, and he was not found, because God translated him. For he has had testimony given to him that before his translation he had been well pleasing to God. 6 Without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to him, for he who comes to God must believe that he exists, and that he is a rewarder of those who seek him. 7 By faith Noah, being warned about things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared a ship for the saving of his house, through which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. 8 By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed to go out to the place which he was to receive for an inheritance. He went out, not knowing where he went. 9 By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a land not his own, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. 11 By faith even Sarah herself received power to conceive, and she bore a child when she was past age, since she counted him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore as many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as innumerable as the sand which is by the sea shore, were fathered by one man, and him as good as dead. 13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having

seen them and embraced them from afar, and having confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. **14** For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. **15** If indeed they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had enough time to return. **16** But now they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed of them, to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them. **17** By faith, Abraham, being tested, offered up Isaac. Yes, he who had gladly received the promises was offering up his only born son, **18** to whom it was said, "Your offspring will be accounted as from Isaac," **19** concluding that God is able to raise up even from the dead. Figuratively speaking, he also did receive him back from the dead. **20** By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even concerning things to come. **21** By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. **22** By faith Joseph, when his end was near, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. **23** By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment. **24** By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, **25** choosing rather to share ill treatment with God's people than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a time, **26** considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he looked to the reward. **27** By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. **28** By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, that the destroyer of the firstborn should not touch them. **29** By faith they passed through the Red Sea as on dry land. When the Egyptians tried to do so, they were swallowed up. **30** By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. **31** By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, having received the spies in peace. **32** What more shall I say? For the time would fail me if I told of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets— **33** who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked out righteousness,

obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, **34** quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, grew mighty in war, and caused foreign armies to flee. **35** Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, not accepting their deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. **36** Others were tried by mocking and scourging, yes, moreover by bonds and imprisonment. **37** They were stoned. They were sawn apart. They were tempted. They were slain with the sword. They went around in sheep skins and in goat skins; being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated— **38** of whom the world was not worthy—wandering in deserts, mountains, caves, and the holes of the earth. **39** These all, having been commended for their faith, did not receive the promise, **40** God having provided some better thing concerning us, so that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

**12** Therefore let's also, seeing we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let's run with perseverance the race that is set before us, **2** looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising its shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **3** For consider him who has endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, that you do not grow weary, fainting in your souls. **4** You have not yet resisted to blood, striving against sin. **5** You have forgotten the exhortation which reasons with you as with children, "My son, do not take lightly the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when you are reprov'd by him; **6** for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines, and chastises every son whom he receives." **7** It is for discipline that you endure. God deals with you as with children, for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? **8** But if you are without discipline, of which all have been made partakers, then you are illegitimate, and not children. **9** Furthermore, we had the fathers of our flesh to chasten us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much rather be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? **10** For they indeed for a few days disciplined us as seemed good to them, but he for our profit, that we may be partakers of his holiness. **11** All

chastening seems for the present to be not joyous but grievous; yet afterward it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. **12** Therefore lift up the hands that hang down and the feeble knees, **13** and make straight paths for your feet, so what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed. **14** Follow after peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no man will see the Lord, **15** looking carefully lest there be any man who falls short of the grace of God, lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you and many be defiled by it, **16** lest there be any sexually immoral person or profane person, like Esau, who sold his birthright for one meal. **17** For you know that even when he afterward desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for a change of mind though he sought it diligently with tears. **18** For you have not come to a mountain that might be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness, darkness, storm, **19** the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which those who heard it begged that not one more word should be spoken to them, **20** for they could not stand that which was commanded, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned". **21** So fearful was the appearance that Moses said, "I am terrified and trembling." **22** But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable multitudes of angels, **23** to the festal gathering and assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, **24** to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better than that of Abel. **25** See that you do not refuse him who speaks. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned on the earth, how much more will we not escape who turn away from him who warns from heaven, **26** whose voice shook the earth then, but now he has promised, saying, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heavens." **27** This phrase, "Yet once more" signifies the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that have been made, that those things which are not shaken may remain. **28** Therefore, receiving a Kingdom that cannot be shaken, let's have grace, through which

we serve God acceptably, with reverence and awe, **29** for our God is a consuming fire.

**13** Let brotherly love continue. **2** Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for in doing so, some have entertained angels without knowing it. **3** Remember those who are in bonds, as bound with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you are also in the body. **4** Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the bed be undefiled; but God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. **5** Be free from the love of money, content with such things as you have, for he has said, "I will in no way leave you, neither will I in any way forsake you." **6** So that with good courage we say, "The Lord is my helper. I will not fear. What can man do to me?" **7** Remember your leaders, men who spoke to you the word of God, and considering the results of their conduct, imitate their faith. **8** Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for the ages (αἰῶν γ165). **9** Do not be carried away by various and strange teachings, for it is good that the heart be established by grace, not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited. **10** We have an altar from which those who serve the holy tabernacle have no right to eat. **11** For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside of the camp. **12** Therefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people through his own blood, suffered outside of the gate. **13** Let's therefore go out to him outside of the camp, bearing his reproach. **14** For we do not have here an enduring city, but we seek that which is to come. **15** Through him, then, let's offer up a sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of lips which proclaim allegiance to his name. **16** But do not forget to be doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. **17** Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they watch on behalf of your souls, as those who will give account, that they may do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be unprofitable for you. **18** Pray for us, for we are persuaded that we have a good conscience, desiring to live honorably in all things. **19** I strongly urge you to do this, that I may be restored to you sooner. **20** Now may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep with the blood of the

consummate (aiōnios g166) covenant, our Lord Jesus,  
21 align you in every good thing so as to do his will,  
doing in us that which is wellpleasing before him,  
through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for the  
ages (aiōn g165) of the ages (aiōn g165). Amen. 22 But I  
exhort you, brothers, endure the word of exhortation,  
for I have written to you in few words. 23 Know that  
our brother Timothy has been freed, with whom, if  
he comes shortly, I will see you. 24 Greet all of your  
leaders and all the saints. The Italians greet you. 25  
Grace be with you all. Amen.



# 1 John

**1** That which was from the beginning, that which we have heard, that which we have seen with our eyes, that which we saw, and our hands touched, concerning the Word of life **2** (and the life was revealed, and we have seen, and testify, and declare to you the consummate (αιῶνιος g166) life, which was with the Father, and was revealed to us); **3** that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us. Yes, and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. **4** And we write these things to you, that our joy may be fulfilled. **5** This is the message which we have heard from him and announce to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. **6** If we say that we have fellowship with him and walk in the darkness, we lie and do not tell the truth. **7** But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son, cleanses us from all sin. **8** If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us the sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

**2** My little children, I write these things to you so that you may not sin. If anyone sins, we have a Counselor with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous. **2** And he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the whole world. **3** This is how we know that we know him: if we keep his commandments. **4** One who says, "I know him," and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. **5** But God's love has most certainly been perfected in whoever keeps his word. This is how we know that we are in him: **6** he who says he remains in him ought himself also to walk just like he walked. **7** Brothers, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning. **8** Again, I write a new commandment to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light already shines. **9** He who says he is

in the light and hates his brother is in the darkness even until now. **10** He who loves his brother remains in the light, and there is no occasion for stumbling in him. **11** But he who hates his brother is in the darkness, and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes. **12** I write to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake. **13** I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, little 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 remains in you, and you have overcome the evil one. **15** Do not love the world or the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world, the Father's love is not in him. **16** For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not the Father's, but is the world's. **17** The world is passing away with its lusts, but he who does God's will remains for the age (αιῶν g165). **18** Little children, these are the end times, and as you heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen. By this we know that it is the final hour. **19** They went out from us, but they did not belong to us; for if they had belonged to us, they would have continued with us. But they left, that they might be revealed that none of them belong to us. **20** You have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. **21** I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. **22** Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the Antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. **23** Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father. He who confesses the Son has the Father also. **24** Therefore, as for you, let that remain in you which you heard from the beginning. If that which you heard from the beginning remains in you, you also will remain in the Son, and in the Father. **25** This is the promise which he promised us, the consummate (αιῶνιος g166) life. **26** These things I have written to you concerning those who would lead you astray. **27** As for you, the anointing which you

received from him remains in you, and you do not need for anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is no lie, and even as it taught you, you will remain in him. 28 Now, little children, remain in him, that when he appears, we may have boldness and not be ashamed before him at his coming. 29 If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

**3** See how great a love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God! For this cause the world does not know us, because it did not know him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God. It is not yet revealed what we will be; but we know that when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him just as he is. 3 Everyone who has this hope set on him purifies himself, even as he is pure. 4 Everyone who sins also commits lawlessness. Sin is lawlessness. 5 You know that he was revealed to take away our sins, and no sin is in him. 6 Whoever remains in him does not sin. Whoever sins has not seen him and does not know him. 7 Little children, let no one lead you astray. He who does righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. 8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. To this end the Son of God was revealed: that he might destroy the works of the devil. 9 Whoever is born of God does not commit sin, because his seed remains in him, and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. 10 In this the children of God are revealed, and the children of the devil. Whoever does not do righteousness is not of God, neither is he who does not love his brother. 11 For this is the message which you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another— 12 unlike Cain, who was of the evil one and killed his brother. Why did he kill him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's righteous. 13 Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. He who does not love his brother remains in death. 15 Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has consummate (aiōnios g166) life remaining in him. 16 By this we know love, because he laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for

the brothers. 17 But whoever has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, then closes his heart of compassion against him, how does God's love remain in him? 18 My little children, let's not love in word only, or with the tongue only, but in deed and truth. 19 And by this we know that we are of the truth and persuade our hearts before him, 20 because if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. 21 Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness toward God; 22 so whatever we ask, we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do the things that are pleasing in his sight. 23 This is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, even as he commanded. 24 He who keeps his commandments remains in him, and he in him. By this we know that he remains in us, by the Spirit which he gave us.

**4** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit who confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, 3 and every spirit who does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God; and this is the spirit of the Antichrist, of whom you have heard that it comes. Now it is in the world already. 4 You are of God, little children, 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. Therefore they speak of the world, and the world hears them. 6 We are of God. He who knows God listens to us. He who is not of God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error. 7 Beloved, let's love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 By this God's love was revealed in us, that God has sent his only born Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God loved us in this way, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God remains in

and his love has been perfected in us. **13** By this we know that we remain in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. **14** We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as the Savior of the world. **15** Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him, and he in God. **16** We know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and he who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. **17** In this, love has been made perfect among us, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because as he is, even so we are in this world. **18** There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear has punishment. He who fears is not made perfect in love. **19** We love him, because he first loved us. **20** If a man says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? **21** This commandment we have from him, that he who loves God should also love his brother.

**5** Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God. Whoever loves the Father also loves the child who is born of him. **2** By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep his commandments. **3** For this is loving God, that we keep his commandments. His commandments are not grievous. **4** For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world: your faith. **5** Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? **6** This is he who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. **7** For there are three who testify: **8** the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and the three agree as one. **9** If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is God's testimony which he has testified concerning his Son. **10** He who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. He who does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. **11** The testimony is this, that God gave to us consummate (aiōnios g166) life, and this life is in his Son. **12** He who has the Son has the life. He who does not have God's Son does not

have the life. **13** These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have consummate (aiōnios g166) life. **14** This is the boldness which we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us. **15** And if we know that he listens to us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions which we have asked of him. **16** If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life for those who sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should make a request concerning this. **17** All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death. **18** We know that whoever is born of God does not sin, but he who was born of God keeps himself, and the evil one does not touch him. **19** We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. **20** We know that the Son of God has come, and has given us an understanding, that we know the true one, and we are in the true one, in his Son, Jesus Christ. This is the true God and consummate (aiōnios g166) life. **21** Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

# Revelation

**1** This is the Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things which must happen soon, which he sent and made known by his angel to his servant, John, **2** who testified to God's word and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, about everything that he saw. **3** Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and keep the things that are written in it, for the time is near. **4** John, to the seven assemblies that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from God, who is and who was and who is to come; and from the seven Spirits who are before his throne; **5** and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us, and washed us from our sins by his blood—**6** and he made us to be a Kingdom, priests to his God and Father—to him be the glory and the dominion for the ages (αἰὼν γ165) of the ages (αἰὼν γ165). Amen. **7** Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, including those who pierced him. All the tribes of the earth will mourn over him. Even so, Amen. **8** "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." **9** I John, your brother and partner with you in the oppression, Kingdom, and perseverance in Christ Jesus, was on the isle that is called Patmos because of God's Word and the testimony of Jesus Christ. **10** I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, like a trumpet **11** saying, "What you see, write in a book and send to the seven assemblies: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and to Laodicea." **12** I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. Having turned, I saw seven golden lamp stands. **13** And among the lamp stands was one like a son of man, clothed with a robe reaching down to his feet, and with a golden sash around his chest. **14** His head and his hair were white as white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire. **15** His feet were like burnished brass, as if it had been refined in a furnace. His voice was like the voice of many waters. **16** He had seven stars in his right hand. Out of his mouth proceeded a sharp two-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining at its brightest. **17** When I saw

him, I fell at his feet like a dead man. He laid his right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last, **18** and the Living one. I was dead, and behold, I am alive for the ages (αἰὼν γ165) of the ages (αἰὼν γ165). Amen. I have the keys of Death and of Hades (Hades γ86). **19** Write therefore the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will happen hereafter. **20** The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lamp stands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven assemblies. The seven lamp stands are seven assemblies.

**2** "To the angel of the assembly in Ephesus write: "He who holds the seven stars in his right hand, he who walks among the seven golden lamp stands says these things: **2** "I know your works, and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and have tested those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and found them false. **3** You have perseverance and have endured for my name's sake, and have not grown weary. **4** But I have this against you, that you left your first love. **5** Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent and do the first works; or else I am coming to you swiftly, and will move your lamp stand out of its place, unless you repent. **6** But this you have, that 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 assemblies. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of my God. **8** "To the angel of the assembly in Smyrna write: "The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life says these things: **9** "I know your works, oppression, and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews, and they are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. **10** Do not be afraid of the things which you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested; and you will have oppression for ten days. Be faithful to 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 assemblies. He who overcomes will not be harmed by the second death. **12** "To the angel of the assembly in Pergamum write: "He who has the sharp two-edged sword says these things: **13** "I know your works and

where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. You hold firmly to my name, and did not deny my faith in the days of Antipas my witness, my faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. **14** But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to throw a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. **15** So also you likewise have some who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. **16** Repent therefore, or else I am coming to you quickly and I will make war against them with the sword of my mouth. **17** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies. To him who overcomes, to him I will give of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows but he who receives it. **18** "To the angel of the assembly in Thyatira write: "The Son of God, who has his eyes like a flame of fire, and his feet are like burnished brass, says these things: **19** "I know your works, your love, faith, service, patient endurance, and that your last works are more than the first. **20** But I have this against you, that you tolerate your woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. She teaches and seduces my servants to commit sexual immorality and to eat things sacrificed to idols. **21** I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. **22** Behold, I will throw her and those who commit adultery with her into a bed of great oppression, unless they repent of her works. **23** I will kill her children with Death, and all the assemblies will know that I am he who searches the minds and hearts. I will give to each one of you according to your deeds. **24** But to you I say, to the rest who are in Thyatira—as many as do not have this teaching, who do not know what some call 'the deep things of Satan'—to you I say, I am not putting any other burden on you. **25** Nevertheless, hold that which you have firmly until I come. **26** He who overcomes, and he who keeps my works to the end, to him I will give authority over the nations. **27** He will rule them with a rod of iron, shattering them like clay pots, as I also have received of 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 assemblies.

**3** "And to the angel of the assembly in Sardis write: "He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars says these things: "I know your works, that you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. **2** Wake up and strengthen the things that remain, which you were about to throw away, for I have found no works of yours perfected before my God. **3** Remember therefore how you have received and heard. Keep it and repent. If therefore you will not watch, I will come as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. **4** Nevertheless you have a few names in Sardis that did not defile their garments. They will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. **5** He who overcomes will be arrayed in white garments, and I will in no way blot his name out of the book of life, and I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. **6** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies. **7** "To the angel of the assembly in Philadelphia write: "He who is holy, he who is true, he who has the key of David, he who opens and no one can shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says these things: **8** "I know your works (behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one can shut), that you have a little power, and kept my word, and did not deny my name. **9** Behold, I make some of the synagogue of Satan, of those who say they are Jews, and they are not, but lie—behold, I will make them to come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. **10** Because you kept my command to endure, I also will keep you from the hour of testing which is to come on the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. **11** I am coming quickly! Hold firmly that which you have, so that no one takes your crown. **12** He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God, and he will go out from there no more. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from my God, and my own new name. **13** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies. **14** "To the angel of the assembly in Laodicea write: "The Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of God's creation, says these things: **15** "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were cold or hot. **16** So, because you are lukewarm,

and neither hot nor cold, I will vomit you out of my mouth. 17 Because you say, 'I am rich, and have gotten riches, and have need of nothing,' and do not know that you are the wretched one, miserable, poor, blind, and naked; 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, that you may become rich; and white garments, that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see. 19 As many as I love, I reprove and chasten. Be zealous therefore, and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, then I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with me. 21 He who overcomes, I will give to him to sit down with me on my throne, as I also 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 assemblies."

**4** After these things I looked and saw a door opened in heaven; and the first voice that I heard, like a trumpet speaking with me, was one saying, "Come up here, and I will show you the things which must happen after this." 2 Immediately I was in the Spirit. Behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and one sitting on the throne 3 that looked like a jasper stone and a sardius. There was a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald to look at. 4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones. On the thrones were twenty-four elders sitting, dressed in white garments, with crowns of gold on their heads. 5 Out of the throne proceed lightnings, sounds, and thunders. There were seven lamps of fire burning before his throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. 6 Before the throne was something like a sea of glass, similar to crystal. In the middle of the throne, and around the throne were four living creatures full of eyes before and behind. 7 The first creature was like a lion, the second creature like a calf, the third creature had a face like a man, and the fourth was like a flying eagle. 8 The four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within. They have no rest day and night, saying, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come!" 9 When the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to him who sits on the

throne, to him who lives for the ages (αἰὼν g165) of the ages (αἰὼν g165), 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for the ages (αἰὼν g165) of the ages (αἰὼν g165), and throw their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, the Holy One, to receive the glory, the honor, and the power, for you created all things, and because of your desire they existed and were created!"

**5** I saw, in the right hand of him who sat on the throne, a book written inside and outside, sealed shut with seven seals. 2 I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the book, and to break its seals?" 3 No one in heaven above, or on the earth, or under the earth, was able to open the book or to look in it. 4 Then I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look in it. 5 One of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion who is of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome: he who opens the book and its seven seals." 6 I saw in the middle of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the middle of the elders, a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. 7 Then he came, and he took it out of the right hand of him who sat on the throne. 8 Now when he had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 They sang a new song, saying, "You are worthy to take the book and to open its seals, for you were killed, and bought us for God with your blood out of every tribe, language, people, and nation, 10 and made us kings and priests to our God; and we will reign on the earth." 11 I looked, and I heard something like a voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders. The number of them was ten thousands of ten thousands, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who has been killed to receive the power, wealth, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and blessing!"

13 I heard every created thing which is in heaven, on the earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne, and

to the Lamb be the blessing, the honor, the glory, and the dominion, for the ages (aiōn g165) of the ages (aiōn g165)! Amen!" 14 The four living creatures said, "Amen!" Then the elders fell down and worshiped.

**6** I saw that the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying, as with a voice of thunder, "Come and see!" 2 Then a white horse appeared, and he who sat on it had a bow. A crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer. 3 When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come!" 4 Another came out, a red horse. To him who sat on it was given power to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another. There was given to him a great sword. 5 When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, "Come and see!" And behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a balance in his hand. 6 I heard a voice in the middle of the four living creatures saying, "A choenix of wheat for a denarius, and three choenix of barley for a denarius! Do not damage the oil and the wine!" 7 When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see!" 8 And behold, a pale horse, and the name of he who sat on it was Death. Hades (Hades g86) followed with him. Authority over one fourth of the earth, to kill with the sword, with famine, with death, and by the wild animals of the earth was given to him. 9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been killed for the Word of God, and for the testimony of the Lamb which they had. 10 They cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, Master, the holy and true, until you judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" 11 A long white robe was given to each of them. They were told that they should rest yet for a while, until their fellow servants and their brothers, who would also be killed even as they were, should complete their course. 12 I saw when he opened the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake. The sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became as blood. 13 The stars of the sky fell to the earth, like a fig tree dropping its unripe figs when it is shaken by a great wind. 14 The sky was removed like a scroll when it is rolled up. Every mountain and

island was moved out of its place. 15 The kings of the earth, the princes, the commanding officers, the rich, the strong, and every slave and free person, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains. 16 They told the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, 17 for the great day of his wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

**7** After this, I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth, or on the sea, or on any tree. 2 I saw another angel ascend from the sunrise, having the seal of the living God. He cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was given to harm the earth and the sea, 3 saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees, until we have sealed the bondservants of our God on their foreheads!" 4 I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred forty-four thousand, sealed out of every tribe of the children of Israel: 5 of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed, of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand, 6 of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand, 7 of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand, 8 of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, and of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed. 9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no man could count, out of every nation and of all tribes, peoples, and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands. 10 They cried with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation be to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" 11 All the angels were standing around the throne, the elders, and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before his throne, and worshiped God, 12 saying, "Amen! Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and might, be to our God for the ages (aiōn g165) of the ages (aiōn g165)! Amen." 13 One of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are arrayed in the white robes, who are they, and where did they come from?" 14 I told him,

"My lord, you know." He said to me, "These are those who came out of the great suffering. They washed their robes and made them white in the Lamb's blood. 15 Therefore they are before the throne of God, and they serve him day and night in his temple. He who sits on the throne will spread his tabernacle over them. 16 They will never be hungry or thirsty any more. The sun will not beat on them, nor any heat; 17 for the Lamb who is in the middle of the throne shepherds them and leads them to springs of life-giving waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

**8** When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. 2 I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. 3 Another angel came and stood over the altar, having a golden censer. Much incense was given to him, that he should add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. 4 The smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand. 5 The angel took the censer, and he filled it with the fire of the altar, then threw it on the earth. Thunders, sounds, lightnings, and an earthquake followed. 6 The seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. 7 The first sounded, and there followed hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. One third of the earth was burned up, and one third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up. 8 The second angel sounded, and something like a great burning mountain was thrown into the sea. One third of the sea became blood, 9 and one third of the living creatures which were in the sea died. One third of the ships were destroyed. 10 The third angel sounded, and a great star fell from the sky, burning like a torch, and it fell on one third of the rivers, and on the springs of water. 11 The name of the star is "Wormwood." One third of the waters became wormwood. Many people died from the waters, because they were made bitter. 12 The fourth angel sounded, and one third of the sun was struck, and one third of the moon, and one third of the stars, so that one third of them would be darkened; and the day would not shine for one third of it, and the night in the same way. 13 I saw, and I heard an

eagle, flying in mid heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe! Woe! Woe to those who dwell on the earth, because of the other blasts of the trumpets of the three angels, who are yet to sound!"

**9** The fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from the sky which had fallen to the earth. The key to the pit of the Abyss (**Abyssos g12**) was given to him. 2 He opened the pit of the Abyss (**Abyssos g12**), and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke from a burning furnace. The sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke from the pit. 3 Then out of the smoke came locusts on the earth, and power was given to them, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4 They were told that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree, but only those people who do not have God's seal on their foreheads. 5 They were given power, not to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a person. 6 In those days people will seek death, and will in no way find it. They will desire to die, and death will flee from them. 7 The shapes of the locusts were like horses prepared for war. On their heads were something like golden crowns, and their faces were like people's faces. 8 They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like those of lions. 9 They had breastplates like breastplates of iron. The sound of their wings was like the sound of many chariots and horses rushing to war. 10 They have tails like those of scorpions, with stingers. In their tails they have power to harm men for five months. 11 They have over them as king the angel of the Abyss (**Abyssos g12**). His name in Hebrew is "Abaddon", and in Greek, he has the name "Apollyon". 12 The first woe is past. Behold, there are still two woes coming after this. 13 The sixth angel sounded. I heard a voice from the horns of the golden altar which is before God, 14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Free the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates!" 15 The four angels were freed who had been prepared for that hour and day and month and year, so that they might kill one third of mankind. 16 The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million. I heard the number of them. 17 Thus I saw the horses



in the vision and those who sat on them, having breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the horses' heads resembled lions' heads. Out of their mouths proceed fire, smoke, and sulfur.

**18** By these three plagues, one third of mankind was killed: by the fire, the smoke, and the sulfur, which proceeded out of their mouths. **19** For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails. For their tails are like serpents, and have heads; and with them they harm. **20** The rest of mankind, who were not killed with these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they would not worship demons, and the idols of gold, and of silver, and of brass, and of stone, and of wood, which cannot see, hear, or walk. **21** They did not repent of their murders, their sorceries, their sexual immorality, or their thefts.

**10** I saw a mighty angel coming down out of the sky, clothed with a cloud. A rainbow was on his head. His face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. **2** He had in his hand a little open book. He set his right foot on the sea, and his left on the land. **3** He cried with a loud voice, as a lion roars. When he cried, the seven thunders uttered their voices. **4** When the seven thunders sounded, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from the sky saying, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders said, and do not write them." **5** The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land lifted up his right hand to the sky **6** and swore by him who lives for the ages (αιῶν γ165) of the ages (αιῶν γ165), who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there will no longer be delay, **7** but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as he declared to his servants the prophets. **8** The voice which I heard from heaven, again speaking with me, said, "Go, take the book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the land." **9** I went to the angel, telling him to give me the little book. He said to me, "Take it and eat it. It will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey." **10** I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it. It was as sweet as honey in my mouth. When I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter. **11** They told me, "You

must prophesy again over many peoples, nations, languages, and kings."

**11** A reed like a rod was given to me. Someone said, "Rise and measure God's temple, and the altar, and those who worship in it. **2** Leave out the court which is outside of the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations. They will tread the holy city under foot for forty-two months. **3** I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred sixty days, clothed in sackcloth." **4** These are the two olive trees and the two lamp stands, standing before the Lord of the earth. **5** If anyone desires to harm them, fire proceeds out of their mouth and devours their enemies. If anyone desires to harm them, he must be killed in this way. **6** These have the power to shut up the sky, that it may not rain during the days of their prophecy. They have power over the waters, to turn them into blood, and to strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire. **7** When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the Abyss (Abyssos g12) will make war with them, and overcome them, and kill them. **8** Their dead bodies will be in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. **9** From among the peoples, tribes, languages, and nations, people will look at their dead bodies for three and a half days, and will not allow their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb. **10** Those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, and they will be glad. They will give gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth. **11** After the three and a half days, the breath of life from God entered into them, and they stood on their feet. Great fear fell on those who saw them. **12** I heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here!" They went up into heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. **13** In that day there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. **14** The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe comes quickly. **15** The seventh angel sounded, and great voices in heaven followed, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ. He will reign for the ages

(aiōn g165) of the ages (aiōn g165)!" 16 The twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God's throne, fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17 saying: "We give you thanks, Lord God, the Almighty, the one who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and reigned. 18 The nations were angry, and your wrath came, as did the time for the dead to be judged, and to give your bondservants the prophets, their reward, as well as to the saints and those who fear your name, to the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth." 19 God's temple that is in heaven was opened, and the ark of the Lord's covenant was seen in his temple. Lightnings, sounds, thunders, an earthquake, and great hail followed.

**12** A great sign was seen in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. 2 She was with child. She cried out in pain, laboring to give birth. 3 Another sign was seen in heaven. Behold, a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven crowns. 4 His tail drew one third of the stars of the sky, and threw them to the earth. The dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child. 5 She gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron. Her child was caught up to God and to his throne. 6 The woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that there they may nourish her one thousand two hundred sixty days. 7 There was war in the sky. Michael and his angels made war on the dragon. The dragon and his angels made war. 8 They did not prevail. No place was found for them any more in heaven. 9 The great dragon was thrown down, the old serpent, he who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. He was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. 10 I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, the power, and the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ has come; for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night. 11 They overcame him because of the Lamb's blood, and because of the word of their testimony. They did not love their life, even to death.

12 Therefore rejoice, heavens, and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and to the sea, because the devil has gone down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has but a short time." 13 When the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child. 14 Two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, so that she might be nourished for a time, times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. 15 The serpent spewed water out of his mouth after the woman like a river, that he might cause her to be carried away by the stream. 16 The earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the river which the dragon spewed out of his mouth. 17 The dragon grew angry with the woman, and went away to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep God's commandments and hold Jesus' testimony.

**13** Then I stood on the sand of the sea. I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads. On his horns were ten crowns, and on his heads, blasphemous names. 2 The beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. 3 One of his heads looked like it had been wounded fatally. His fatal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled at the beast. 4 They worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" 5 A mouth speaking great things and blasphemy was given to him. Authority to make war for forty-two months was given to him. 6 He opened his mouth for blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, his dwelling, and those who dwell in heaven. 7 It was given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. Authority over every tribe, people, language, and nation was given to him. 8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been killed. 9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear. 10 If anyone is to go into captivity, he will go into captivity. If anyone is to be killed with the sword,

he must be killed. Here is the endurance and the faith of the saints. **11** I saw another beast coming up out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. **12** He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. He makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed. **13** He performs great signs, even making fire come down out of the sky to the earth in the sight of people. **14** He deceives my own people who dwell on the earth because of the signs he was granted to do in front of the beast, saying to those who dwell on the earth that they should make an image to the beast who had the sword wound and lived. **15** It was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. **16** He causes all, the small and the great, the rich and the poor, and the free and the slave, to be given marks on their right hands or on their foreheads; **17** and that no one would be able to buy or to sell unless he has that mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name. **18** Here is wisdom. He who has understanding, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. His number is six hundred sixty-six.

**14** I saw, and behold, the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with him a number, one hundred forty-four thousand, having his name and the name of his Father written on their foreheads. **2** I heard a sound from heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of a great thunder. The sound which I heard was like that of harpists playing on their harps. **3** They sing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the one hundred forty-four thousand, those who had been redeemed out of the earth. **4** These are those who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are those who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These were redeemed by Jesus from among men, the first fruits to God and to the Lamb. **5** In their mouth was found no lie, for they are blameless. **6** I saw an angel flying in mid heaven, having the consummate (αἰῶνιος g166) Good News to proclaim to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language, and people. **7**

He said with a loud voice, "Fear the Lord, and give him glory, for the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and the springs of waters!" **8** Another, a second angel, followed, saying, "Babylon the great has fallen, which has made all the nations to drink of the wine of the wrath of her sexual immorality." **9** Another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a great voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, **10** he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is prepared unmixed in the cup of his anger. He will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. **11** The smoke of their torment goes up for ages (αἰῶν g165) of ages (αἰῶν g165). They have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name. **12** Here is the perseverance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." **13** I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their works follow with them." **14** I looked, and saw a white cloud, and on the cloud one sitting like a son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. **15** Another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, "Send your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come; for the harvest of the earth is ripe!" **16** He who sat on the cloud thrust his sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped. **17** Another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven. He also had a sharp sickle. **18** Another angel came out from the altar, he who has power over fire, and he called with a great voice to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Send your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for the earth's grapes are fully ripe!" **19** The angel thrust his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vintage of the earth and threw it into the great wine press of the wrath of God. **20** The wine press was trodden outside of the city, and blood came out of the wine press, up to the bridles of the horses, as far as one thousand six hundred stadia.

**15** I saw another great and marvelous sign in the sky: seven angels having the seven last

plagues, for in them God's wrath is finished. 2 I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who overcame the beast, his image, and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. 3 They sang the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and marvelous are your works, Lord God, the Almighty! Righteous and true are your ways, you King of the nations. 4 Who would not fear you, Lord, and glorify your name? For you only are holy. For all the nations will come and worship before you. For your righteous acts have been revealed." 5 After these things I looked, and the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. 6 The seven angels who had the seven plagues came out, clothed with pure, bright linen, and wearing golden sashes around their chests. 7 One of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives for the ages (αἰῶν g165) of the ages (αἰῶν g165). 8 The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power. No one was able to enter into the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels would be finished.

**16** I heard a loud voice out of the temple, saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out the seven bowls of the wrath of God on the earth!" 2 The first went, and poured out his bowl into the earth, and it became a harmful and painful sore on the people who had the mark of the beast, and who worshiped his image. 3 The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man. Every living thing in the sea died. 4 The third poured out his bowl into the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. 5 I heard the angel of the waters saying, "You are righteous, who are and who were, O Holy One, because you have judged these things. 6 For they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. They deserve this." 7 I heard the altar saying, "Yes, Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are your judgments." 8 The fourth poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was given to him to scorch men with fire. 9 People were scorched with great heat, and people blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues. They did not repent and give

him glory. 10 The fifth poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was darkened. They gnawed their tongues because of the pain, 11 and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores. They still did not repent of their works. 12 The sixth poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates. Its water was dried up, that the way might be prepared for the kings that come from the sunrise. 13 I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits, something like frogs; 14 for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole inhabited earth, to gather them together for the war of that great day of God the Almighty. 15 "Behold, I come like a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his clothes, so that he does not walk naked, and they see his shame." 16 He gathered them together into the place which is called in Hebrew, "Harmagedon". 17 The seventh poured out his bowl into the air. A loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" 18 There were lightnings, sounds, and thunders; and there was a great earthquake such as has not happened since there were men on the earth—so great an earthquake and so mighty. 19 The great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered in the sight of God, to give to her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. 20 Every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. 21 Great hailstones, about the weight of a talent, came down out of the sky on people. People blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, for this plague was exceedingly severe.

**17** One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here. I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who sits on many waters, 2 with whom the kings of the earth committed sexual immorality. Those who dwell in the earth were made drunken with the wine of her sexual immorality." 3 He carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness. I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet-colored beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. 4 The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and decked with gold

and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of the sexual immorality of the earth. 5 And on her forehead a name was written, "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF THE PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." 6 I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. When I saw her, I wondered with great amazement. 7 The angel said to me, "Why do you wonder? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns. 8 The beast that you saw was, and is not; and is about to come up out of the Abyss (Abyssos g12) and to go into destruction. Those who dwell on the earth and whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel when they see that the beast was, and is not, and shall be present. 9 Here is the mind that has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. 10 They are seven kings. Five have fallen, the one is, and the other has not yet come. When he comes, he must continue a little while. 11 The beast that was, and is not, is himself also an eighth, and is of the seven; and he goes to destruction. 12 The ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. 13 These have one mind, and they give their power and authority to the beast. 14 These will war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with him are called, chosen, and faithful." 15 He said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and languages. 16 The ten horns which you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute, will make her desolate, will strip her naked, will eat her flesh, and will burn her utterly with fire. 17 For God has put in their hearts to do what he has in mind, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God should be accomplished. 18 The woman whom you saw is the great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."

**18** After these things, I saw another angel coming down out of the sky, having great authority. The

earth was illuminated with his glory. 2 He cried with a mighty voice, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, and she has become a habitation of demons, a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hated bird! 3 For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her sexual immorality, the kings of the earth committed sexual immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from the abundance of her luxury." 4 I heard another voice from heaven, saying, "Come out of her, my people, that you have no participation in her sins, and that you do not receive of her plagues, 5 for her sins have reached to the sky, and God has remembered her iniquities. 6 Return to her just as she returned, and repay her double as she did, and according to her works. In the cup which she mixed, mix to her double. 7 However much she glorified herself and grew wanton, so much give her of torment and mourning. For she says in her heart, 'I sit a queen, and am no widow, and will in no way see mourning.' 8 Therefore in one day her plagues will come: death, mourning, and famine; and she will be utterly burned with fire, for the Lord God who has judged her is strong. 9 The kings of the earth who committed sexual immorality and lived wantonly with her will weep and wail over her, when they look at the smoke of her burning, 10 standing far away for the fear of her torment, saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For your judgment has come in one hour.' 11 The merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise any more: 12 merchandise of gold, silver, precious stones, pearls, fine linen, purple, silk, scarlet, all expensive wood, every vessel of ivory, every vessel made of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble; 13 and cinnamon, incense, perfume, frankincense, wine, olive oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle, sheep, horses, chariots, and people's bodies and souls. 14 The fruits which your soul lusted after have been lost to you. All things that were dainty and sumptuous have perished from you, and you will find them no more at all. 15 The merchants of these things, who were made rich by her, will stand far away for the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning, 16 saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, she who was dressed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and decked

with gold and precious stones and pearls! 17 For in an hour such great riches are made desolate.' Every ship master, and everyone who sails anywhere, and mariners, and as many as gain their living by sea, stood far away, 18 and cried out as they looked at the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What is like the great city?' 19 They cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and mourning, saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, in which all who had their ships in the sea were made rich by reason of her great wealth!' For she is made desolate in one hour. 20 "Rejoice over her, O heaven, you saints, apostles, and prophets, for God has judged your judgment on her." 21 A mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and cast it into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down, and will be found no more at all. 22 The voice of harpists, minstrels, flute players, and trumpeters will be heard no more at all in you. No craftsman of whatever craft will be found any more at all in you. The sound of a mill will be heard no more at all in you. 23 The light of a lamp will shine no more at all in you. The voice of the bridegroom and of the bride will be heard no more at all in you, for your merchants were the princes of the earth; for with your sorcery all the nations were deceived. 24 In her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slain on the earth."

**19** After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation, power, and glory belong to our God; 2 for his judgments are true and righteous. For he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her sexual immorality, and he has avenged the blood of his servants at her hand." 3 A second said, "Hallelujah! Her smoke goes up for the ages (aiōn g165) of the ages (aiōn g165)." 4 The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne, saying, "Amen! Hallelujah!" 5 A voice came from the throne, saying, "Give praise to our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, the small and the great!" 6 I heard something like the voice of a great multitude, and like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of mighty thunders, saying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns! 7 Let's rejoice and be exceedingly glad, and let's give the glory to

him. For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his wife has made herself ready." 8 It was given to her that she would array herself in bright, pure, fine linen, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 He said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb.'" He said to me, "These are true words of God." 10 I fell down before his feet to worship him. He said to me, "Look! Do not do it! I am a fellow bondservant with you and with your brothers who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God, for the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy." 11 I saw the heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it is called Faithful and True. In righteousness he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are a flame of fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has names written and a name written which no one knows but he himself. 13 He is clothed in a garment sprinkled with blood. His name is called "The Word of God." 14 The armies which are in heaven, clothed in white, pure, fine linen, followed him on white horses. 15 Out of his mouth proceeds a sharp, double-edged sword that with it he should strike the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He treads the wine press of the fierceness of the wrath of God, the Almighty. 16 He has on his garment and on his thigh a name written, "KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS." 17 I saw an angel standing in the sun. He cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the sky, "Come! Be gathered together to the great supper of God, 18 that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, small and great." 19 I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him who sat on the horse and against his army. 20 The beast was taken, and with him the false prophet who worked the signs in his sight, with which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were thrown alive into the Lake of Fire (Limnē Pyr g3041 g4442) that burns with sulfur. 21 The rest were killed with the sword of him who sat on the horse, the sword which came out of his mouth. So all the birds were filled with their flesh.

**20** I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key of the Abyss (**Abyssos g12**) and a great chain in his hand. **2** He seized the dragon, the old serpent, who is the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole inhabited earth, and bound him for a thousand years, **3** and cast him into the Abyss (**Abyssos g12**), and shut it and sealed it over him, that he should deceive the nations no more until the thousand years were finished. After this, he must be freed for a short time. **4** I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and such as did not worship the beast nor his image, and did not receive the mark on their forehead and on their hand. They lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. **5** The rest of the dead did not live until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. **6** Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over these, the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with him one thousand years. **7** And after the thousand years, Satan will be released from his prison **8** and he will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to the war, whose number is as the sand of the sea. **9** They went up over the width of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. Fire came down out of heaven from God and devoured them. **10** The devil who deceived them was thrown into the Lake of Fire (**Limnē Pyr g3041 g4442**) and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet are also. They will be tormented day and night for the ages (**aiōn g165**) of the ages (**aiōn g165**). **11** I saw a great white throne and him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. There was found no place for them. **12** I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and they opened books. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged out of the things which were written in the books, according to their works. **13** The sea gave up the dead who were in it. Death and Hades (**Hadēs g86**) gave up the dead who were in them. They were judged, each one according to his works. **14** Death and Hades (**Hadēs g86**) were thrown

into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death, the Lake of Fire (**Limnē Pyr g3041 g4442**). **15** If anyone was not found written in the Book of Life, he was cast into the Lake of Fire (**Limnē Pyr g3041 g4442**).

**21** I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth have passed away, and the sea is no more. **2** I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband. **3** I heard a loud voice out of heaven saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with people; and he will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. **4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; neither will there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain any more. The first things have passed away." **5** He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." He said, "Write, for these words of God are faithful and true." **6** He said to me, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give freely to him who is thirsty from the spring of the water of life. **7** He who overcomes, I will give him these things. I will be his God, and he will be my son. **8** But for the cowardly, unbelieving, sinners, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their part is in the lake that burns with fire (**Limnē Pyr g3041 g4442**) and sulfur, which is the second death." **9** One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls which were loaded with the seven last plagues came, and he spoke with me, saying, "Come here. I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." **10** He carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, **11** having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; **12** having a great and high wall with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel. **13** On the east were three gates, and on the north three gates, and on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. **14** The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them twelve names of the twelve Apostles of the Lamb. **15** He who spoke with me had for a measure a

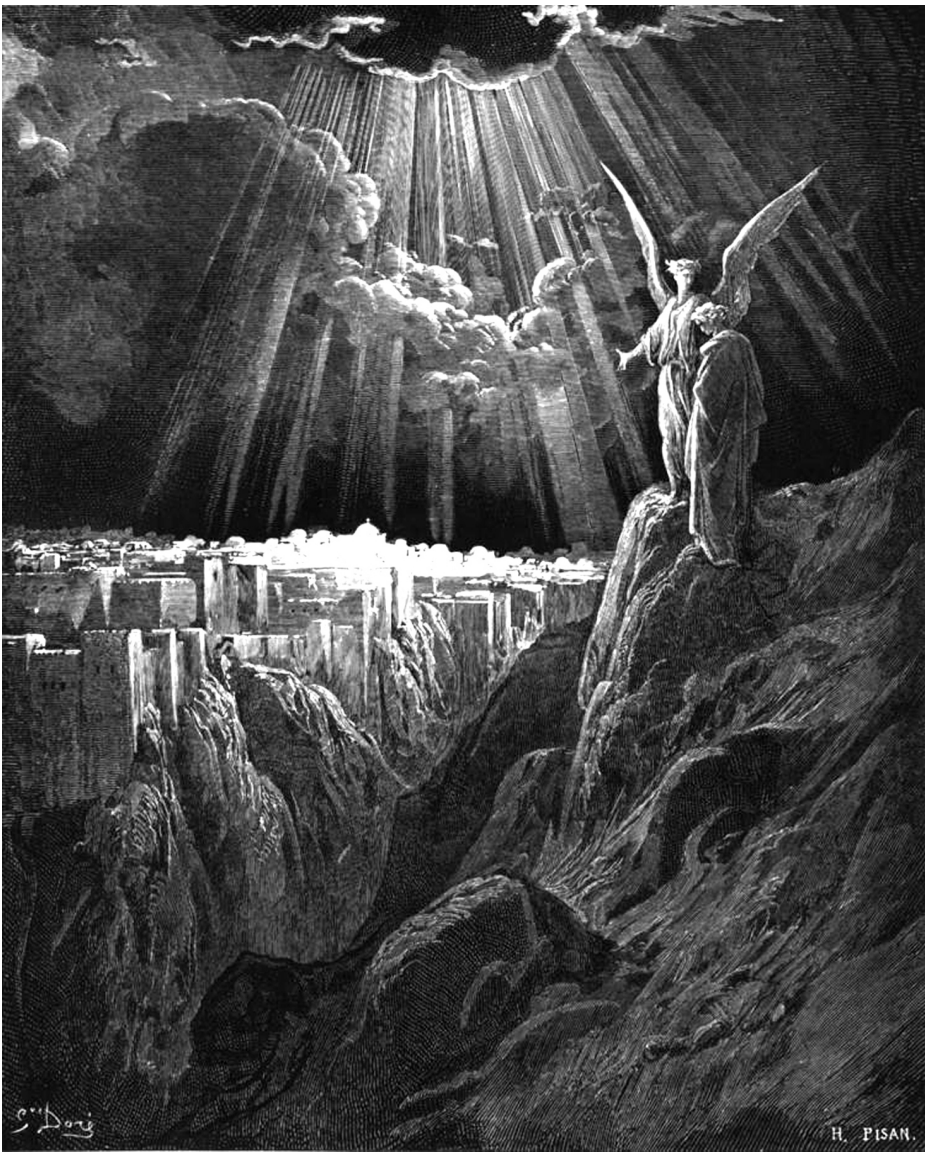
golden reed to measure the city, its gates, and its walls. **16** The city is square. Its length is as great as its width. He measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand twelve stadia. Its length, width, and height are equal. **17** Its wall is one hundred forty-four cubits, by the measure of a man, that is, of an angel. **18** The construction of its wall was jasper. The city was pure gold, like pure glass. **19** The foundations of the city's wall were adorned with all kinds of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire; the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, **20** the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. **21** The twelve gates were twelve pearls. Each one of the gates was made of one pearl. The street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. **22** I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. **23** The city has no need for the sun or moon to shine, for the very glory of God illuminated it and its lamp is the Lamb. **24** The nations will walk in its light. The kings of the earth bring the glory and honor of the nations into it. **25** Its gates will in no way be shut by day (for there will be no night there), **26** and they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it so that they may enter. **27** There will in no way enter into it anything profane, or one who causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

**22** He showed me a river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb, **2** in the middle of its street. On this side of the river and on that was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruits, yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. **3** There will be no curse any more. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will serve him. **4** They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. **5** There will be no night, and they need no lamp light or sun light; for the Lord God will illuminate them. They will reign for the ages (αἰῶν g165) of the ages (αἰῶν g165). **6** He said to me, "These words are faithful and true. The Lord God of the spirits of the prophets sent his angel to show to his bondservants the things which must happen soon." **7** "Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed

is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." **8** Now I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. When I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who had shown me these things. **9** He said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow bondservant with you and with your brothers, the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God." **10** He said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. **11** He who acts unjustly, let him act unjustly still. He who is filthy, let him be filthy still. He who is righteous, let him do righteousness still. He who is holy, let him be holy still." **12** "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, to repay to each man according to his work. **13** I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. **14** Blessed are those who do his commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter in by the gates into the city. **15** Outside are the dogs, the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. **16** I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify these things to you for the assemblies. I am the root and the offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star." **17** The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" He who hears, let him say, "Come!" He who is thirsty, let him come. He who desires, let him take the water of life freely. **18** I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book. **19** If anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life, and out of the holy city, which are written in this book. **20** He who testifies these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen! Yes, come, Lord Jesus! **21** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with all the saints. Amen.







## The New Jerusalem

*I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice out of heaven saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with people; and he will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.*

Revelation 21:2-3

# Reader's Guide

[AionianBible.org/Readers-Guide](http://AionianBible.org/Readers-Guide)

The Aionian Bible republishes public domain and Creative Common Bible texts that are 100% free to copy and print. The original translation is unaltered and notes are added to help your study. The notes show the location of eleven special Greek and Hebrew Aionian Glossary words to help us better understand God's love for individuals and for all mankind, and the nature of afterlife destinies.

Who has the authority to interpret the Bible and examine the underlying Hebrew and Greek words? That is a good question! We read in 1 John 2:27, *"As for you, the anointing which you received from him remains in you, and you do not need for anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is no lie, and even as it taught you, you remain in him."* Every Christian is qualified to interpret the Bible! Now that does not mean we will all agree. Each of us is still growing in our understanding of the truth. However, it does mean that there is no infallible human or tradition to answer all our questions. Instead the Holy Spirit helps each of us to know the truth and grow closer to God and each other.

The Bible is a library with 66 books in the Protestant Canon. The best way to learn God's word is to read entire books. Read the book of Genesis. Read the book of John. Read the entire Bible library. Topical studies and cross-referencing can be good. However, the safest way to understand context and meaning is to read whole Bible books. Chapter and verse numbers were added for convenience in the 16th century, but unfortunately they can cause the Bible to seem like an encyclopedia. The Aionian Bible is formatted with simple verse numbering, minimal notes, and no cross-referencing in order to encourage the reading of Bible books.

Bible reading must also begin with prayer. Any Christian is qualified to interpret the Bible with God's help. However, this freedom is also a responsibility because without the Holy Spirit we cannot interpret accurately. We read in 1 Corinthians 2:13-14, *"And we speak of these things, not with words taught by human wisdom, but with those taught by the Spirit, comparing spiritual things with spiritual things. Now the natural person does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned."* So we cannot understand in our natural self, but we can with God's help through prayer.

The Holy Spirit is the best writer and he uses literary devices such as introductions, conclusions, paragraphs, and metaphors. He also writes various genres including historical narrative, prose, and poetry. So Bible study must spiritually discern and understand literature. Pray, read, observe, interpret, and apply. Finally, *"Do your best to present yourself approved by God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, properly handling the word of truth."* 2 Timothy 2:15. *"God has granted to us his precious and exceedingly great promises; that through these you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust. Yes, and for this very cause adding on your part all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence; and in moral excellence, knowledge; and in knowledge, self-control; and in self-control patience; and in patience godliness; and in godliness brotherly affection; and in brotherly affection, love. For if these things are yours and abound, they make you to be not idle nor unfruitful to the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ,"* 2 Peter 1:4-8.

# Glossary

[AionianBible.org/Glossary](http://AionianBible.org/Glossary)

The Aionian Bible un-translates and instead transliterates eleven special words to help us better understand the extent of God's love for individuals and all mankind, and the nature of afterlife destinies. The original translation is unaltered and a note is added to 64 Old Testament and 200 New Testament verses. Compare the meanings below to the Strong's Concordance and Glossary definitions.

## **Abyssos** g12

*Greek:* proper noun, place

*Usage:* 9 times in 3 books, 6 chapters, and 9 verses

*Meaning:*

Temporary prison for special fallen angels such as Apollyon, the Beast, and Satan.

## **aidios** g126

*Greek:* adjective

*Usage:* 2 times in Romans 1:20 and Jude 6

*Meaning:*

Lasting, enduring forever, eternal.

## **aiōn** g165

*Greek:* noun

*Usage:* 127 times in 22 books, 75 chapters, and 102 verses

*Meaning:*

A lifetime or time period with a beginning and end, an era, an age, the completion of which is beyond human perception, but known only to God the creator of the aiōns, Hebrews 1:2. Never meaning simple endless or infinite chronological time in Greek usage. Read Dr. Heleen Keizer and Ramelli and Konstan for proofs.

## **aiōnios** g166

*Greek:* adjective

*Usage:* 71 times in 19 books, 44 chapters, and 69 verses

*Meaning:*

From start to finish, pertaining to the age, lifetime, entirety, complete, or even consummate. Never meaning simple endless or infinite chronological time in Koine Greek usage. Read Dr. Heleen Keizer and Ramelli and Konstan for proofs.

## **eleēsē** g1653

*Greek:* verb, aorist tense, active voice, subjunctive mood, 3rd person singular

*Usage:* 1 time in this conjugation, Romans 11:32

*Meaning:*

To have pity on, to show mercy. Typically, the subjunctive mood indicates possibility, not certainty. However, a subjunctive in a purpose clause is a resulting action as certain as the causal action. The subjunctive in a purpose clause functions as an indicative, not an optative. Thus, the grand conclusion of grace theology in Romans 11:32 must be clarified. God's mercy on all is not a possibility, but a certainty. See [ntgreek.org](http://ntgreek.org).

**Geenna** g1067

*Greek:* proper noun, place

*Usage:* 12 times in 4 books, 7 chapters, and 12 verses

*Meaning:*

Valley of Hinnom, Jerusalem's trash dump, a place of ruin, destruction, and judgment in this life, or the next, though not eternal to Jesus' audience.

**Hadēs** g86

*Greek:* proper noun, place

*Usage:* 11 times in 5 books, 9 chapters, and 11 verses

*Meaning:*

Synonymous with Sheol, though in New Testament usage Hades is the temporal place of punishment for deceased unbelieving mankind, distinct from Paradise for deceased believers.

**Limnē Pyr** g3041 g4442

*Greek:* proper noun, place

*Usage:* Phrase 5 times in the New Testament

*Meaning:*

Lake of Fire, final punishment for those not named in the Book of Life, prepared for the Devil and his angels, Matthew 25:41.

**Sheol** h7585

*Hebrew:* proper noun, place

*Usage:* 66 times in 17 books, 50 chapters, and 64 verses

*Meaning:*

The grave or temporal afterlife world of both the righteous and unrighteous, believing and unbelieving, until the general resurrection.

**Tartaroō** g5020

*Greek:* proper noun, place

*Usage:* 1 time in 2 Peter 2:4

*Meaning:*

Temporary prison for particular fallen angels awaiting final judgment.

# Glossary +

[AionianBible.org/Bibles/English---Aionian-Bible/Noted](http://AionianBible.org/Bibles/English---Aionian-Bible/Noted)

Glossary references are below. Strong's Hebrew and Greek number notes are added to 64 Old Testament and 200 New Testament verses. Questioned verse translations do not contain Aionian Glossary words and may wrongly imply *eternal* or *Hell*. \* The note placement is skipped or adjusted for verses with non-standard numbering.

## **Abyssos**

Luke 8:31  
Romans 10:7  
Revelation 9:1  
Revelation 9:2  
Revelation 9:11  
Revelation 11:7  
Revelation 17:8  
Revelation 20:1  
Revelation 20:3

## **aidios**

Romans 1:20  
Jude 1:6

## **aiōn**

Matthew 12:32  
Matthew 13:22  
Matthew 13:39  
Matthew 13:40  
Matthew 13:49  
Matthew 21:19  
Matthew 24:3  
Matthew 28:20  
Mark 3:29  
Mark 4:19  
Mark 10:30  
Mark 11:14  
Luke 1:33  
Luke 1:55  
Luke 1:70  
Luke 16:8  
Luke 18:30  
Luke 20:34  
Luke 20:35  
John 4:14  
John 6:51  
John 6:58  
John 8:35  
John 8:51  
John 8:52  
John 9:32  
John 10:28  
John 11:26  
John 12:34  
John 13:8  
John 14:16

Acts 3:21  
Acts 15:18  
Romans 1:25  
Romans 9:5  
Romans 11:36  
Romans 12:2  
Romans 16:27  
1 Corinthians 1:20  
1 Corinthians 2:6  
1 Corinthians 2:7  
1 Corinthians 2:8  
1 Corinthians 3:18  
1 Corinthians 8:13  
1 Corinthians 10:11  
2 Corinthians 4:4  
2 Corinthians 9:9  
2 Corinthians 11:31  
Galatians 1:4  
Galatians 1:5  
Ephesians 1:21  
Ephesians 2:2  
Ephesians 2:7  
Ephesians 3:9  
Ephesians 3:11  
Ephesians 3:21  
Ephesians 6:12\*  
Philippians 4:20  
Colossians 1:26  
1 Timothy 1:17  
1 Timothy 6:17  
2 Timothy 4:10  
2 Timothy 4:18  
Titus 2:12  
Hebrews 1:2  
Hebrews 1:8  
Hebrews 5:6  
Hebrews 6:5  
Hebrews 6:20  
Hebrews 7:17  
Hebrews 7:21  
Hebrews 7:24  
Hebrews 7:28  
Hebrews 9:26  
Hebrews 11:3  
Hebrews 13:8  
Hebrews 13:21  
1 Peter 1:23\*

1 Peter 1:25  
1 Peter 4:11  
1 Peter 5:11  
2 Peter 3:18  
1 John 2:17  
2 John 1:2  
Jude 1:13  
Jude 1:25  
Revelation 1:6  
Revelation 1:18  
Revelation 4:9  
Revelation 4:10  
Revelation 5:13  
Revelation 7:12  
Revelation 10:6  
Revelation 11:15  
Revelation 14:11  
Revelation 15:7  
Revelation 19:3  
Revelation 20:10  
Revelation 22:5

## **aiōnios**

Matthew 18:8  
Matthew 19:16  
Matthew 19:29  
Matthew 25:41  
Matthew 25:46  
Mark 3:29  
Mark 10:17  
Mark 10:30  
Luke 10:25  
Luke 16:9  
Luke 18:18  
Luke 18:30  
John 3:15  
John 3:16  
John 3:36  
John 4:14  
John 4:36  
John 5:24  
John 5:39  
John 6:27  
John 6:40  
John 6:47  
John 6:54  
John 6:68

John 10:28  
John 12:25  
John 12:50  
John 17:2  
John 17:3  
Acts 13:46  
Acts 13:48  
Romans 2:7  
Romans 5:21  
Romans 6:22  
Romans 6:23  
Romans 16:25  
Romans 16:26  
2 Corinthians 4:17  
2 Corinthians 4:18  
2 Corinthians 5:1  
Galatians 6:8  
2 Thessalonians 1:9  
2 Thessalonians 2:16  
1 Timothy 1:16  
1 Timothy 6:12  
1 Timothy 6:16  
2 Timothy 1:9  
2 Timothy 2:10  
Titus 1:2  
Titus 3:7  
Philemon 1:15  
Hebrews 5:9  
Hebrews 6:2  
Hebrews 9:12  
Hebrews 9:14  
Hebrews 9:15  
Hebrews 13:20  
1 Peter 5:10  
2 Peter 1:11  
1 John 1:2  
1 John 2:25  
1 John 3:15  
1 John 5:11  
1 John 5:13  
1 John 5:20  
Jude 1:7  
Jude 1:21  
Revelation 14:6

## ***eleēse***

Romans 11:32

## ***Geenna***

Matthew 5:22  
Matthew 5:29  
Matthew 5:30  
Matthew 10:28  
Matthew 18:9  
Matthew 23:15  
Matthew 23:33  
Mark 9:43

Mark 9:45  
Mark 9:47  
Luke 12:5  
James 3:6

## ***Hadēs***

Matthew 11:23  
Matthew 16:18  
Luke 10:15  
Luke 16:23  
Acts 2:27  
Acts 2:31  
1 Corinthians 15:55  
Revelation 1:18  
Revelation 6:8  
Revelation 20:13  
Revelation 20:14

## ***Limnē Pyr***

Revelation 19:20  
Revelation 20:10  
Revelation 20:14  
Revelation 20:15  
Revelation 21:8

## ***Sheol***

Genesis 37:35  
Genesis 42:38  
Genesis 44:29  
Genesis 44:31  
Numbers 16:30  
Numbers 16:33  
Deuteronomy 32:22  
1 Samuel 2:6  
2 Samuel 22:6  
1 Kings 2:6  
1 Kings 2:9  
Job 7:9  
Job 11:8  
Job 14:13  
Job 17:13  
Job 17:16  
Job 21:13  
Job 24:19  
Job 26:6  
Psalms 6:5  
Psalms 9:17  
Psalms 16:10  
Psalms 18:5  
Psalms 30:3  
Psalms 31:17  
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Psalms 55:15  
Psalms 86:13  
Psalms 88:3  
Psalms 89:48

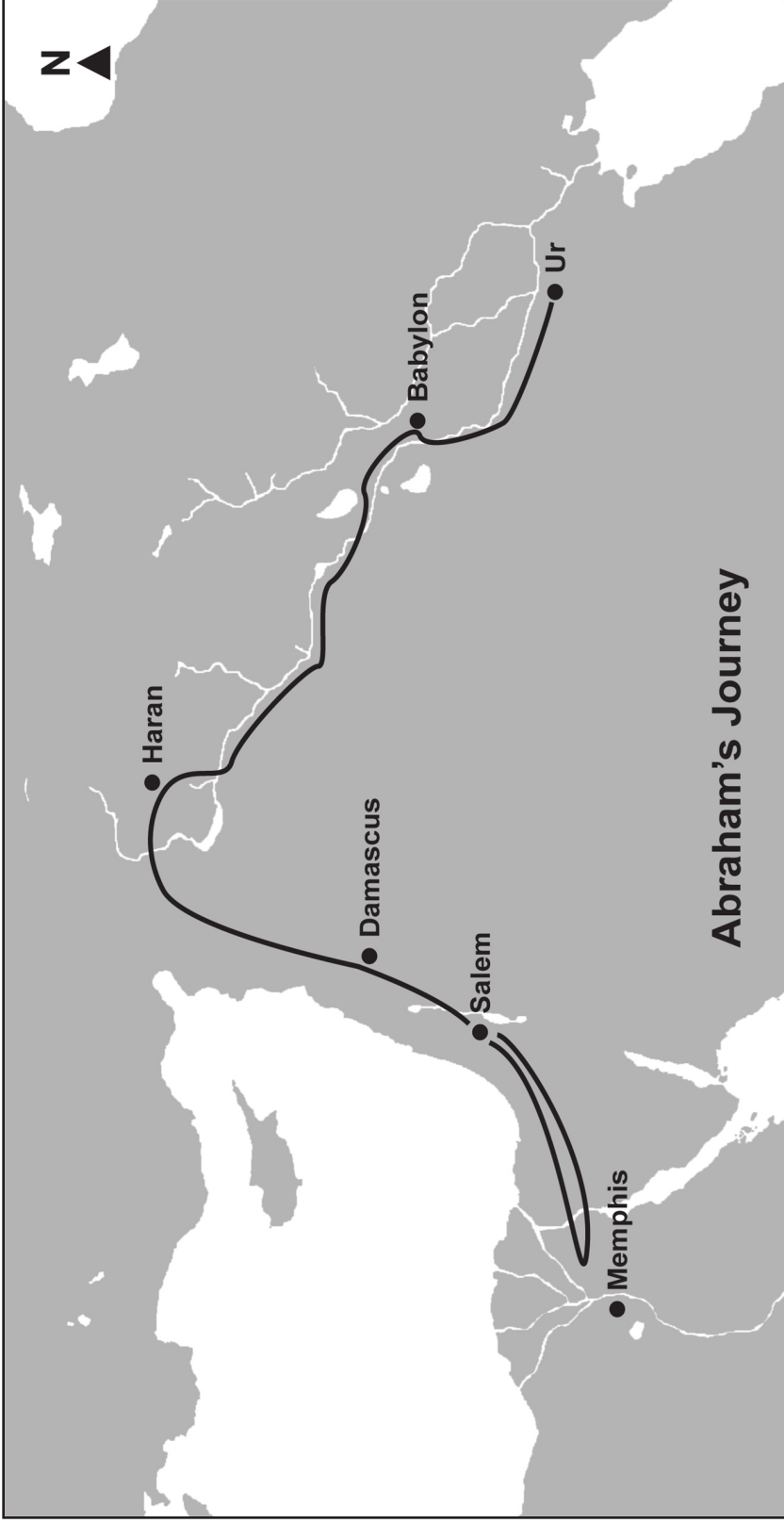
Psalms 116:3  
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Proverbs 5:5  
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Proverbs 15:11  
Proverbs 15:24  
Proverbs 23:14  
Proverbs 27:20  
Proverbs 30:16  
Ecclesiastes 9:10  
Song of Solomon 8:6  
Isaiah 5:14  
Isaiah 7:11  
Isaiah 14:9  
Isaiah 14:11  
Isaiah 14:15  
Isaiah 28:15  
Isaiah 28:18  
Isaiah 38:10  
Isaiah 38:18  
Isaiah 57:9  
Ezekiel 31:15  
Ezekiel 31:16  
Ezekiel 31:17  
Ezekiel 32:21  
Ezekiel 32:27  
Hosea 13:14  
Amos 9:2  
Jonah 2:2  
Habakkuk 2:5

## ***Tartaroō***

2 Peter 2:4

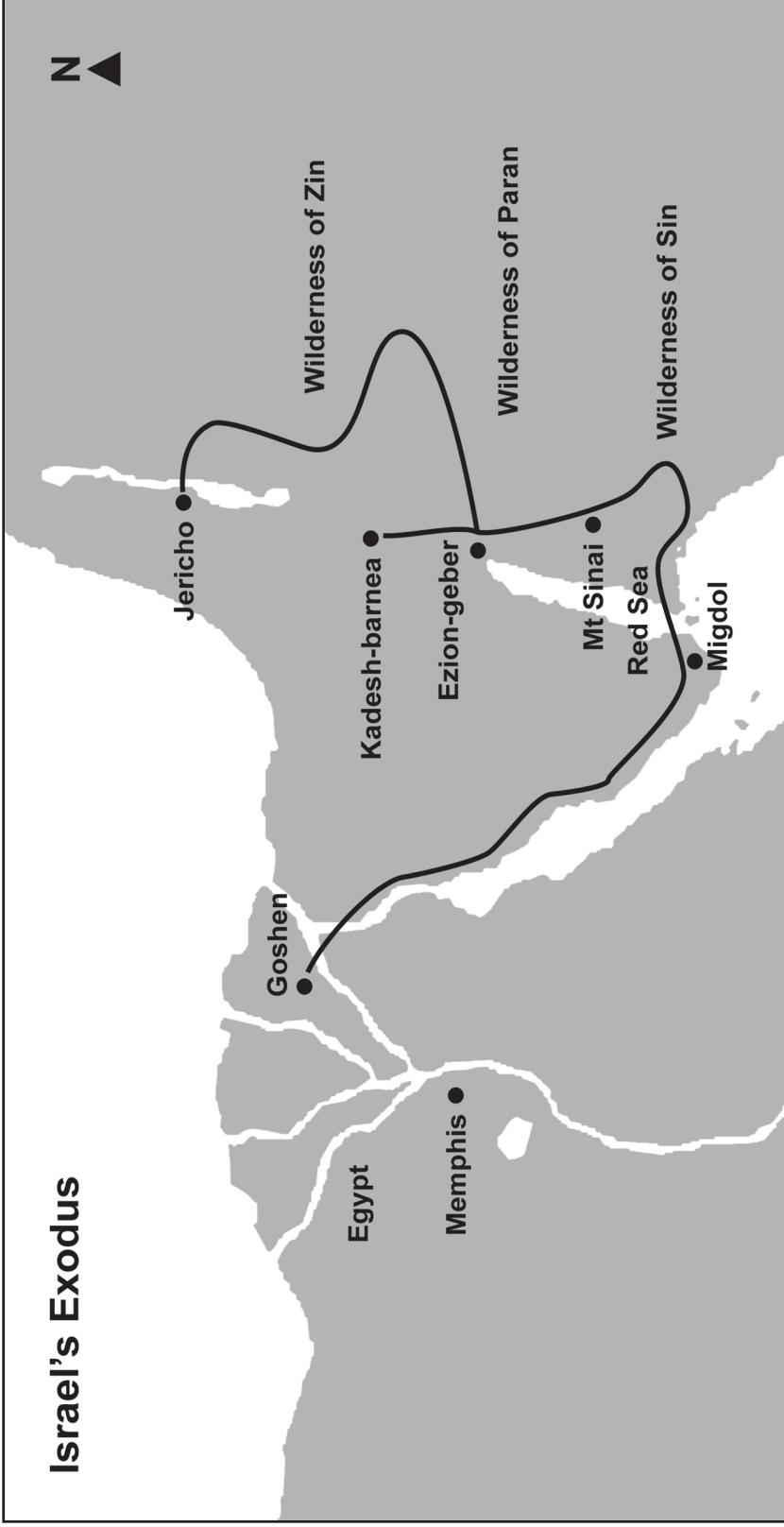
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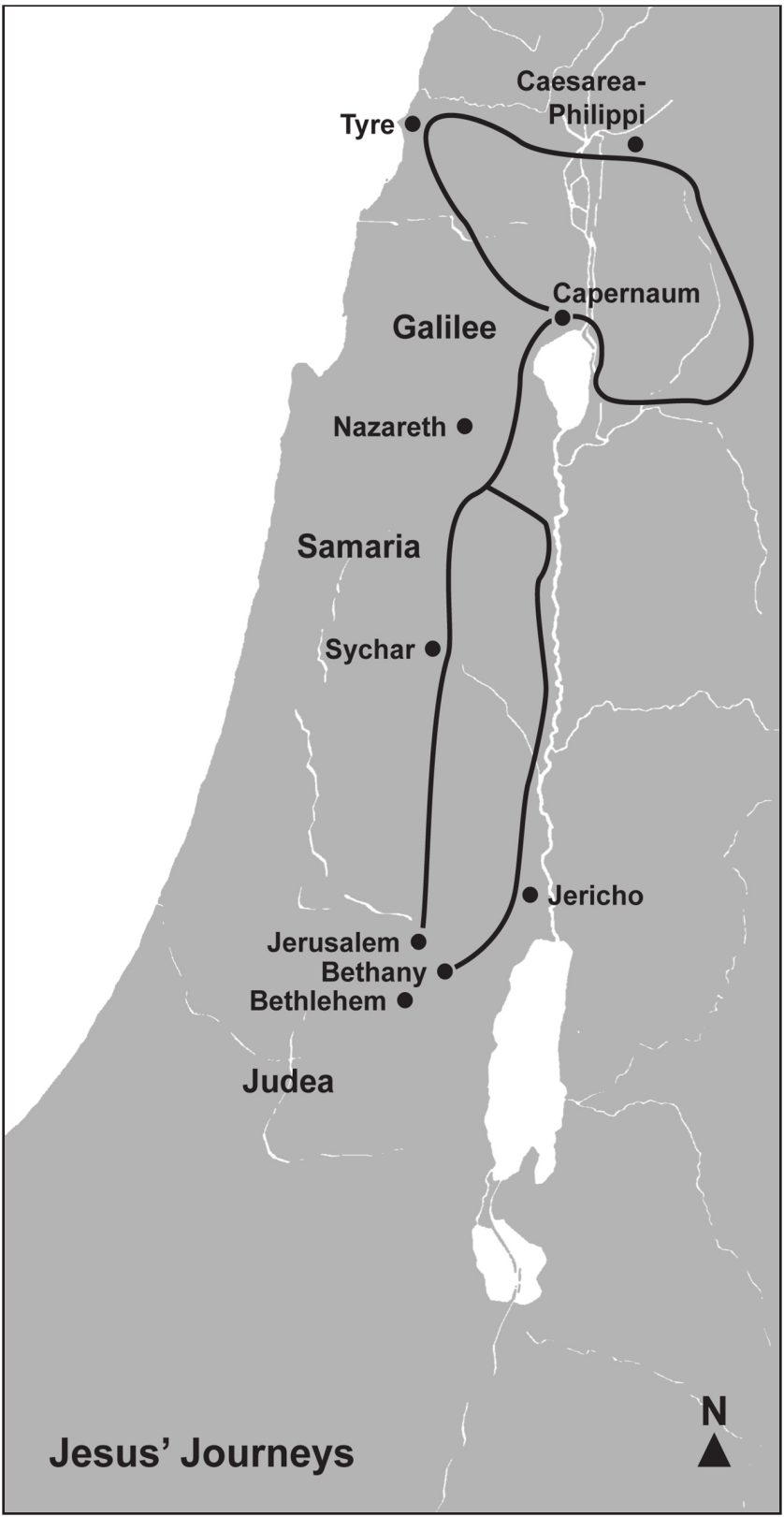


*By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed to go out to the place which he was to receive for an inheritance. He went out, not knowing where he went. - Hebrews 11:8*

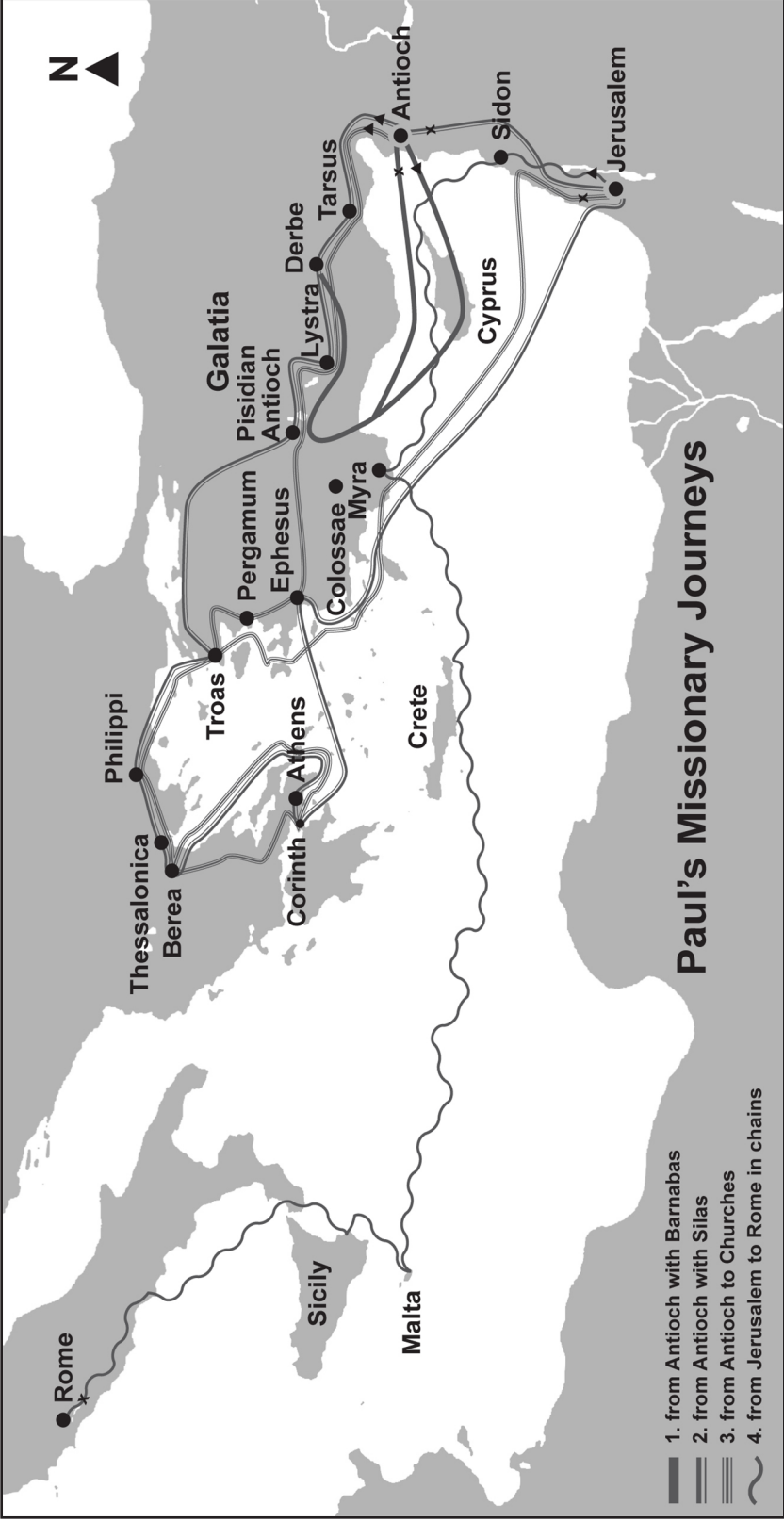




*When Pharaoh had let the people go, God did not lead them by the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, "Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and they return to Egypt"; - Exodus 13:17*



*For the Son of Man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. - Mark 10:45*



*Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the Good News of God, - Romans 1:1*

# Creation 4004 B.C.

Adam and Eve created	4004
Tubal-cain forges metal	3300
Enoch walks with God	3017
Methuselah dies at age 969	2349
God floods the Earth	2349
Tower of Babel thwarted	2247
Abraham sojourns to Canaan	1922
Jacob moves to Egypt	1706
Moses leads Exodus from Egypt	1491
Gideon judges Israel	1245
Ruth embraces the God of Israel	1168
David installed as King	1055
King Solomon builds the Temple	1018
Elijah defeats Baal's prophets	896
Jonah preaches to Nineveh	800
Assyrians conquer Israelites	721
King Josiah reforms Judah	630
Babylonians capture Judah	605
Persians conquer Babylonians	539
Cyrus frees Jews, rebuilds Temple	537
Nehemiah rebuilds the wall	454
Malachi prophecies the Messiah	416
Greeks conquer Persians	331
Seleucids conquer Greeks	312
Hebrew Bible translated to Greek	250
Maccabees defeat Seleucids	165
Romans subject Judea	63
Herod the Great rules Judea	37

(The Annals of the World, James Uusher)

## Jesus Christ born 4 B.C.

# New Heavens and Earth



- 1956 Christ returns for his people
- 1956 Jim Elliot martyrdom in Ecuador
- 1830 John Williams reaches Polynesia
- 1731 Zinzendorf leads Moravian mission
- 1614 Japanese kill 40,000 Christians
- 1572 Jesuits reach Mexico
- 1517 Martin Luther leads Reformation
- 1455 Gutenberg prints first Bible
- 1323 Franciscans reach Sumatra
- 1276 Ramon Llull trains missionaries
- 1100 Crusades tarnish the church
- 1054 The Great Schism
- 997 Adalbert martyrdom in Prussia
- 864 Bulgarian Prince Boris converts
- 716 Boniface reaches Germany
- 635 Alopen reaches China
- 569 Longinus reaches Alodia / Sudan
- 432 Saint Patrick reaches Ireland
- 397 Carthage ratifies Bible Canon
- 341 Ulfilas reaches Goth / Romania
- 325 Niceae proclaims God is Trinity
- 250 Denis reaches Paris, France
- 197 Tertullian writes Christian literature
- 70 Titus destroys the Jewish Temple
- 61 Paul imprisoned in Rome, Italy
- 52 Thomas reaches Malabar, India
- 39 Peter reaches Gentile Cornelius
- 33 Holy Spirit empowers the Church

(Wikipedia, Timeline of Christian missions)

## Resurrected 33 A.D.

<b>What are we?</b> ▶			Genesis 1:26 - 2:3		
<b>How are we sinful?</b> ▶			Romans 5:12-19		
<b>Where are we?</b> ◀			Innocence		
			Eternity Past	Creation 4004 B.C.	
<b>Who are we?</b> ▶	God	Father	John 10:30	Genesis 1:31  God's perfect fellowship with Adam in The Garden of Eden	
		Son	God's perfect fellowship		
		Holy Spirit			
	Mankind	Living	Genesis 1:1  No Creation No people		Genesis 1:31  No Fall No unholy Angels
		Deceased believing			
		Deceased unbelieving			
	Angels	Holy			
		Imprisoned			
		Fugitive			
		First Beast			
		False Prophet			
	Satan				
<b>Why are we?</b> ▶			Romans 11:25-36, Ephesian 2:7		

Mankind is created in God's image, male and female He created us

Sin entered the world through Adam and then death through sin

## When are we?



Fallen				Glory
Fall to sin No Law	Moses' Law 1500 B.C.	Christ 33 A.D.	Church Age Kingdom Age	New Heavens and Earth
1 Timothy 6:16 Living in unapproachable light				Acts 3:21 Philippians 2:11 Revelation 20:3  God's perfectly restored fellowship with all Mankind praising Christ as Lord in the Holy City
John 8:58 Pre-incarnate	John 1:14 Incarnate	Luke 23:43 Paradise		
Psalm 139:7 Everywhere	John 14:17 Living in believers			
Ephesians 2:1-5 Serving the Savior or Satan on Earth				
Luke 16:22 Blessed in Paradise				
Luke 16:23, Revelation 20:5,13 Punished in Hades until the final judgment				
Hebrews 1:14 Serving mankind at God's command				
2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6 Imprisoned in Tartarus				
			Revelation 20:13 Thalaasa	Matthew 25:41 Revelation 20:10
1 Peter 5:8, Revelation 12:10  Rebelling against Christ Accusing mankind			Revelation 19:20 Lake of Fire	Lake of Fire prepared for the Devil and his Angels
			Revelation 20:2 Abyss	

For God has bound all over to disobedience in order to show mercy to all

# Destiny

[AionianBible.org/Destiny](http://AionianBible.org/Destiny)

The Aionian Bible shows the location of eleven special Greek and Hebrew Aionian Glossary words to help us better understand God's love for individuals and for all mankind, and the nature of after-life destinies. The underlying Hebrew and Greek words typically translated as *Hell* show us that there are not just two after-life destinies, Heaven or Hell. Instead, there are a number of different locations, each with different purposes, different durations, and different inhabitants. Locations include 1) Old Testament *Sheol* and New Testament *Hadēs*, 2) *Geenna*, 3) *Tartaroō*, 4) *Abyssos*, 5) *Limnē Pyr*, 6) *Paradise*, 7) *The New Heaven*, and 8) *The New Earth*. So there is reason to review our conclusions about the destinies of redeemed mankind and fallen angels.

The key observation is that fallen angels will be present at the final judgment, 2 Peter 2:4 and Jude 6. Traditionally, we understand the separation of the Sheep and the Goats at the final judgment to divide believing from unbelieving mankind, Matthew 25:31-46 and Revelation 20:11-15. However, the presence of fallen angels alternatively suggests that Jesus is separating redeemed mankind from the fallen angels. We do know that Jesus is the helper of mankind and not the helper of the Devil, Hebrews 2. We also know that Jesus has atoned for the sins of all mankind, both believer and unbeliever alike, 1 John 2:1-2. Deceased believers are rewarded in Paradise, Luke 23:43, while unbelievers are punished in Hades as the story of Lazarus makes plain, Luke 16:19-31. Yet less commonly known, the punishment of this selfish man and all unbelievers is before the final judgment, is temporal, and is punctuated when Hades is evacuated, Revelation 20:13. So is there hope beyond Hades for unbelieving mankind? Jesus promised, *"the gates of Hades will not prevail,"* Matthew 16:18. Paul asks, *"Hades where is your victory?"* 1 Corinthians 15:55. John wrote, *"Hades gives up,"* Revelation 20:13.

Jesus comforts us saying, *"Do not be afraid,"* because he holds the keys to *unlock* death and Hades, Revelation 1:18. Yet too often our *Good News* sounds like a warning to *"be afraid"* because Jesus holds the keys to *lock* Hades! Wow, we have it backwards! Hades will be evacuated! And to guarantee hope, once emptied, Hades is thrown into the Lake of Fire, never needed again, Revelation 20:14.

Finally, we read that anyone whose name is not written in the Book of Life is thrown into the Lake of Fire, the second death, with no exit ever mentioned or promised, Revelation 21:1-8. So are those evacuated from Hades then, *"out of the frying pan, into the fire?"* Certainly, the Lake of Fire is the destiny of the Goats. But, do not be afraid. Instead, read the Bible's explicit mention of the purpose of the Lake of Fire and the identity of the Goats, *"Then he will say also to those on the left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the consummate fire which is prepared for... the devil and his angels,'"* Matthew 25:41. Bad news for the Devil. Good news for all mankind!

Faith is not a pen to write your own name in the Book of Life. Instead, faith is the glasses to see that the love of Christ for all mankind has already written our names in Heaven. Jesus said, *"You did not choose me, but I chose you,"* John 15:16. Though unbelievers will suffer regrettable punishment in Hades, redeemed mankind will never enter the Lake of Fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. And as God promised, all mankind will worship Christ together forever, Philippians 2:9-11.





## World Nations

*Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, - Matthew 28:19*

