# Isaiah

The Book of Isaiah is a collection of prophecies addressed to the people of Judah. Isaiah lived in the 700s BC, a time of crisis for Judah associated with the expansion of the Assyrian empire into the region. A major focus of Isaiah’s prophecies concerns how Judah needs to deal with different aspects of the challenge this crisis brings.

* Chapters 1—12 give dates in the time of King Ahaz, the 730s, when Ephraim and Syria are leaning on Judah to resist Assyria, and Isaiah urges Judah to trust God for its future.
* Chapters 13—23 speak of what God intends to do in relation to the other peoples around Judah, so as to urge Judah not to be afraid of them but not to trust them either.
* Chapters 24—27 widen the horizon to speak of God’s purpose for the world as a whole
* Chapters 28—39 return to focus directly on Judah, but now in the time of King Hezekiah, the 700s, when Ephraim and Syria have fallen and Judah is seeking help from Egypt in order to resist Assyria.

Isaiah’s prophecies are thus quite coherently organized on a large scale, though readers are often bemused about the train of thought within these major collections of chapters. The chapters collect short prophecies delivered on different occasions. So any given chapter likely brings together several separate prophecies that did not originally belong together.

Isaiah wants Judah and its king to live by trust in the commitment Yahweh made to David and his successors and to Jerusalem as the place he himself deigned to dwell. The promises that work out God’s commitment to David are ones that help us understand Jesus. But in origin they brought God’s word to his people in Isaiah’s day. So Christians need to read them as indications of the way God was speaking to his people in that context and as promises that can help us understand Jesus, and understand what God still intends to do.

The first thirty-nine chapters of Isaiah close with a declaration that members of Hezekiah’s family are going to end up in exile in Babylon. It happened a century or so later. When we then turn over the page into Isaiah 40 we read a message of comfort to those exiles: the time of their restoration from exile has arrived. Babylon is about to fall to the Persians, which happened in 539.

These prophecies are not couched as promises that one day Yahweh will restore his people. They are declarations that Yahweh is taking that action now. The implication is that they were given in the sixth century not the eighth century. In the chapters that follow Isaiah 40 we can see links with earlier prophecies in the book. They continue to use Isaiah’s favourite title for Yahweh, that he is ‘Israel’s Holy One’. So what in these chapters a prophet or a series of prophets are taking up Isaiah’s message and proclaiming what he would say if he were here now. He had spoken of how Yahweh’s being Israel’s Holy One had been bad news—it meant Yahweh was going to discipline Judah for its rebellion against him. These chapters declare that Yahweh’s being Israel’s Holy One is now good news for Judah—it is this Holy One who is their restorer. Once again there are prophecies that helped the New Testament understand the significance of Jesus, particularly Isaiah 52:13—53:12. It describes a servant of God who has been persecuted but will be restored. This description will have applied to someone in the prophet’s day, but it helped Jesus and people who believed in Jesus to understand him.

When we turn over the page again after Isaiah 40—55, we discover that the situation has again moved on. Isaiah 56—66 relates to the situation of Judah when people have been free to return there after their exile but where things are not as wonderful as they might have expected, and they bring together messages designed to enable the community to live in that context and keep being hopeful and committed. In Isaiah 61 there is a testimony by a prophet called to bring that message, and it is another chapter that Jesus took up and applied to himself.

## 1:1 Haven’t You Had Enough?

1 The vision of Isaiah ben Amots which he beheld concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziyyahu, Yotam, Ahaz, and Yehizqiyyahu [Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah], kings of Judah.

2Listen, heavens, give ear, earth,

because Yahweh has spoken.

I reared children, I raised them,

but they – they rebelled against me.

3An ox acknowledges its owner,

a donkey its master’s manger.

Israel doesn’t acknowledge,

my people doesn’t show any discernment.

4Hey, wrongdoing nation,

a people heavy with waywardness!

Offspring of people who deal badly, devastating children,

they’ve abandoned Yahweh.

They’ve disdained Israel’s sacred one,

they’ve become estranged, backwards.

5Why will you be struck down more,

continue being defiant?

The whole head has come to sickness,

the whole mind is faint.

6From the sole of the foot to the head,

there’s no integrity in it.

Bruise, blotch, fresh wound –

they haven’t been pressed out.

They haven’t been bandaged,

it hasn’t been softened with oil.

7Your country’s a desolation,

your towns burned with fire.

Your land – in front of you,

foreigners are consuming it,

A desolation, quite overthrown by foreigners,

8and Miss Zion is left like a shelter in a vineyard,

Like a place to stay the night in a melon field,

like a town besieged.

9Had Yahweh Armies

not left us survivors, a few,

We’d have been like Sedom [Sodom],

we’d have resembled Amorah [Gomorrah].

## 1:10 I’m Fed Up to the Teeth with Your Worship

10Listen to Yahweh’s word,

rulers of Sodom!

Give ear to our God’s instruction,

people of Gomorrah!

11What use to me is the large number of your sacrifices?

(Yahweh says).

I’m full of burnt offerings of rams

and the fat of fatlings.

In the blood of bulls and lambs and goats

I do not delight.

12When you come to appear to my face,

who sought this from your hand?

Trampling my courtyards – 13you will do it no more,

bringing an empty offering.

Incense is an offense to me,

new month and sabbath, the calling of a convocation.

I cannot bear trouble and assembly;

14your new moons and your appointed times my entire being dislikes.

They’ve become a burden to me

that I’m weary of carrying.

15And when you spread the palms of your hands,

I shall lift up my eyes from you.

Even when you offer many a plea,

there will be no listening on my part.

Your hands are full of bloodshed –

16wash, get clean.

Remove the badness of your practices

from in front of my eyes.

Stop dealing badly,

17learn doing good.

Require the exercise of authority, put the oppressor right,

exercise authority for the orphan, argue for the widow.

18Come on, please, let’s argue it out

(Yahweh says).

If your wrongdoings are like scarlet,

they’re to be white like snow.

If they’re red like crimson,

they’re to be like wool.

19If you’re willing and you listen,

you will consume the good things of the country.

20But if you refuse and rebel,

you’ll be consumed by the sword;

because Yahweh’s mouth has spoken.

## 1:21 Second Degree Manslaughter

21Aagh, she’s become a whore,

the trustworthy township, full of the exercise of authority.

Faithfulness was lodging in it,

but now murderers.

22Your silver has become slag,

your drink is diluted with water.

23Your officers are defiant, the associates of thieves;

every one of them loves a bribe, chases gifts.

They don’t exercise authority for the orphan;

the widow’s cause doesn’t come to them.

24Therefore the declaration of the Lord,

Yahweh Armies, Israel’s champion, is:

‘Hey, I shall get relief from my adversaries,

take redress from my enemies,

26turn back my hand against you.

But I shall smelt your slag as with lye,

remove all your contamination.

26I shall restore your leaders as of old,

your counsellors as at the beginning.

Afterward you will be called faithful town,

trustworthy township’.

27Zion will find redemption through the exercise of authority,

and the people in it who turn back, through faithfulness.

28But there will be a breaking of rebels and wrongdoers, all together,

and the people who abandon Yahweh will be finished.

29Because they’ll be shamed on account of the oaks that you desired;

you will be confounded on account of the gardens that you chose.

30Because you’ll be like an oak wilting of foliage,

like a garden for which there’s no water.

31The strong person will become tinder,

his work a spark.

The two of them will burn all together,

and there will be no one quenching.

2 The word that Isaiah ben Amots beheld concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

## 2:2 Study War No More

2It will come about at the end of the time:

The mountain of Yahweh’s house will have become established,

at the head of the mountains, and it will lift up higher than the hills.

All the nations will stream to it;

3many peoples will come and say,

‘Come on, let’s go up to Yahweh’s mountain,

to the house of Jacob’s God,

So he may instruct us in his ways,

and we may walk in his paths’.

Because instruction will go out from Zion,

Yahweh’s word from Jerusalem.

4He will exercise authority among the nations,

and issue reproof to many peoples.

They’ll beat their swords into hoes,

their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not carry sword against nation;

they will no more learn about battle.

5Jacob’s household, come on,

let’s walk by Yahweh’s light!

6Because you have left your people alone,

Jacob’s household.

Because they are full from the east,

yes, of diviners like the Philistines,

and they abound in children of foreigners.

7Its country’s full of silver and gold;

there’s no end to its treasures.

Its country’s full of horses;

there’s no end to its chariots.

8Its country’s full of nonentities;

they bow low to the making of their hands,

to what their fingers made.

9So humanity bows down, the individual falls down

(may you not carry them!).

10Come into the crag,

bury yourself in the dirt,

Before the fearfulness of Yahweh,

from the dreadfulness of his majesty!

11Lofty human eyes have fallen down,

the exaltedness of individuals has bowed down.

Yahweh alone will be on high

on that day.

## 2:12 The Destiny of All That Is Humanly Impressive

12Because Yahweh Armies has a day

against all majesty and exaltedness,

Against all that is high –

and it will fall down,

13Against all the cedars of the Lebanon, exalted and high,

against all the oaks of the Bashan,

14Against all the exalted mountains,

against all the high hills,

15Against every lofty tower,

against every fortified wall,

16Against every Tarshish ship,

against all the impressive vessels.

17Human loftiness will bow down,

people’s exaltedness will fall down.

Yahweh alone will be on high on that day;

18nonentities – they will completely vanish.

19People will go into caves in the crags,

into holes in the dirt

From before the fearfulness of Yahweh,

from the dreadfulness of his majesty,

when he arises to terrify the country.

20On that day humanity will throw away

its silver nonentities and its gold nonentities,

Which they made for it to bow down to,

to the moles and to the bats,

21To come into the clefts in the crags,

into the crevices in the cliffs,

Before the fearfulness of Yahweh,

from the dreadfulness of his majesty.

when he arises to terrify the earth,

22Get yourselves away from humanity,

that has breath in its nostrils,

because what is it to count for?

## 3:1 You Have a Coat, You Can Be a Leader

3 Because there,

the Lord Yahweh Armies

Is removing from Jerusalem and from Judah

supply and support:

All supply of bread

and all supply of water,

2Strong man and man of battle,

leader and prophet, diviner and elder,

3Officer over fifty, person held in high regard, counsellor,

person smart with charms and understanding chants.

4I will make youths their officials;

infants will rule over them.

5The people will oppress one another,

each his neighbour.

The youth will be arrogant toward the elder,

one who is slighted toward someone honourable.

6Because a man will seize one of his brothers,

his father’s household:

‘You have a coat, you will be a leader for us,

this ruin will be under your hand’.

7On that day he will shout,

‘I won’t be one to bind up.

In my house there’s no bread and no coat –

you won’t make me leader of the people’.

8Because Jerusalem has collapsed,

Judah has fallen.

Because their tongue and their practices have been toward Yahweh

to be rebellious against his glorious eyes.

9The look on their face testifies against them;

they declare their wrongdoing like Sodom and don’t hide it.

Aagh, for their lives,

because they have dealt themselves bad fortune.

10Say of the faithful person, ‘It will be good’,

because they will eat the fruit of their practices.

11Aagh, for the faithless person, ‘It will be bad’,

because the dealing of his hands will be done to him.

12My people – infants are their bosses,

women rule over them.

My people – your guides make you wander;

They’ve swallowed up the course of your paths.

13Yahweh is taking his stand to argue,

he’s rising to give judgment for peoples.

14Yahweh will come in the exercise of authority

with his people’s elders and its officials.

‘You – you’ve burned up the vineyard,

the humble person’s plunder is in your houses.

15What do you mean that you crush my people,

grind the faces of humble ones?

(a declaration of the Lord Yahweh Armies)’.

## 3:16 Dresses, Shawls, and Purses

16Yahweh has said:

Since Zion’s daughters are lofty,

and walk outstretched with their neck,

Flirting with their eyes,

walking and mincing as they walk,

and they jingle with their feet,

17The Lord will bare the crown of Zion’s daughters,

Yahweh will expose their forehead.

18On that day the Lord will remove the splendour of the anklets, the bands, and the necklaces, 19the earrings, the bracelets, and the veils, 20the hats, the armlets, the scarves, the amulets, and the charms, 21the rings and the nose rings, 22the dresses, the capes, the shawls, the purses, 23the gowns, the vests, the tiaras, the veils, and the sashes.

24Instead of perfume there will be a stench;

instead of a wrap, a rope;

instead of a hair-do, a shorn head;

instead of a robe, a wrapping of sack;

branding instead of beauty.

25Your men [Zion] will fall by the sword,

your strength by battle.

26Her gateways will lament and mourn;

she’ll be empty, she’ll sit on the ground.

4 Seven women will take strong hold of one man

on that day,

Saying, ‘We’ll eat our bread,

we’ll wear our clothes,

Only may your name be called out over us –

gather up our reviling’.

2On that day, Yahweh’s shoot will be

for beauty and for splendour,

And the country’s fruit

for majesty and for glory for Israel’s escape group.

3What remains in Zion,

what is left in Jerusalem—

‘Sacred’ will be said of it,

everyone who’s been written down for life in Jerusalem.

4If the Lord has washed away

the filth of Zion’s daughters,

And cleanses from within it

the shed blood of Jerusalem,

By a spirit of the exercise of authority

and by a spirit of burning away,

5Yahweh will create

over the entire establishment of Mount Zion,

and over its meeting place,

A cloud by day, and smoke,

and a brightness of flaming fire by night.

Because over all the splendour will be a canopy,

6and it will be a bivouac,

For shade by day from the heat,

and for shelter and for a hiding place from storm and from rain.

## 5:1 A Singer-Songwriter’s Strange Song

5 I want to sing a song for my friend,

my love song about his vineyard.

My friend had a vineyard

on a fertile ridge.

2He dug it and stoned it,

and planted it with choice vine.

He built a tower in the middle of it,

and also hewed a press in it.

He hoped it would make grapes,

but it made rotten grapes.

3So now, population of Jerusalem,

people of Judah,

decide, please, between me and my vineyard.

4What more was there to do for my vineyard,

and I didn’t do in it?

Why, when I hoped for it to make grapes,

did it make rotten grapes?

5So now I want to let you know, please,

what I’m doing about my vineyard:

Remove its hedge, so it will be for burning up,

break down its wall so it will be for trampling,

6so that I make an end of it.

It won’t be pruned and it won’t be hoed;

briar and thorn will grow.

I shall order the clouds

not to send rain on it.

7Because the vineyard of Yahweh Armies

is the household of Israel.

The people of Judah

are the planting in which he took pleasure.

He hoped for the exercise of authority, but there – blood pouring out;

for faithfulness, but there – a cry.

## 5:8 Sheol Has Broadened Its Appetite

8Hey, people adding house to house,

who join field to field,

until there’s no room,

and you’re made to live alone in the middle of the country.

9In my ears Yahweh Armies [has said]:

‘If many houses do not become desolation,

big and good ones without inhabitant….

10Because ten acres of vineyard

will make five gallons.

Ten barrels of seed

will make a barrel.

11Hey, people who start early in the morning

so they can chase liquor,

Stay late in the dusk

so wine can inflame them.

12There’ll be guitar and mandolin,

tambourine and pipe and wine at their banquets.

But Yahweh’s deed they don’t look to,

the action of his hands they haven’t watched.

13Therefore my people are going into exile

because of not acknowledging.

Its splendour—hungry people,

its horde—parched with thirst.

14Therefore She’ol has broadened its appetite,

opened its mouth without limit.

Its magnificence will go down,

its horde and its din and the one who exults in it.

15Human beings bow down, individuals fall down,

the eyes of the lofty fall down.

16And Yahweh Armies is lofty in exercising authority;

the sacred God shows himself sacred in faithfulness.

17Lambs will pasture as in their meadow,

aliens will eat the fatlings’ wastes.

18Hey, people who haul waywardness

with cords of emptiness,

and wrongdoing as with cart ropes,

19Who say, ‘He should hurry,

he should speed up his action, in order that we may see.

It should draw near and come about,

the counsel of Israel’s sacred one, so we may acknowledge’.

20Hey, people who say about what is bad, ‘Good’,

and about what is good, ‘Bad’,

Who make darkness into light,

and light into darkness,

Who make bitter into sweet,

and sweet into bitter.

## 5:21 Yahweh Will Whistle

21Hey, people who are smart in their eyes,

who in their view are understanding.

22Hey, strong men at drinking wine,

forceful people at mixing a drink,

23Who declare a faithless person to be in the right

in return for a bribe,

And the faithfulness of the faithful people

they remove from them.

24Therefore: like the consuming of straw in a tongue of fire,

when hay sinks down in the flame,

Their root will become veritable rot,

and their blossom will go up like dust,

Because they’ve rejected the instruction of Yahweh Armies,

spurned the word of Israel’s sacred one.

25On account of this Yahweh’s anger flared against his people;

he stretched out his hand against it and struck it down.

Mountains shook, and their corpses became

like refuse in the middle of the streets.

For all this his anger did not turn back;

his hand was still stretched out.

26He will lift a signal to the nations from afar,

he will whistle to one from the end of the earth,

and there – with speed, quick, it will come.

27There’s none weary, there’s none collapsing, in it;

it doesn’t slumber, it doesn’t sleep.

The belt on its waist doesn’t come loose,

the thong on its boots doesn’t break.

28Its arrows are sharpened,

all its bows are directed.

Its horses’ hoofs are thought of like flint,

its wheels like a whirlwind.

29Its roar is like a cougar’s;

it roars like lions.

It growls and seizes prey,

and carries it off and there’s no one rescuing.

30It will growl over it on that day, like the growling of the sea;

and he will look to the land,

And there, darkness, pressure,

and the light will have gone dark with its thunderclouds.

## 6:1 Isaiah’s Commission to Frighten People into Repentance

6 In the year King Uzziyyahu died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty, with his train filling the palace. 2Seraphs were standing above him; each had six wings. With two it would cover its face, with two it would cover its feet, with two it would fly. 3One would call to another, ‘Sacred, sacred, sacred, Yahweh Armies, his splendour is the filling of the entire earth’. 4The doorposts on the sills shook at the sound of the one who called, while the house was filling with smoke.

5I said, ‘Aagh me, because I’m ruined, because I’m a man polluted of lips, and I live among a people polluted of lips, because my eyes have seen the King, Yahweh Armies’. 6But one of the seraphs flew to me, in his hand a coal that he had taken with tongues from on the altar. 7He made it touch my mouth, and he said, ‘There, this has touched your lips, and you waywardness will depart, your wrongdoing will be expiated’.

8I heard the Lord’s voice saying, ‘Whom shall I send, who will go for us?’ I said, ‘Here I am, send me’. 9He said,

Go, and say to this people:

‘Keep listening, but don’t understand,

keep looking, but don’t acknowledge’.

10Fatten this people’s mind,

make its ears heavy, smear its eyes,

So it doesn’t see with its eyes and listen with its ears,

and its mind understands and it turns and there is healing for it.

11I said, ‘For how long, Lord?’ He said,

Until towns have crashed into ruins,

so that there is no inhabitant,

And houses so that there are no people,

and the land crashes into ruins, a desolation’.

12Yahweh will send the people away;

vast will be the abandonment in the middle of the country.

13When there is still a tenth in it,

it will again be for burning up.

But like a terebinth or like an oak

of which there’s a stump after their felling,

the sacred seed will be its stump.

## 7:1 Stand Firm, Or You Won’t Stand At All

7 In the days of Ahaz ben Yotam son of Uzziyyahu king of Judah, Retsin king of Aram and Peqah ben Remalyahu king of Israel went up to Jerusalem for a battle against it, but they couldn’t do battle against it.

2It had been told David’s household, ‘Aram has set down on Ephrayim’, and his mind and his people’s mind shook like the trees in a forest shaking before wind. 3Yahweh said to Isaiah, ‘Go out, please, to meet Ahaz, you and ‘A remainder will go back’ your son, at the end of the Upper Pool channel at the Washer’s Field causeway. 4You’re to say to him, ‘Keep watch over yourself, be calm. Don’t be afraid, your mind is not to go soft on account of these two stumps of smoking firewood, because of the angry burning of Retsin and Aram and ben Remalyahu. 5Since Aram has counselled something bad against you (Ephrayim and ben Remalyahu), saying 6’We’ll go up against Judah and dismay it and break it open for ourselves and enthrone as king within it ben Tabe’el’, 7the Lord Yahweh has said this:

It won’t arise,

it won’t happen.

8Because the head of Aram is Dammeseq [Damascus],

and the head of Aram is Retsin.

Within yet sixty-five years

Ephrayim will shatter from being a people.

9The head of Ephrayim is Shomron [Samaria],

and the head of Shomron is ben Remalyahu.

If you don’t stand firm in trust,

indeed you won’t stand firm at all’.

10Yahweh again spoke to Ahaz: 11’Ask for yourself a sign from Yahweh your God. Make it deep, to She’ol or make it lofty to the heights’. 12Ahaz said, ‘I won’t ask, I won’t test Yahweh’.

13He said, ‘Listen, please, household of David. Is it too small for you, wearying human beings, that you weary my God as well? 14Therefore the Lord – he will give you a sign. There – a girl is pregnant and she’s going to give birth to a son, and she’ll name him Immanu El [‘God is with us’]. 15He will eat yoghurt and syrup in knowing how to reject the bad and choose the good. 16Because before the boy knows how to reject the bad and choose the good, the land whose two kings you’re dismayed at will be abandoned’.

## 7:17 Plunder Hurries Loot Rushes

17Yahweh will bring on you and on your people and on your father’s household days that have not come since the day Ephrayim departed from Judah (the king of Ashshur).

* 18On that day Yahweh will whistle to the fly that’s at the end of the streams of Egypt and to the bee that’s in the country of Ashshur. 19They’ll come and settle down, all of them, in the steep wadis, in the craggy cliffs, in all the thorn-bushes, and in all the watering holes.
* 20On that day the Lord will shave with a razor hired beyond the River (with the king of Ashshur) the head and the hair on the feet, and it will also sweep away the beard.
* 21On that day someone will keep alive a heifer from the cattle and two from the flock, 22but from the quantity of the milk they make he will eat yoghurt, because everyone who’s left within the country will eat yoghurt and syrup.
* 23On that day every place where there used to be a thousand vines worth a thousand sheqels of silver will be for briar and for thorn. 24With arrows and a bow someone will come there, because the entire country will be briar and thorn. 25But all the hills that are hoed with a hoe – the fear of briar and thorn won’t come there; it will be for the roaming of oxen and for the trampling of sheep.

8 Yahweh said to me, ‘Get yourself a big panel and write on it with an ordinary stylus, ‘For Plunder hurries loot rushes’. 2I invoked as trustworthy witnesses for me Uriyyahu the priest and Zekaryahu ben Yeberekyahu. 3I had sex with the prophetess and she got pregnant and gave birth to a son. Yahweh said to me, ‘Call him Plunder hurries loot rushes’, 4because before the boy knows how to call ‘father’ and ‘mother’, someone will carry off Dammeseq’s wealth and Shomron’s plunder before the king of Ashshur’.

## 8:5 Where to Look for Guidance

5Yahweh spoke to me yet further:

6Since this people has rejected

the water of Shiloah, which goes gently

(and been glad about Retsin and ben Remalyahu),

7Therefore: there, the Lord is bringing up against them

the water of the River, substantial, vast

(the king of Ashshur and all his splendour).

It will rise up over all its canyons

and go up over its banks.

8It will sweep through Judah, flood as it passes over,

reach as far as its neck.

Its wings spread out will be

the filling of the breadth of your country.

God is with us:

9do what is bad, peoples, and shatter.

Give ear, all you distant parts of the earth;

belt yourselves and shatter,

Belt yourselves and shatter;

10take counsel, but it will be contravened.

Speak a word, but it won’t arise,

because God is with us.

11Because Yahweh said this to me as he took strong hold of my hand so that he might discipline me out of walking in the way of this people:

12You shall not say ‘conspiracy’

about everything that this people says ‘conspiracy’.

What they’re in awe of, you shall not be in awe of,

and not dread.

13Yahweh Armies – regard him as sacred;

he’s to be the object of your awe, he your dread.

14He’s to be a sacred place, but a stone to trip on,

a crag to collapse on,

For the two households of Israel –

a trap and a snare for Jerusalem’s inhabitants.

15Many people will collapse on them,

they’ll fall and break, be snared and caught’.

16Bind up the testimony, seal the instruction among my disciples. 17I shall wait for Yahweh, who’s hiding his face from Jacob’s household, and I shall hope for him. 18Here am I and the children Yahweh has given me as signs and portents in Israel from Yahweh Armies who dwells on Mount Zion. 19So when they say to you, ‘Inquire of the ghosts and the spirits who chirp and whisper. A people is to inquire of its gods, isn’t it, of the dead on behalf of the living, 20for instruction and testimony’: if they do not speak in accordance with this word, for which there will be no dawn…

## 8:21 Darkness and Dawning

21It will pass through it wretched and hungry. When it is hungry it will rage and slight its king and its gods. It will turn its face upward 22and look to the earth, but there, pressure and darkness, oppressive gloom, driven murkiness, 9 because there will be no dawn for the one that experiences oppression.

As the earlier time has slighted

the region of Zebulun and the region of Naphtali,

The later one is bringing splendour to the Sea Way,

the other side of the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

2The people walking in darkness

has seen big light.

Those living in deathly gloom –

light has shone on them.

3You’ve made the nation many,

you’ve given it great rejoicing.

They’ve rejoiced before you like the rejoicing at harvest,

like people who celebrate at the dividing of spoil.

4Because the yoke that burdened it,

the rod on its shoulder,

The boss’s club over it,

you’ve shattered as on the day at Midyan.

5Because every shoe of someone trampling, with shaking,

and the coat rolled in shed blood,

Have been for burning,

consumed by fire.

6Because a child has been born to us,

a son has been given to us,

and government has come onto his shoulder.

People have called him

‘An extraordinary counsellor is the strong man God,

the everlasting Father is an official for well-being’.

7Of the growing of government and of well-being

there will be no end, on David’s throne and on his kingship,

To establish it and support it,

with authority and faithfulness,

From now and permanently;

the passion of Yahweh Armies will do this.

## 9:8 For All This, His Anger Did Not Turn Back

8The Lord has sent out a word against Jacob,

and it has fallen on Israel.

9But the people, all of it, acknowledge it

(Ephrayim and the inhabitants of Shomron)

with loftiness and big-headedness:

10’Bricks have fallen, but we’ll build with dressed stone;

sycamore-figs have been cut down, but we’ll substitute cedars’.

11But Yahweh has lifted high the adversaries of Retsin over it,

and spurred on its enemies,

12Aram from the east, the Philistines from the west,

and they’ve devoured Israel with their entire mouth.

For all this, his anger did not turn back;

his hand was still stretched out.

13The people didn’t turn back to the one who hit it;

they haven’t inquired of Yahweh Armies.

14So Yahweh cut off from Israel head and tail,

palm branch and reed, in one day.

15The elder and the person held in high regard, he is the head,

and the prophet who instructs in falsehood, he is the tail.

16The guides of this people became ones who make them wander;

the ones who were guided were people who were swallowed up.

17Therefore the Lord does not rejoice over its young men,

and does not show compassion for its widows and orphans,

Because all of it is impious and deals badly,

and every mouth speaks villainy.

For all this, his anger did not turn back;

his hand was still stretched out.

18Because faithlessness has burned up like fire,

which consumes briar and thorn.

It set light to the forest thickets,

and they swirled as a column of smoke.

19By the fury of Yahweh Armies

the country was scorched.

The people became like a fire consuming;

one person would not spare his brother.

20He carved to the right but was hungry,

and ate to the left but was not full;

An individual eats the flesh of his offspring,

21Menashsheh, Ephrayim, Ephrayim Menashsheh,

altogether they were against Judah.

For all this, his anger did not turn back;

his hand was still stretched out.

## 10:1 My Officers Are Kings, Aren’t They.

10 Hey, you who make decrees that bring trouble,

who write documents that bring oppression,

2To subvert the case of poor people,

and steal the rights of the humble among my people,

So that widows become their spoil,

and orphans their plunder.

3What will you do on the day when attention is given,

when devastation comes from afar?

To whom will you flee for help,

and where will you abandon your splendour?

4Except bend beneath a prisoner,

fall beneath the slain?

For all this, his anger did not turn back;

his hand was still stretched out.

5Hey, Ashshur, my angry club –

and the mace in their hand is my condemnation.

6Against an impious nation I send it;

I order it against a people toward which I am wrathful,

To seize spoil and to take plunder,

and to make it into something trampled, like mud in the streets.

7But it doesn’t picture it this way;

its mind doesn’t think this way.

Because in its mind is to annihilate,

to cut off nations not a few.

8Because it says,

‘My officers are kings, altogether, aren’t they.

9Kalno’s like Karkemish, isn’t it, or Hamat like Arpad –

or Shomron like Dammeseq.

10As my hand found the nonentity kingdoms

(and their images were more than Shomron and Jerusalem) –

11As I did to Shomron and to its nonentities,

so I will do to Jerusalem and to its idols, won’t I’.

12But when the Lord finishes all his action

against Mount Zion and against Jerusalem:

‘I will attend to the fruit of the king of Ashshur’s big-headedness

and to the lofty splendour of his eyes.

13Because he said, “By the energy of my hand I’ve acted,

by my smartness, because I have understanding.

I’ve removed peoples’ borders,

I’ve plundered their treasures,

as a champion I’ve subdued inhabitants.

14My hand found, as in a nest,

the resources of peoples.

Like one gathering abandoned eggs,

I myself gathered the entire earth.

There was not one flapping a wing,

or opening its mouth and chirping”’.

## 10:15 The Remainder of Israel

15Does the axe glorify itself over the one who chops with it,

or the saw magnify itself over the one who wields it,

As if the club wields the one who lifts it up,

as if the mace lifted up the one who is not made of wood?

16Therefore the Lord Yahweh Armies will send off

a wasting disease against his beefy ones.

Beneath its splendour it will burn,

with a burning like the burning of fire.

17Israel’s light will become fire,

its sacred one a flame.

It will burn up and consume its thorn and its thistle,

in one day.

18The splendour of its forest and its farmland

it will finish off, soul and body.

It will be like the fading away of a sick person;

19the remainder of the trees in its forest will so few,

a boy could write them down.

20But on that day,

no more will the remainder of Israel,

The escape group from Jacob’s household,

lean on the one that struck them down.

They will lean on Yahweh,

Israel’s sacred one, in truth.

21The remainder will turn back, the remainder of Jacob,

to God, the God who is a strong man.

22Though your people, Israel,

were like the sand of the sea,

It will be a remainder of it that will turn back;

a finishing is determined, overwhelming faithfulness.

23Because a finish, a thing determined –

the Lord Yahweh Armies is going to do it,

within the entire country.

24Therefore the Lord Yahweh Armies has said this:

Don’t be afraid, my people,

who dwell on Zion, of Ashshur,

Which strikes you down with a club

and raises its mace against you in the manner of the Egyptians.

25Because in a very little while more,

my condemnation will finish,

and my anger will be toward their destruction.

26Yahweh Armies is lifting up a whip against it

like the striking down of Midian at the Oreb Crag,

Like his mace over the sea,

and he will raise it in the manner of Egypt.

27And on that day

its burden will depart from your shoulder,

Its yoke from upon your neck;

the yoke will be destroyed in the face of your beefiness.

## 10:28 Visions of Threat and Promise

28He has gone against Ayat, he has passed by Migron,

at Mikmas he put his equipment in place.

29They crossed at the pass;

‘Geba will be lodging for us’.

The Height trembles,

Gib’ah of Saul has fled.

30Bellow loudly, Bat-gallim, heed, Layshah,

answer, Anatot!

31Madmenah has run away,

the inhabitants of Gebim have taken refuge

32More, today at Nob,

standing, he will wave his hand,

At the mount of Miss Zion,

the hill of Jerusalem.

33There is the Lord Yahweh Armies,

lopping off boughs with a crash.

The loftiest in height are being felled,

the tall ones fall down.

34The forest thickets will be cut down with iron,

the Lebanon will fall by the august one.

11 But a shoot will go out from Jesse’s stump,

a branch will fruit from his roots.

2Yahweh’s breath will alight on him,

a breath with smartness and understanding,

A breath with counsel and strength,

a breath with acknowledgment and awe for Yahweh;

3his scent will be awe for Yahweh.

He will not exercise authority by the seeing of his eyes,

he will not reprove by the hearing of his ears.

4He will exercise authority with faithfulness for the poor,

and reprove with uprightness for the humble people in the country.

He will strike the country down with the club in his mouth,

with the breath from his lips he will put the faithless person to death.

5Faithfulness will be the belt round his hips,

truthfulness the belt round his thighs.

6Wolf will reside with lamb,

leopard will lie down with goat,

Calf, lion, and fatling together,

with a little boy driving them.

7Cow and bear will pasture,

their young will lie down together.

Cougar, like cattle,

will eat straw.

8A baby will play over the cobra’s burrow;

an infant will hold its hand over the viper’s hole.

9People will not deal badly, they will not devastate,

in all my sacred mountain.

Because the country will be full of the acknowledgment of Yahweh

like the water covering the sea.

10On that day,

Jesse’s root which will be standing

as a signal for peoples.

Nations will inquire of him,

and where he settles down will be [a place of] splendour.

## 11:11 A Day When There Will Be a Song to Sing

11On that day,

the Lord will again act, a second time,

with his hand to acquire the remainder of his people,

That remain from Ashshur, from Egypt, from Patros,

from Sudan, from Elam, from Shin’ar,

from Hamat, and from the shores across the Sea.

12He will lift up a signal to the nations,

and gather the men of Israel who were driven out,

And the women of Judah who were scattered he will collect,

from the four corners of the earth.

13Ephrayim’s jealousy will go away,

and the people putting pressure on Judah will be cut off.

Ephrayim won’t be jealous of Judah,

and Judah won’t put pressure on Ephrayim.

14They will fly against the back of the Philistines to the west;

together they will plunder the easterners,

The putting out of their hand: Edom and Mo’ab;

the people obeying them: the Ammonites.

15Yahweh will dry up the tongue of the Egyptian sea,

and wave his hand over the River

with the heat of his breath.

He will strike it down into seven wadis,

and let people make their way in boots.

16There will be a causeway for the remainder of his people

that remain from Ashshur,

As there was for Israel

on the day it went up from the country of Egypt.

12 You will say on that day,

I will confess you Yahweh, because whereas you were angry with me,

your anger turned back and you comforted me.

2There is God, my deliverance,

I will be confident and not be fearful,

Because Yah, Yahweh, is my vigour and might,

and he has been my deliverance.

3You will draw water with joy

from the deliverance fountains.

4And you will say on that day,

Confess Yahweh,

call out in his name.

Make his deeds known among the peoples,

make mention that his name is on high.

5Make music for Yahweh, because he has acted in majesty;

this is to be acknowledged in the entire earth.

6Bellow and resound, inhabitants of Zion,

because great among you is Israel’s sacred one.

## 13:1 The Downfall of the Superpower

13 A pronouncement about Babel, which Isaiah ben Amots beheld.

2On a bare mountain lift up a banner,

raise your voice to them.

Wave your hand,

so they’ll come through the leaders’ entrances.

3I myself have ordered the people I made sacred,

yes, I’ve called my strong men in connection with my anger,

the people who exult in my majesty.

4The sound of a horde on the mountains,

the semblance of a great company,

The sound of the din of kingdoms,

nations gathering:

Yahweh Armies is numbering

an army for war.

5They’re coming from a distant country,

from the end of the heavens,

Yahweh and the instruments of his condemnation,

to destroy the entire earth.

6Howl, because Yahweh’s day is near;

like destruction from the Destroyer it comes.

7Therefore all hands go limp,

every human mind melts.

8They’re terrified, spasms and throes grasp them,

they writhe like a birthing woman.

An individual looks aghast at his neighbour;

their faces are faces aflame.

9There, Yahweh’s day is coming, ruthless,

with fury and angry blazing,

To turn the earth into a desolation,

so it can annihilate its wrongdoers from it.

10Because the stars in the heavens and their constellations

will not flash their light.

The sun will have gone dark when it comes out,

the moon will not shine its light.

11I will attend to the world for its bad dealing,

to the faithless for their waywardness.

I will put a stop to the majesty of the arrogant,

and make the dignity of the violent fall down.

12I will make people scarcer than pure gold,

human beings than Ophir gold.

13Therefore I will make the heavens quake,

and the earth will shake out of its place,

At the fury of Yahweh Armies,

on the day of his angry blazing.

14Like a hunted gazelle,

like sheep with no one collecting them,

Each person will turn his face to his people,

each will flee to his country.

15Everyone who is found will be thrust through,

everyone who is swept up will fall by the sword.

16Their little ones will be smashed before their eyes,

their homes will be despoiled, their wives bedded.

## 13:17 Deliverance and Compassion

17Here am I, stirring up the Medes against them,

who don’t think about silver,

Gold – they don’t want it,

18but their bows will smash the young,

They won’t have compassion on the fruit of the womb,

their eye won’t spare children.

19So Babel, the most splendid of kingdoms,

the majestic glory of the Kasdites [Babylonians],

will become like God’s overturning of Sodom and Gomorrah.

20It will not be inhabited ever,

it will not be dwelt in for generation after generation.

Arab will not camp there,

shepherds will not make flocks lie down there.

21Wild creatures will lie down there;

their houses will be full of owls.

Ostriches will dwell there,

wild goats will leap about there.

22Hyenas will live in its citadels,

dragons in its luxurious palaces.

Its time is near coming,

its days will not draw on.

14 Because Yahweh will have compassion on Jacob

and will again choose Israel.

He will settle them down on their land and the alien will join them,

and attach themselves to Jacob’s household.

2Peoples will get them

and bring them to their place.

The household of Israel will have them as their domain on Yahweh’s land

as servants and maidservants.

They will be captors to their captors

and will rule over their bosses.

## 14:3 A Greeting from the Ghosts

3On the day Yahweh settles you down after your suffering, after your turmoil, and after the tough service that was imposed on you, 4you will take up this poem about the king of Babel:

Ah, the boss has stopped,

the storm has stopped!

5Yahweh has broken the mace of the faithless,

the club of the rulers,

6That strikes down peoples with fury,

a striking down without turning aside,

Subdues nations in anger,

a persecution without holding back.

7The entire earth has settled down, it’s calm;

people have broken out in resounding.

8The juniper trees have also rejoiced over you,

the cedars of Lebanon:

‘Now you’ve lain down,

no one will go up who will cut us down’.

9She’ol below has been astir for you,

to meet your coming,

Rousing the ghosts for you,

all earth’s big guys,

Raising from their thrones

all the nations’ kings.

10All of them answer

and say to you,

‘You too have been made weak as we are,

you have become like us!’

11Your majesty has been taken down to She’ol,

the sound of your mandolins.

Beneath you worm is spread out,

maggot is your covering.

## 14:12 Thus You Have Fallen from the Heavens

12Ah, you’ve fallen from the heavens,

bright one, son of dawn!

You’ve been felled to the earth,

enfeebler of nations!

13But you yourself said within yourself,

‘I shall go up to the heavens.

Above the supernatural stars

I shall raise my throne.

I shall sit on the mountain for the appointed meeting,

on the extremities of Tsaphon.

14I shall go up on cloud tops,

I will be like the One on High’.

15Yet you’re taken down to She’ol,

to the extremities of the Pit.

16The people who see you stare,

they consider you.

‘Is this the man who shook the earth,

who made kingdoms tremble,

17Who made the world a veritable wilderness

and tore down its towns?

Its prisoners he did not release for home,

18all the nations’ kings’.

All of them lay down in splendour,

each in his ‘house’.

19But you’ve been thrown away from your tomb,

like offensive carrion,

Clothed in the slain,

pierced by the sword,

People who go down to the stones of the Pit

like a trampled corpse.

20You won’t be one with them in burial,

because you devastated your country, you killed your people.

The offspring of people who deal badly

will not be named permanently.

21Prepare a place of slaughter for his children

because of the waywardness of their ancestors.

They are not to arise and possess the earth,

so that towns cover the face of the world.

22I shall arise against them

(a declaration of Yahweh Armies),

And cut off for Babel name and remainder,

offspring and descendants (Yahweh’s declaration).

23I shall make it into the possession of the owl, and pools of water;

I shall sweep it with a sweeper bringing annihilation

(a declaration of Yahweh Armies).

## 14:24 No one Can Frustrate Yahweh’s Plans

24Yahweh Armies has sworn:

Yes, as I envisaged, so it is happening;

as I counselled, it arises,

25To break Ashshur in my country –

I will crush it upon my mountains.

Its yoke will depart from upon them,

its burden will depart from upon his shoulder.

26This is the counsel that has been formulated for the entire earth,

this is the hand that is stretched out over all the nations.

27Because Yahweh Armies has taken counsel,

and who can contravene it?

His hand is stretched out,

and who can turn it back?

28In the year King Ahaz died, this pronouncement came:

29Don’t rejoice, all you Philistines,

because the club of the one who struck you down has broken.

Because from the snake’s root a viper will come out,

its fruit a flying seraph.

30The firstborn of poor people will pasture,

the needy will lie down in confidence.

But I will put your root to death with hunger,

I will slay the remainder of you.

31Howl, gateway; cry out, town;

melt, all you Philistines.

Because a cloud is coming from the north,

and there’s no one straggling in its appointed ranks.

32So what should one answer the nation’s envoys? –

that Yahweh has established Zion,

and in it the humble of his people will take shelter.

## 15:1 Compassion for Moab

15 A pronouncement about Mo’ab.

Yes, by night Ar has been destroyed,

Mo’ab has been terminated.

Yes, by night Qir has been destroyed,

Mo’ab has been terminated.

2Dibon has gone up to the house,

to the shrines, to cry.

Over Nebo and over Medeba

Mo’ab howls.

On every head in it there is shornness, every beard is cut off,

3in its streets they wrap on sack.

On its roofs, in its squares,

everyone in it howls, falling down with crying.

4Heshbon and Ele’alah cry out,

their voice makes itself heard in Yahats.

Therefore the equipped men of Mo’ab shout,

its entire being trembles for it.

5My heart cries out for Mo’ab –

its fugitives as far as So‘ar, Eglat Shelishiyyah.

Because the ascent of Luhit – with crying they climb it.

because the road to Horonayim – they raise a broken cry.

6Because the water of Nimrim

becomes a great desolation.

Because the grass is dry, the vegetation is finished,

there is no greenery.

7Therefore the gains they’ve made and what they have in their charge –

they carry them across the Willows Wadi.

8Because the cry has surrounded Mo’ab’s border,

as far as Eglayim its howl, and in Be’er Elim its howl.

9Because Dimon’s water is full of blood,

because I put more on Dimon—

A lion for Mo’ab’s escape group,

for the remainder of the land.

16 Send a ram belonging to the country’s ruler,

from Sela in the wilderness to the mountain of Miss Zion.

2Like a bird flitting, a nest thrown out,

are the Mo’abite women at the fords of the Arnon.

3’Bring counsel,

make a decision.

Make your shadow like night

in the middle of the day.

Hide the banished, don’t betray the fugitive;

4the people banished from Mo’ab should reside with you.

Be a hiding place for them

from the face of the destroyer’.

When the oppressor is no more, when destruction finishes,

when the devastator has come to an end from the country,

5A throne will be established with commitment,

there will sit on it in truthfulness

In David’s tent one who exercises authority,

inquiring after judgment, and quick with faithfulness.

## 16:6 Moab Open to Learning

6We have heard of Mo’ab’s majesty,

very majestic,

Its majesty, its loftiness, and its arrogance –

its empty talk is not like that.

7Therefore Mo’ab should howl,

everyone in it should howl for Mo’ab,

For the raisin blocks from Qir-hareset you should moan,

utterly stricken.

8Because the terraces of Heshbon languish,

the vines of Sibmah.

The nations’ lords have struck down their clusters

that had reached as far as Ya’zer,

That wandered into the wilderness;

when its shoots spread, they crossed to the sea.

9Therefore I cry with Ya’zer’s crying for Ya’zer,

for Sibnah’s vines.

I drench you with my tears,

Heshbon and Ele’aleh.

Because over your summer fruit and over your harvest

the cheering has fallen still.

10Rejoicing and gladness have gathered up from the farmland,

in the vineyards no one resounds, no one shouts.

Wine in the presses – the treader doesn’t tread;

I have made the cheering stop.

11Therefore my heart murmurs for Mo’ab like a guitar,

my inner being for Qir Heres.

12When Mo’ab appears, when it wearies itself,

at the shrine,

Comes to its sanctuary to plead,

it won’t prevail.

13This is the word that Yahweh spoke for Mo’ab then. 14But now Yahweh has spoken:

‘In three years in accordance with the years of an employee, Mo’ab’s splendour with all its great horde will be slighted. The remainder will be a small thing, tiny, not much’.

## 17:1 Don’t Worry about the Arameans

17 A pronouncement about Dammeseq.

There is Dammeseq, removed from being a town;

it will become a fallen ruin.

2The towns of Aro’er will be abandoned,

they will be for flocks,

and they will lie down with no one disturbing.

3Fortress will cease from Ephrayim,

kingship from Dammeseq.

The remainder of Aram

will become like the Israelites’ splendour

(a declaration of Yahweh Armies).

4On that day

Jacob’s splendour will become poor,

the beefiness of his body will become thin.

5It will be like the gathering of the standing harvest,

when someone harvests the ears in his arm.

It will be like someone gleaning ears

in Repha’ites Vale.

6There will remain garnerings in it,

like the beating of an olive tree:

Two, three berries on the top (the height);

four, five on a fruitful bough

(a declaration of Yahweh, the God of Israel).

7On that day a person will pay regard to his maker,

and his eyes will look to Israel’s sacred one.

8He won’t pay regard to the altars that are the making of his hands,

he won’t look to what his fingers made,

both the totem poles and the incense stands.

9On that day,

his strong towns will be

like an abandoned piece of woodland and height

That people abandoned from before the Israelites,

and it will be a desolation.

10Yes, you have put out of mind the God who delivers you;

your strong crag you have not kept in mind.

Therefore you may plant the plants of the Lovely One

and sow the cutting of an alien god.

11On the day you plant, you may get them to grow,

and in the morning you sow, get it to blossom,

Though the harvest disappears

on the day of sickness and grave pain.

## 17:12 Who Would Want to Be a Superpower?

12Hey, the horde of many peoples,

that roar like the seas’ roar,

the din of nations,

that make a din like the din of mighty water!

13Nations make a din like the din of much water,

but he reprimands it and it flees far away,

Driven like the chaff on the mountains before the wind,

like tumbleweed before a storm.

14Toward evening time there – terror;

before morning, it is no more.

This is the share of the people who despoil us,

the lot of the people who plunder us.

18 Hey, country of the buzzing of wings,

which is beyond the rivers of Sudan,

2Which sends envoys by sea

in papyrus boats on the face of the water.

Go, swift envoys,

to a nation towering and smooth,

To a people feared far and near,

a nation of gibberish and aggressiveness,

whose country rivers divide.

3All you inhabitants of the world,

people who dwell in the earth!

At the raising of a signal on the mountains, you should look,

and at the sounding of the horn, you should listen.

4Because Yahweh has said this to me:

‘I shall be calm and I shall look to my established place,

Like glowing heat in daylight,

like a dew cloud in the heat of harvest’.

5Because before harvest, when the blossom is complete,

and the flower becomes a ripening grape,

He will cut the shoots with pruning knives,

and the tendrils he has removed he will have taken away.

6They will be abandoned, altogether, to the birds of prey of the mountains,

and to the animals of the earth.

The birds of prey will summer on them

and all the animals of the earth will winter on them.

7At that time

tribute will be brought to Yahweh Armies,

(A people towering and smooth,

a people feared far and near,

A nation of gibberish and aggressiveness,

whose country rivers divide)

To the place of the name of Yahweh Armies,

Mount Zion.

## 19:1 Egypt At A Loss

19 A pronouncement about Egypt.

There is Yahweh, riding on a swift cloud,

coming to Egypt.

Egypt’s nonentities will tremble from before him,

and Egypt’s mind will melt within it.

2I will stir up Egyptians against Egyptians,

and one will do battle against his brother,

One against his neighbour, town against town,

kingdom against kingdom.

3Egypt’s spirit will drain away within it,

and I will swallow up its counsel.

They will inquire of the nonentities and of the ghosts,

of the mediums and of the spirits.

4But I will put Egypt

into the hand of a tough master.

A vigorous king will rule over them

(a declaration of the Lord Yahweh Armies).

5Water will dry up from the sea,

the river will wither and parch.

Rivers will stink as they get low,

the channels of Egypt will dry up.

Reed and rush will wither,

7the plants by the Nile, by the mouth of the Nile.

Everything sown at the Nile will wither,

blow away, and there will be none of it.

8The fishermen will lament and mourn,

all the people who throw a hook into the Nile.

The people who spread a net

on the face of the water will have languished.

9The workers with combed flax will be shamed,

and the weavers of linen.

10Its textile workers will become crushed,

all the wage-earners troubled in their entire being.

11The officials at Tso’an are simply dense,

Pharaoh’s smart counsellors – stupid counsel.

How can you say to Pharaoh,

‘I’m a son of experts, a son of the kings of Qedem?’—

12Where on earth are your experts,

so they may please tell you, may acknowledge

what Yahweh Armies has planned against Egypt.

13The officials at Tso’an have become fools,

the officials at Noph have deceived themselves.

They’ve made Egypt wander –

they, the cornerstone of its clans.

14Yahweh has mixed within it

a spirit of distortion.

They’ll make Egypt wander in all it does,

like the wandering of a drunk in his vomit.

15There’ll be no action by Egypt

that head or tail can take,

palm branch or reed.

## 19:16 Egypt My People

* 16On that day, Egypt will be like women, and will be trembling and in dread before the shaking of the hand of Yahweh Armies, which he is shaking against it. 17The land of Judah will be a terror to the Egyptians. Everyone to whom someone makes mention of it will be fearful in the face of the counsel of Yahweh Armies, which he is formulating against it.
* 18On that day, there will be five towns in the country of Egypt speaking the tongue of Canaan and taking oaths to Yahweh Armies. ‘Sun Town’, one will be called.
* 19On that day there will be an altar for Yahweh in the middle of the country of Egypt and a column for Yahweh at its border. 20It will be a sign and a testimony for Yahweh Armies in the country of Egypt; when they cry out to Yahweh before oppressors, he will send them someone to deliver and argue, and he will rescue them.
* 21Yahweh will cause himself to be acknowledged by the Egyptians, and the Egyptians will acknowledge Yahweh on that day. They will serve with sacrifice and offering, and make pledges to Yahweh and make good on them. 22Yahweh will strike Egypt, striking but healing, and they will turn back to Yahweh and he will let himself be entreated by them and will heal them.
* 23On that day there will be a causeway from Egypt to Ashshur. Ashshur will come to Egypt and Egypt to Ashshur. Egypt will serve with Ashshur.
* 24On that day Israel will be the third for Egypt and for Ashshur, a blessing in the middle of the earth, 25because Yahweh Armies has blessed it, saying ‘Blessed be my people Egypt, my handiwork Ashshur, and my domain Israel’.

## 20:1 Prophet as Crazy Man

20 In the year the commander-in-chief came to Ashdod when Sargon king of Ashshur sent him, and battled against Ashdod and took it, 2at that time Yahweh spoke by means of Isaiah ben Amots: ‘Go, loose the sack from on your hips and unfasten the boot from on your feet’. He did so, going stripped and barefoot. 3Yahweh said, ‘As my servant Isaiah has gone stripped and barefoot three years as a sign and portent for Egypt and Sudan, 4so the king of Ashshur will drive off the captives of Egypt and the exiles of Sudan, young and old, stripped and barefoot, bare of behind, Egypt’s nakedness. 5People will be shattered and shamed because of Sudan their confidence and Egypt their glory. 6The one who lives on this foreign shore will say on that day, ‘There, such is the state of the one on whom we had confidence, where we fled for help, to find rescue from before the king of Ashshur. How can we ourselves escape?’

## 21:1 What Is There of the Night?

21 A pronouncement about the Sea Wilderness.

Like storms in the Negeb passing through,

from the wilderness it comes, from a fearful country.

2A tough vision has been told me:

‘The betrayer is betraying, the destroyer is destroying!

Go up, Elam, lay siege, Media –

I have stopped all its groaning’.

3Therefore my hips are full of convulsing,

pains have grasped me, like the pains of someone giving birth.

I’m too struck down to listen, I’m too terrified to look;

4my mind wanders, shuddering has overwhelmed me.

The dusk to which I was attracted

he has turned to horror for me.

5Setting the table, spreading the rug,

eating, drinking…..

‘Get up, officers,

oil the shield!’

6Because the Lord said this to me:

Go, set a watch,

so he may tell what he sees.

7He will see a rider, a cavalry pair,

a donkey chariot, a camel chariot.

He is heed, with heeding,

great heeding.

8The lookout called:

On the watchtower, my lord, I’ve been standing,

continually by day,

And on my watch I have been taking my position,

every night.

9And there, a chariot with men is coming,

a cavalry pair.

He avowed:

Babel has fallen, fallen,

all its gods’ images.

He has smashed to the ground 10my crushed one,

my son on the threshing-floor.

What I heard from Yahweh Armies,

Israel’s God, I have told you.

11A pronouncement about Dumah.

Someone is calling to me from Se‘ir:

‘Watchman, what is there of the night,

Watchman, what is there of the night?’

12The watchman said,

‘Morning came, and night, too;

if you inquire, inquire; come back again’.

13A pronouncement in the steppe.

In the forest, in the steppe, you lodge,

caravans of Dedanites.

14Meet the thirsty one, bring water,

you who inhabit the country of Tema,

present the fugitive with his bread.

15Because they’ve fled from before swords,

from before the drawn sword,

From before the directed bow,

from before the weight of battle.

16Because the Lord has said this to me:

Yet a year according to the years of an employee,

all the splendour of Qedar will be finished.

17The remainder of the number of the bows,

the strong men of the Qedarites will be few,

because Yahweh, Israel’s God, has spoken.

## 22:1 Jerusalem (a.k.a. Vision Ravine)

22 A pronouncement about Vision Ravine.

What are you doing here, then,

that you have gone up, all of you, onto the roofs,

2You, full of din, tumultuous town,

exultant township?

Those of you who were run through were not run through by the sword,

they were not dead in battle.

3All your leaders fled together,

without the bow they were captured.

All those of you who were found were captured together,

they took flight far away.

4Therefore I have said, ‘Look away from me,

I will express bitterness in crying.

Don’t try to comfort me

over the destruction of the daughter of my people’.

5Because the Lord Yahweh Armies

had a day of tumult, trampling, and confusion,

In Vision Ravine someone tearing down the wall,

and a cry for help to the mountain.

6Elam carried the quiver,

in chariotry with men, cavalry;

Qir bared the shield.

7Your choicest vales became full

of chariotry and cavalry.

They took their stand at the gateway

8and it exposed Judah’s covering.

You’d looked that day

to the armoury in the Forest House.

9The breaches in David’s Town –

You’d seen them, that there were many.

You’d collected the water of the Lower Pool

10and counted the houses in Jerusalem.

You’d torn down the houses to strengthen the wall

11and made a basin between the two walls

for the water from the old pool.

But you didn’t look to the one who made it,

you didn’t consider the one who formed it long before.

12The Lord Yahweh Armies called

on that day

To crying and to lamenting,

to shaving the head and to wrapping on sack.

13But here – celebration and rejoicing,

killing cattle and slaughtering sheep,

Eating meat and drinking wine:

‘Eat and drink, because tomorrow we die!’

14Yahweh Armies revealed himself in my ears:

‘If this waywardness of yours is to be expiated before you die…’

(the Lord Yahweh Armies has said).

## 22:15 The Administrator Who Fancied Himself

15The Lord Yahweh Armies said this: ‘Come, go to this administrator, to Shebna, who is in charge of the house.

16What are you doing here,

and whom do you have here,

that you have hewn a tomb for yourself here,

You who have hewn his tomb on high,

who has carved a dwelling for himself in the cliff?

17There: Yahweh is going to hurl you far;

strong man, he’s going to grasp you firmly.

18He’s going to roll you up tight, rolling you up like a ball,

to a country broad on both sides.

There you’ll die;

there will be your splendid chariots,

a slight for your master’s house.

19I shall thrust you out from your position;

you’ll be torn down from your office.

20On that day I shall call my servant Elyaqim ben Hilqiyyahu. 21I shall clothe him in your coat and fasten him with your belt, and put your ruling power in his hand. He will become a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the household of Judah. 22I shall put the key of David’s household on his shoulder; he will open and no one will shut, he will shut and no one will open. 23I shall fix him as a peg in a trustworthy place; he will be a throne of splendour for his father’s household. 24All the splendour of his father’s household will hang on him, offspring and shoots, all the little articles, from the bowls to all the jars.

25On that day (a declaration of Yahweh Armies) the peg fixed in a trustworthy place will move away. It will be hacked off and it will fall, and the load that’s on it will be cut down. Yahweh has indeed spoken.

## 23:1 The Great Sea Power Broken

23 A pronouncement about Tsor [Tyre].

Howl, Tarshish ships,

because it has been destroyed so that there is not a house.

After they came from the country of Kittim [Cyprus],

it was revealed to them.

2Be still, inhabitants of the foreign shore,

merchants of Tsidon.

Seafarers filled you;

3by mighty waters came the seed of Shihor.

The harvest of the Nile was its yield,

and it became the marketplace of the nations.

4Be shamed, Tsidon, because the sea has said,

the stronghold of the sea,

‘I haven’t laboured, I haven’t given birth,

I haven’t brought up young men or raised girls’.

5When the report came to Egypt, they were in anguish,

when the report came about Tsor.

6Cross over to Tarshish;

howl, inhabitants of the foreign shore.

7Is this your exultant one,

whose antiquity is from ancient days,

Whose feet carried it

to reside far away?

8Who counselled this for Tsor,

the giver of crowns,

Whose merchants were officials,

its traders the most honoured in the earth?

9Yahweh Armies counselled it,

to defile all its splendid majesty,

to slight all the most honoured in the earth.

10Pass through your country like the Nile, Miss Tarshish;

There’s a harbour no more.

11He stretched out his hand over the sea,

shook kingdoms.

It was Yahweh gave an order regarding Canaan,

to annihilate its strongholds.

12He said, ‘You will no more exult,

afflicted maiden, Miss Tsidon.

Get up, cross over to Kittim;

there will be no settling for you, even there.

13There, the country of the Kasdites–

this is the people that is no longer.

Ashshur founded it for ships;

they set up its citadels.

They’ve stripped its strongholds,

They’ve made it into a ruin.

## 23:14 What to Do with a Whore’s Fee

14Howl, ships of Tarshish,

because your stronghold has been destroyed.

15On that day,

Tsor will be put out of mind for seventy years,

like the days of a king.

At the end of seventy years

it will be for Tsor like the song about the whore:

16’Get a guitar, go about the town,

whore put out of mind.

Be good, play, sing many a song,

in order that you may be brought to mind’.

17At the end of seventy years

Yahweh will attend to Tsor.

It will go back to its ‘gift’ and its whoring

with all the world’s kingdoms on the face of the earth.

18But its profits and its ‘gifts’ will be sacred to Yahweh;

it won’t be treasured, it won’t be stored,

Because its profit will be for the people who live before Yahweh,

for eating till they are full, and for fine clothes.

## 24:1 The Broken World Covenant

24 There:

Yahweh is laying waste to the earth and making it desolate,

twisting its surface and scattering its inhabitants.

2It will be: as people, so priest;

as servant, so his lord;

As maidservant, so her mistress;

as buyer, so seller;

As creditor, so borrower;

as lender, so the one to whom he lends.

3The earth will be totally wasted,

it will be totally plundered,

(because it is Yahweh who has spoken this word).

4The earth dries up, withers;

the world languishes, withers;

the height languishes with the earth.

5The earth was impious under its inhabitants,

because they transgressed instructions.

They violated statute,

contravened an age-old pact.

6That’s why a vow has consumed the earth;

the people who live in it incurred liability.

That’s why earth’s inhabitants have been ablaze,

and few people remain.

7The new wine dries up, the vine has languished,

all the people who were rejoicing in heart groan.

8The joy of tambourines has stopped,

the din of the exultant has left off,

the joy of the mandolin has stopped.

9They do not drink wine with a song,

liquor is bitter to the one who drinks it.

10The empty township is broken up,

every house is closed against entering.

11There’s a cry over the wine in the streets,

all rejoicing has reached evening,

earth’s joy has gone into exile.

12Desolation is what remains in the town;

the gateway is struck down, a ruin.

13Because so it will be within the earth,

among the peoples,

Like the beating of an olive tree,

like gleanings if the harvest finishes.

14Those people lift their voice, resound,

because of Yahweh’s majesty they’ve bellowed from the west.

15Therefore honour Yahweh in the east,

in shores across the sea,

the name of Yahweh, Israel’s God.

16From a corner of the earth we’ve heard melodies,

‘Splendour belongs to the Faithful One’.

But I said, I waste away,

I waste away! Oh, me!

People have broken faith,

in broken faith people have broken faith.

## 24:17 Heavenly Powers Shamed

17Dread and pit and trap

for you who inhabit the earth!

18The one who flees at the dreadful sound

will fall into the pit.

The one who climbs up from the pit

will be caught in the trap.

Because sluices have opened on high,

and earth’s foundations have shaken.

19The earth has quite broken up;

earth has quite split up;

earth has quite slipped.

20The earth quite reels like a drunk,

it sways about like an overnight shelter.

Its rebellion weighs heavy upon it;

it will fall, and not get up again.

21On that day Yahweh will attend

to the army of the height, in the height,

and to the kings of the earth, on the earth.

22They will be gathered as a gathering,

as captives in a pit.

They will be imprisoned in a prison,

but after many days will get attention.

23The moon will be confounded,

the sun will be disgraced.

Because Yahweh Armies will have begun to reign

in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem,

with his splendour in front of his elders.

25 Yahweh, you are my God, I will exalt you,

I will confess your name,

Because you have done something extraordinary,

plans from a distant time, truthfulness, truth.

2Because you’ve made out of a town a heap,

a fortified township into a ruin.

The citadel of foreigners is no longer a town;

it won’t be built up ever.

3Therefore a vigorous people will honour you,

a township of violent nations will revere you.

4Because you’ve been a stronghold for the poor person,

a stronghold for the needy person in his pressures,

A shelter from rain,

a shade from heat,

When the spirit of the violent was like winter rain,

5the din of aliens like heat in the desert.

You subdue the heat with a cloud shade;

the music of the violent succumbs.

## 25:6 Grief Brought to an End

6And Yahweh Armies will make

for all peoples on this mountain

A banquet with rich foods, a banquet with aged wines,

juicy rich foods, refined aged wines.

7He will swallow up on this mountain the layer of wrapping,

the wrapping over all the peoples,

The covering that is spread out over all the nations;

8he will have swallowed up death permanently.

The Lord Yahweh will wipe the tears

from on all faces.

The reviling of his people

he will take away from on all the earth;

because Yahweh is the one who has spoken.

9On that day one will say:

There, this is our God,

we hoped for him and he delivered us.

This is Yahweh, we hoped for him;

let’s celebrate and rejoice in his deliverance.

10Because Yahweh’s hand will alight

on this mountain.

Mo’ab will be trodden down in its place

like the treading of straw at Madmenah.

11It will spread out its hands within it,

as a swimmer spreads his hands to swim.

He will bring down its majesty

with the spoils of its hands.

12The towering fortification of its walls

he will have laid low, taken down,

knocked down to the earth, right to the dirt.

26 On that day this song will be sung in the country of Judah:

We have a strong town;

he makes walls and rampart into deliverance.

2Open the gateways so that the faithful nation may come in,

one that keeps truthfulness.

3A mind that is sustained, you preserve in well-being,

in well-being because it’s filled with reliance on you.

4Rely on Yahweh permanently, because in Yah –

Yahweh is crag for the ages.

5Because he has laid low the people who live in the height;

the towering township he brings down.

He brings it down right to the earth,

knocks it down right to the dirt.

6The foot treads it down, the feet of the humble person,

the soles of the poor people.

## 26:7 Your Dead Will Live

7The path is clear for the faithful person,

when you level the faithful person’s track clear.

8Yes, on the path determined by your rulings,

Yahweh, we have hoped for you.

The longing of our entire being

has been for your name and your renown.

9With my entire being I’ve longed for you by night;

yes, my spirit within me seeks urgently for you.

Because when your rulings are in the earth,

the inhabitants of the world learn faithfulness.

10Were the faithless person shown grace,

he wouldn’t learn faithfulness.

In a country characterized by straightness he does what’s evil,

and doesn’t live in awe of Yahweh’s majesty.

11Yahweh, they don’t behold your hand raised;

they should behold and be shamed.

Your passion for the people,

yes, your fire for your adversaries, should consume them.

12Yahweh, may you institute well-being for us,

because all the things we’ve done, you did for us.

13Yahweh our God,

lords apart from you have been masters over us,

but of you alone we will make mention, of your name.

14Dead people don’t live,

ghosts don’t rise.

That’s why you attended to them and annihilated them,

and obliterated any mention of them.

15You added to the nation, Yahweh;

when you added to the nation you were honoured,

you furthered all the country’s boundaries.

16Yahweh, under pressure they attended to you,

a whispered prayer during your correction of them.

17Like a pregnant woman who draws near to giving birth,

who writhes, cries out in her pain,

So have we become,

because of you, Yahweh.

18We were pregnant, we writhed,

it is as if we gave birth to wind.

We don’t achieve deliverance in the earth;

the inhabitants of the world don’t fall.

19Your dead will live, my corpse will rise;

wake up and resound, you who dwell in the dirt!

Because your dew is the dew of the lights,

and you make the country of ghosts fall.

20Go, my people, come into your rooms,

and shut your door after you.

Hide for a little moment,

until condemnation passes.

21Because there, Yahweh is going to come out from his place,

to attend to the waywardness of the earth’s inhabitants upon them.

The earth will uncover its shed blood,

and will no more cover over its slain.

## 27:1 Leviathan Meets Its End

27 On that day Yahweh will attend with his sword,

tough and big and strong,

To Livyatan the fleeing serpent,

to Livyatan the twisting serpent;

he will slay the dragon that’s in the sea.

2On that day,

a delightful vineyard, chant of it!

3I Yahweh am going to preserve it;

moment by moment I will water it.

In case someone attends to it,

night and day I will preserve it.

4I have no wrath;

if only someone gives me briar and thorn!

In battle I will march against it,

and set fire to them altogether.

5Or he can take hold of my stronghold,

he can make peace with me,

peace he can make with me.

6Coming days: Jacob will root,

Israel will bud and blossom,

and the face of the world will be full of produce.

7Did he strike it down like the striking of the one who struck it down,

was it slain like the slaying of the ones slain by him?

8By driving away, by sending off, you argue with it;

he removed it by a tough blast on a day of east wind.

9Therefore by this Jacob’s waywardness will be expiated;

this is the entire fruit of the removing of its wrongdoing.

Through his making all the altar stones

like shattered blocks of limestone,

totem poles and incense altars won’t stand.

10Because the fortified town is desolate,

the abode sent off and abandoned like the wilderness.

There a calf pastures,

there it lies down and consumes its boughs.

11When its branches wither, they break;

women come, set light to them.

Because it is not a people of understanding;

therefore its maker will not have compassion on it,

its former will not be gracious to it.

12On that day

Yahweh will thresh from the channel of the River [Euphrates]

to the Egyptian Wadi,

And you will be gleaned

one by one, Israelites.

13On that day

there will be a sound on a great horn.

The people will come who are perishing in the country of Ashshur,

and who are scattered in the country of Egypt.

They will bow low to Yahweh

on the sacred mountain, in Jerusalem.

## 28:1 The Drunks of Ephraim and Judah

28 Hey, majestic crown of Ephrayim’s drunks,

and its splendid beauty, a fading flower,

One that’s on the majestic head of beefy people,

struck down by wine!

2Here, the Lord has someone strong and powerful,

like a storm of hail, a destructive tempest.

Like a storm of water, forceful, rushing,

he has set it down on the earth by his power.

3It will be trampled underfoot

the majestic crown of Ephrayim’s drunks.

4The fading flower, its splendid beauty,

that’s on the majestic head of beefy people,

Will be like a fig before harvest

that someone sees.

The one who sees it –

while it’s still in his palm, he swallows it.

5On that day,

Yahweh Armies will become

A splendid crown and a glorious diadem

for the remainder of his people,

6An authoritative spirit

for the one who sits over the exercise of authority,

and the strength of the people who turn back the battle at the gateway.

7But these also wander because of wine,

stagger because of liquor:

Priest and prophet wander because of liquor,

they’re swallowed up by wine, they stagger because of liquor.

They wander when they are seeing,

they go astray in giving judgment.

8Because all the tables are full of vomit, filth –

there’s no place.

9’Whom does he instruct in knowledge,

whom does he help to understand a report?

People weaned from milk,

moving on from the breast?

10Because order upon order,

order upon order,

Rule upon rule, rule upon rule,

a little there, a little there.

11Because with mockings of lip and in another tongue

he speaks to this people,

12The one who has said to them,

“This is the place to settle down,

Settle the weary person down,

yes, this is the place of repose”’.

But they have not been willing to listen,

13so to them Yahweh’s word will be

Order upon order,

order upon order,

Rule upon rule, rule upon rule,

a little there, a little there,

In order that they may go, but fall back,

and be broken and snared and captured.

## 28:14 God’s Strange Work

14Therefore listen to Yahweh’s word,

you arrogant,

Who rule this people,

which is in Jerusalem.

15Because you’ve said:

‘We have solemnized a pact with death,

with She’ol we’ve made an agreement.

The sweeping flood, when it passes,

won’t come to us,

Because we ‘ve made a lie our shelter,

we have hidden in falsehood’.

16Therefore the Lord Yahweh has said this:

‘Here am I founding in Zion a stone,

a testing stone, a valuable corner stone,

A well-founded foundation;

the one who stands firm in faith will not be hasty.

17I will make authority the rule,

faithfulness the weight.

Hail will sweep away the lying shelter;

water will flood the hiding place.

18Your pact with death will be covered over,

your agreement with She’ol won’t stand up.

The sweeping flood, when it passes –

you will be for trampling by it.

19The times when it passes, it will get you,

because it will pass morning after morning,

By day and by night,

and understanding the report will be simply a horror.

20Because the bed will be too short for stretching out,

the blanket too narrow for gathering round oneself.

21Because Yahweh will arise as on Mount Peritsim,

he will be astir as in Gib’on Vale,

To do his deed – strange is his deed,

to perform his service – foreign is his service.

22So now, don’t be arrogant,

or your chains will get strong.

Because I’ve heard of a finish, a thing determined,

by the Lord Yahweh Armies,

against the entire country.

23Give ear, listen to my voice,

heed, listen to what I say.

24Is it all the time that the ploughman ploughs to sow,

opens up and harrows his ground?

25When he’s levelled its surface,

he scatters caraway and sprinkles cumin,

Sets wheat (millet) and barley in its place,

and spelt in its border, doesn’t he.

26One disciplines him for acting with judgment:

his God instructs him.

27Because caraway isn’t threshed with a sled,

and the wheel of a cart isn’t rolled over cumin.

Because caraway is beaten with a rod,

and cumin with a club.

28Cereal is crushed,

because the thresher doesn’t thresh permanently.

The wheel of his cart may rumble,

but he doesn’t crush it with his horseriders.

29This too comes from Yahweh Armies;

he formulates extraordinary plans,

he shows great skill.

## 29:1 Like a Ghost from the Earth

29 Hey, God’s Hearth, God’s Hearth,

township where David camped!

Add year to year;

the festivals may come round.

2But I will oppress God’s Hearth,

and there’ll be sorrow and sighing.

It will be to me God’s very hearth;

3I shall camp against you with a very encircling.

I shall lay siege against you with a rampart,

set up siege works against you.

4You’ll be lower than the ground when you speak,

your words will be lower than the dirt.

Your voice will be like a ghost from the earth,

your words will chirp from the dirt.

5But like fine dust will be the horde of your adversaries,

like passing chaff the horde of the violent.

In an instant, suddenly,

6by Yahweh Armies you will be attended,

With thunder and with shaking, and a loud voice,

storm and hurricane and a flame of consuming fire.

7It will be like a dream, a vision in the night:

the horde of all the nations,

Which are making war against God’s Hearth,

and all its besiegers and its stronghold and its oppressors.

8It will be like when someone hungry dreams,

and there, he’s eating, but he wakes up,

and his throat is empty,

Or like when someone thirsty dreams,

and there, he ‘s drinking, but he wakes up,

and there, he’s faint, and his throat is craving.

So will the horde of all the nations be

that are making war against Mount Zion.

9Wait about and be stupefied,

blind yourselves and be blind!

They are drunk but not from wine,

they totter but from not liquor.

10Because Yahweh has poured over you

a spirit of coma.

He has closed your eyes, the prophets,

and covered your heads, the seers.

11The vision of anything has become for you

like the words of a sealed scroll,

Which they give to someone who knows writing,

saying ‘Read this out, please’,

And he says, ‘I can’t,

because it’s sealed’.

12So the scroll is given to someone who doesn’t know writing,

saying ‘Read this out, please’,

but he says, ‘I don’t know writing’.

## 29:13 Who Sees Us?

13The Lord has said,

Since this people has come near with its mouth,

and with its lips has honoured me,

But has kept its mind far from me,

and their awe for me has been a learned human order:

14Therefore here I am,

once more doing something extraordinary with this people,

acting in an extraordinary way, something extraordinary.

The smartness of its smart people will perish,

the understanding of its people of understanding will hide’.

15Hey, you who go deeper than Yahweh

to hide your counsel,

Whose action is in the dark and who say,

‘Who sees us, who knows about us?’

16Your overturning of things, if the potter is thought of as like the clay,

or the thing that’s made says of its maker, ‘He didn’t make me’,

Or the pot says of its potter,

‘He didn’t understand’.

17In yet a little while,

Lebanon will turn back into farmland, won’t it,

and the farmland be thought of as forest.

18Deaf people will listen on that day to the words of a document,

and out of murk and darkness the eyes of blind people will see.

19The humble will regain rejoicing in Yahweh,

and the neediest of people will celebrate Israel’s sacred one.

20Because the violent person will not exist, the arrogant person will be finished,

and all the people who are wakeful over trouble will be cut off,

21The people who make someone into a wrongdoer with a statement they make,

who trap the judge at the gateway,

and who turn aside the one in the right with empty words.

22Therefore, Yahweh has said this to Jacob’s household, the one who redeemed Abraham:

Jacob won’t now be shamed;

his face won’t now be pale.

23Because when he (his descendants) sees

the action of my hands within him,

he’ll make my name sacred.

People will make Jacob’s sacred one sacred,

and be in dread of Israel’s God.

24The people who wander in spirit will acknowledge understanding,

and the people who complain will learn a grasp of things.

## 30:1 God Is Our Refuge and Strength, Really?

30 Hey, defiant sons (Yahweh’s declaration),

in forming counsel but not from me,

In pouring a drink offering but not from my spirit,

in order to heap wrong on wrong,

2You who go to descend to Egypt,

but have not asked my bidding,

In protecting yourselves by Pharaoh’s protection

and in taking shelter in Egypt’s shade.

3But Pharaoh’s protection will become shame for you,

and shelter in Egypt’s shade, disgrace.

4Because his officials have been at Tso‘an,

his envoys reach Hanes:

5Everyone will have come to shame

because of a people that’s no use to them,

No help and no use,

but rather shame and yes, reviling.

6A pronouncement about The Animals of the Negeb.

In a country of pressure and distress,

lion and cougar among them,

viper and flying serpent,

They carry their resources on the back of donkeys,

their treasures on the hump of camels,

To a people that’s no use,

7Egypt which helps with a breath, emptiness.

Therefore I call this

‘They are Rahab sitting’.

8Now, come,

write it on a tablet with them,

inscribe it on a scroll,

So that it may be for a future day

a witness permanently.

9Because it’s a rebellious people,

deceitful children,

Children who didn’t wish to listen

to Yahweh’s instruction,

10People who’ve said to seers,

‘Don’t see’

And to visionaries,

‘Don’t give us visions of straightness.

Speak nice things to us,

give us visions that are deceptions.

11Depart from the way, turn away from the path,

make Israel’s sacred one cease from before us’.

12Therefore Israel’s sacred one has said this:

Since you’ve rejected this word,

and relied on fraud and crookedness,

and lent on it,

13Therefore this waywardness will be for you

like a breach falling,

Swelling out in a high wall,

whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant.

14Its breaking is like the breaking of a potters’ jug,

smashed so he doesn’t spare:

Through its smashing there won’t be found a fragment

for picking up fire from a hearth

or for skimming water from a pool.

## 30:15 Yahweh Waits

15Because the Lord Yahweh, Israel’s sacred one, has said this:

By turning back and settling down you’ll find deliverance;

in calm and reliance will be your strength.

But you were unwilling,

16and you said ‘No’,

‘Rather we’ll flee on a horse’ –

therefore you’ll flee.

‘We’ll ride on a swift one’ –

therefore your pursuers will be swift.

17A thousand from before the reprimand of one,

from before the reprimand of five, you’ll flee,

Until you’re left like a beacon on the top of a mountain,

like a banner on a hill.

18Therefore Yahweh waits to be gracious to you;

but therefore he will arise to show compassion to you.

Because Yahweh is a God with authority –

the blessings of all who wait for him!

19Because, people in Zion, which dwells in Jerusalem,

you really will not weep.

He really will be gracious to you at the sound of your cry;

as he hears it, he’ll have answered you.

20The Lord will give you pressure bread

and affliction water.

But your instructors will no longer be marginalized;

your eyes will be seeing your instructors.

21Your ears will listen to a word from behind you,

saying, ‘This is the way, walk in it’,

when you go right and when you go left.

22You’ll defile the plating of your silver images,

and the sheath of your gold idol.

You’ll scatter them like something sick;

‘Get out’, you’ll say to it.

23And he’ll give the rain for your seed

with which you sow your ground,

And the bread that’s the yield of your ground,

and it will be rich and fat.

Your livestock will pasture on that day

in a broad pasture.

24The oxen and the donkeys that serve the ground

will eat seasoned fodder

that’s been winnowed with shovel and fork.

## 30:25 The Hearth Prepared for the King

25There will be, on every high mountain

and on every lofty hill,

streams running with water,

On the day of great slaughter,

when towers fall.

26But the moon’s light will be like the sun’s light,

and the sun’s light will be sevenfold,

like the light of seven days,

On the day when Yahweh bandages his people’s wound,

and heals the wound from his striking down.

27There, Yahweh’s name is coming from afar,

his anger burning, his load a weight.

His lips are full of condemnation,

his tongue is like a consuming fire.

28His breath is like a rushing wadi

that comes half way to the neck,

To shake the nations in an empty shaker,

with a halter that makes them wander on the peoples’ jaws.

29The song will be for you

like the night when a festival gets made sacred,

The rejoicing of heart like someone going with a pipe,

to come on Yahweh’s mountain, to Israel’s crag.

30Yahweh will make the majesty of his voice heard,

and show the alighting of his arm,

In angry wrath and consuming fiery flame,

cloudburst, storm, and hailstone.

31Because at Yahweh’s voice

Ashshur that strikes down with a club will be shattered.

32Every passing of the appointed mace,

which Yahweh causes to alight on him,

Will be with tambourines and guitars,

and with battles involving its shaking he will battle against them.

33Because the Hearth is laid out already;

yes, it’s prepared for the King.

He’s made its firepit deep and wide,

fire and wood a-plenty,

Yahweh’s breath

like a sulphur wadi burning up in it.

## 31:1 The Hawks Hovering Over the Town

31 Hey, you who are going down to Egypt for help,

who lean on horses,

Who’ve relied on chariotry because it’s vast,

and on cavalry because they’re very numerous,

And not turned to Israel’s sacred one,

and not inquired of Yahweh.

2But he too is smart, and he has brought bad fortune,

and not made his words turn away.

He will arise against the household of people who deal badly,

and against the help of people who bring trouble.

3The Egyptians are human not God,

their horses are flesh and not spirit.

When Yahweh stretches out his hand,

helper will collapse and the one who is helped will fall;

all of them will be finished together.

4Because Yahweh has said this to me:

As a lion murmurs,

or a cougar over its prey,

(When a whole group of shepherds

is called against it,

At their voice it isn’t shattered,

at the horde of them it doesn’t succumb),

So Yahweh Armies will go down

to fight on Mount Zion and on its hill.

5Like birds flying,

so Yahweh Armies will shield Jerusalem,

Shielding and rescuing,

passing over and saving.

6Turn back to the one whom you have deeply defied,

Israelites.

7Because on that day they will reject, each one,

his silver nonentities and his gold nonentities,

which your hands made for you, a wrongdoing.

8Ashshur will fall by a sword not human;

a sword that doesn’t belong to a human being will consume it.

It will flee for its life from before the sword;

its young men will become a work force.

9Its cliff will pass away because of the terror,

its officers will be shattered because of the ensign

(a declaration of Yahweh, whose fire is in Zion,

his furnace in Jerusalem).

32 There, a king will reign to promote faithfulness;

as for officials, they’ll govern to promote the exercise of authority.

2Each will be a veritable hiding place from wind,

a place of concealment from rain,

Like channels of water in the desert,

like the shade of a heavy cliff in a weary country.

3The eyes of people who see won’t be blind,

the ears of people who listen will heed.

4The mind of the quick will understand knowledge,

the tongue of the hesitant will be quick

to speak dazzling words.

5No more will a villain be called a leader,

or a rogue called a deliverer.

6Because a villain speaks villainy,

and his mind brings trouble,

Acting impiously,

and speaking of wandering in regard to Yahweh,

Leaving the hungry person empty,

and letting the drink of the thirsty fail.

7The rogue: his tools are bad,

he’s one who counsels schemes,

To destroy the humble by false words,

and when the needy person speaks his case.

8But a leader will counsel acts of leadership,

and that man will rise up with acts of leadership.

## 32:8 When the Spirit Empties Itself

9Carefree women, get up, listen to my voice;

confident daughters, give ear to what I say!

10Some days over a year

you confident ones will shake,

Because the harvest will be finished,

the ingathering won’t come.

11Tremble, you carefree; shake, you confident,

strip, be bare, a skirt round your waist,

12Lamenting upon your breasts for the lovely fields,

for the fruitful vine,

13For my people’s soil,

which will produce thorn and briar,

Indeed, for all the joyful households,

the exultant township.

14Because the fortress will have been deserted,

the uproar of the town will have been abandoned.

Citadel and tower will have become

empty spaces permanently,

Enjoyment for donkeys,

pasture for flocks:

15Until spirit empties on us from on high,

and wilderness becomes farmland,

and farmland is thought of as forest.

16Authority will dwell in the wilderness,

faithfulness will live in the farmland.

17The effect of faithfulness will be well-being,

the service of faithfulness will be calm and confidence permanently.

18My people will live in an abode characterized by well-being,

in secure dwellings, in carefree places to settle down.

19Though it hails when the forest flattens,

and the town falls utterly down,

20The blessings you will have, sowing by all water,

sending off the foot of ox and donkey!

## 33:1 The Offensive Hope of the City of God

1Hey, destroyer, and you’re not destroyed,

one who breaks faith, and people have not broken faith with you!

When you finish destroying you will be destroyed,

when you stop breaking faith, they’ll break faith with you.

2Yahweh, be gracious to us,

we have hoped in you.

Be people’s arm every morning,

yes, our deliverance in time of pressure.

3Before the sound of uproar peoples fled,

before your rising nations scattered.

4Your spoil was gathered like the gathering of locusts;

like the rushing of grasshoppers someone rushes on it.

5Yahweh is lofty, because he dwells on high;

he filled Zion with authority and faithfulness.

6He will become the truthfulness of your times;

smartness and knowledge are the wealth that brings deliverance,

awe for Yahweh – that is its treasure.

7There – the people in God’s Hearth have cried out aloud in the streets,

the envoys of Shalom cry bitterly.

8Causeways have become desolate,

people passing on the road have ceased.

He has contravened the pact, rejected the towns,

not taken account of anyone.

9The country has withered, wasted away;

Lebanon is confounded, it has shrivelled.

The Sharon has become like the steppe,

Bashan and Carmel are shaking things off.

10’Now I will arise’, Yahweh says,

‘now I will exalt myself, now I will lift myself.

11You will conceive hay, give birth to straw;

your breath a fire that consumes you.

12Peoples will be burnings of lime,

thorns cut off that are set on fire.

13Listen, you far off, to what I have done;

acknowledge, you that are near, my strength’.

## 33:14 Your Eyes Will Behold the King in His Beauty

14Wrongdoers in Zion are frightened,

trembling grasps the impious.

Who of us can reside with consuming fire,

who of us can reside with the permanent blaze?

15One who walks in faithfulness,

speaks uprightly,

Rejects profit from fraud,

waves the palms of his hands rather than grasping a bribe,

Stops his ear rather than listening to talk of bloodshed,

closes his eyes rather than look at what is bad –

16That person can dwell on the heights,

with fortresses in the cliffs as his high tower.

His food will be given,

his water reliable.

17Your eyes will behold the King in his beauty,

they’ll see the country stretching far.

18Your mind will murmur about what you dreaded—

where’s the person counting, where’s the person weighing?

Where’s the person counting the towers? –

19when you don’t see the barbarous people,

The people too way-out of speech to listen,

so stammering of tongue that there’s no understanding.

20Behold Zion, the township of our appointed festivals;

your eyes will see Jerusalem,

A carefree abode,

a tent that will not move about,

Whose pegs one will never pull up,

none of whose ropes will break.

21Rather, there the august one, Yahweh, will be for us

a place of rivers, streams, broad on both sides.

No rowing vessel can go in it,

no august ship can pass through it.

22Because Yahweh is the one exercising authority for us,

Yahweh is the one who makes decrees for us.

Yahweh is our King, he is the one who will deliver us,

23when your ropes are loose.

They cannot take strong hold on the base of their mast,

they cannot spread a sail.

Then much spoil is divided,

lame people take plunder.

24No dweller will say, ‘I’m ill’;

the people that lives in it – its waywardness is carried.

## 34:1 Putting Down Edom

34 Come near to listen, nations,

heed, peoples.

The earth and what fills it should listen,

the world and all who come out from it.

2Because Yahweh has fury for all the nations,

wrath for all their army.

He’s ‘devoting’ them, giving them to slaughter,

3and those of them who are run through will be thrown out.

Their corpses – their stench will go up,

and the mountains will dissolve with their blood.

4All the army of the heavens will rot,

and the heavens will roll up like a document.

All their army will droop

like the droop of foliage from a vine,

and the droop from a fig tree,

5because my sword will have drunk its fill in the heavens.

There, on Edom it goes down,

and on a people I am devoting, so as to exercise authority.

6Yahweh’s sword is full of blood,

soaked in fat,

in the blood of lambs and goats,

in fat from the kidneys of rams.

Because Yahweh has a sacrifice in Botsrah,

a big slaughter in the country of Edom.

7Oryxes will go down with them,

bullocks with sturdy steers.

Their country will be full of blood,

their dirt will be soaked in fat.

8Because it’s a day of redress for Yahweh,

a year of making good for Zion’s argument.

9Its wadis will turn to pitch,

its dirt to sulphur.

Its country will become pitch burning up;

10day and night it won’t go out.

Its smoke will go up permanently;

from generation to generation it will lie waste.

Lastingly and permanently

there will be no one passing through it.

11Hawk and hedgehog will possess it,

owl and raven will dwell in it.

He’ ll stretch out over it the measuring line of emptiness,

and the weights of the void 12over its nobles.

People will call it ‘There’s no kingship there’;

all its officials will be nothing.

13Thorns will grow up in its citadels,

briar and thistle in its fortresses.

It will become an abode of jackals,

a dwelling for ostriches.

14Wildcats will meet hyenas,

a wild goat will call to its neighbour.

Indeed, the night creature is resting there,

finding herself a place of repose.

15There the snake is nesting and laying eggs,

sitting and hatching in its shade.

Yes, there buzzards are gathering,

each with her mate.

## 34:16 Giving the Mute Their Voice

16Inquire from in Yahweh’s document , and read out:

Not one of these is lacking,

they do not miss, any of them, her mate,

Because by my mouth he ordered,

and with his spirit he collected them.

17He’s the one who made the lot fall for them,

his hand shared it out for them with the line.

They will possess it for all time,

to generation after generation they will dwell there.

35 The wilderness and the dry land will be glad,

the steppe will celebrate and bloom like a crocus.

2It will bloom abundantly and celebrate,

indeed with celebration and resounding.

The Lebanon’s splendour will be given it,

the Carmel and the Sharon’s glory.

Those people will see Yahweh’s splendour,

our God’s glory.

3Strengthen slackening hands,

firm up collapsing knees.

4Say to the hesitant of mind,

‘Be strong, don’t be afraid, there is your God.

Redress will come, God’s dealing,

he will come and deliver you’.

5Then the eyes of the blind will open,

the ears of the deaf will unfasten.

6Then the handicapped person will jump like a deer,

the mute’s tongue will resound.

Because water will burst out in the wilderness,

wadis in the steppe.

7The burning sand will become a pool,

the thirsty ground fountains of water.

In the abode of jackals, its resting place,

the dwelling will be reed and rush.

8There will be a highway there, a way,

the sacred way it will be called;

an unclean person won’t pass along it.

It will be for them, the one who walks the way;

stupid people won’t wander there.

9There’ll be no lion there;

violent beast won’t go up on it,

It won’t be found there;

the restored people will go.

10The people redeemed by Yahweh will go back,

they will come to Zion with resounding,

With eternal rejoicing on their head,

as joy and rejoicing overtake them

and sorrow and sighing flee.

## 36:1 So What Are You Relying On?

36 In the fourteenth year of King Hizqiyyahu, Sanherib [Sennacherib] king of Ashshur went up against all the fortified towns of Judah and captured them.

2The king of Ashshur sent the Rab-shaqeh from Lakish to Jerusalem to King Hizqiyyahu with a heavy force, and he stood at the Upper Pool channel at the Washer’s Field causeway. 3Elyaqim ben Hilqiyyahu who was in charge of the household, Shebna the secretary, and Yo’ah ben Asaph the recorder went out to him.

4The Rab-shaqeh said to them, ‘Say to Hizqiyyahu, please, “The Great King, the king of Ashshur, has said this: ‘What is this reliance that you have: 5“I’ve said, ‘Just the word on some lips are counsel and strength for battle’”? Now, on whom have you relied, that you’ve rebelled against me? 6There, you’ve relied on the support of this broken reed, on Egypt, which when someone leans on it, comes into his palm and pierces it. Such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all the people who rely on him. 7But when you say to me, “On Yahweh our God – we’ve relied on him”, he’s the one whose shrines and whose altars Hizqiyyahu removed, isn’t he, and who’s said to Judah and to Jerusalem, “Before this altar you’re to bow low”.

8But now, please make a wager with my lord the king of Ashshur. I’ll give you 2000 horses if you can put riders on them for yourself. 9So how could you turn back the face of the governor of one of my lord’s lesser servants and rely on Egypt for chariotry and for cavalry for yourself? 10And now, is it without Yahweh that I’ve gone up to this country to devastate it? It was Yahweh who said to me, “Go up to this country and devastate it”’”’.

## 36:11 Don’t Rely on Yahweh

11Elyaqim, Shebna, and Yo’ah said to the Rab-shaqeh, ‘Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, because we’re listening. Don’t speak to us in Judahite in the ears of the people, which is on the wall’. 12The Rab-shaqeh said, ‘Was it to your lord and to you that my lord sent me to speak these words? Wasn’t it to the individuals who are sitting on the wall, to eat their faeces and drink the water between their legs with you?’

13The Rab-shaqeh stood and said and called in a loud voice in Judahite: ‘Listen to the words of the Great King, the king of Ashshur. 14The king has said this: “Hizqiyyahu must not deceive you”, because he won’t be able to rescue you. 15And Hizqiyyahu must not get you to rely on Yahweh, saying, “Yahweh will definitely rescue us, this town won’t be given into the hand of the king of Ashshur”. 16Don’t listen to Hizqiyyahu.

Because the king of Ashshur has said this: “Make a blessing [agreement] with me. Go out to me, and eat each one his vine and each one his fig tree, and drink each one the water from his cistern, 17until I come and take you to a country like your country, a country of grain and new wine, a country of bread and vineyards. 18Don’t let Hizqiyyahu incite you, saying ‘Yahweh will rescue us’. Have the gods of the nations, any of them, rescued his country from the hand of the king of Ashshur? 19Where were the gods of Hamat and Arpad? Where were the gods of Sepharvayim? And indeed did they rescue Shomron from my hand? 20Who was it among all the gods of these countries that rescued their country from my hand?”’

21They were silent. They didn’t answer him a word, because it was the king’s order, ‘Don’t answer him’. 22But Elyaqim ben Hilqiyyahu who was in charge of the household, Shebna the secretary, and Yo’ah ben Asaph the recorder came to Hizqiyyahu, their clothes torn, and told him the Rab-shaqeh’s words.

## 37:1 A Politician’s One Fatal Mistake

37 When King Hizqiyyahu heard, he tore his clothes and covered himself in sack. He came into Yahweh’s house, 2but he sent Elyaqim, who was in charge of the household, Shebna the secretary, and the priestly elders, covered in sack, to Isaiah ben Amots. 3They said to him, ‘Hizqiyyahu has said this: “This day is a day of pressure, reproof, and disdain, when ‘children have come to breaking but there’s no energy to give birth’. 4Perhaps Yahweh your God will listen to the words of the Rab-shaqeh, whom the king of Ashshur his lord sent to revile the living God, and will issue a reproof for the words that Yahweh your God has heard, and you will lift up a plea on behalf of the remainder that are to be found here”’.

5King Hizqiyyahu’s servants came to Isaiah, 6and Isaiah said to them, ‘You’re to say this to your lord: “Yahweh has said this: ‘Don’t be afraid before the words you’ve heard with which the king of Ashshur’s boys have insulted me. 7Here – I’m going to put a spirit in him, and he’ll hear a report and go back to his country, and I shall cause him to fall by the sword in his country’”’.

8The Rab-shaqeh went back and found the king of Ashshur battling against Libnah, because he heard that he had moved on from Lakish, 9and he heard about Tirhaqah king of Sudan, ‘He’s gone out to do battle with you’. So he heard and sent envoys to Hizqiyyahu, saying, 10’You’re to say this to Hizqiyyahu king of Judah: “Your God on whom you’re relying mustn’t deceive you, saying ‘Jerusalem won’t be given into the hand of the king of Ashshur’. 11Here, you yourself have heard what the kings of Ashshur have done to all the countries, ‘devoting’ them, and are you the one who’ll be rescued? 12Did the gods of the nations that my ancestors devastated rescue them – Gozan, Harran, Reseph, and the Edenites who were in Tela’ssar? 13Where is the king of Hamat, the king of Arpad, the king of La’ir, Sepharvayim, Hena, and Yivvah?”’

## 37:14 Dealing with Tricky Mail

14Hizqiyyahu took the documents from the envoys’ hand, read it out, and went up to Yahweh’s house. Hizqiyyahu spread it before Yahweh, 15and Hizqiyyahu pleaded with Yahweh: 16’Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, sitting above the sphinxes: you are God, you alone, for all the kingdoms of the earth. You are the one who made the heavens and the earth. 17Yahweh, bend your ear and listen. Yahweh, open your eye and see. Listen to all the words of Sanherib that he has sent to revile the living God.

18Truly, Yahweh, the kings of Ashshur have put to the sword all the countries, and their own country, 19and put their gods into the fire, because they were not gods but rather the making of human hands, wood and stone, and they obliterated them. 20But now, Yahweh our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may acknowledge that you alone are Yahweh’.

21Isaiah ben Amots sent to Hizqiyyahu saying, ‘Yahweh, Israel’s God, with whom you pleaded concerning Sanherib king of Ashshur, has said this. 22This is the word that Yahweh has spoken about him.

Maiden Miss Zion

despises you, she ridicules you.

Behind you Miss Jerusalem

has shaken her head.

23Whom have you reviled and insulted,

against whom have you lifted your voice?

You’ve raised your eyes on high

toward Israel’s sacred one.

24By the hand of your servants

you’ve reviled the Lord, and said,

‘With the large number of my chariotry I’m the one who has gone up

to the mountains’ height, Lebanon’s farthest parts.

I’ve cut down the highest of its cedars,

the choicest of its junipers.

I’ve come to its ultimate height,

its forest of farmland.

25I’m the one who has dug

and drunk water,

I’ve dried with the sole of my feet

all Egypt’s streams.

## 37:26 Reminder to Sennacherib, Promise to Hezekiah

26Haven’t you heard?

– long ago I did it.

From days of old I formed it;

now I’ve made it come about.

It’s happened, crashing fortified towns

into wasted heaps.

27Their inhabitants, short of ability,

are scared and shamed.

They were vegetation of the fields,

green herbage,

Grass on the roofs,

blasted before it grows up.

28Your sitting, your going out, and your coming I know,

and your raging at me.

29Since you raged at me,

and your din came up into my ears,

I shall put my hook in your nose,

my bit in your mouth,

I shall make you go back

by the way that you came.

30This will be the sign for you:

This year, eat the natural growth;

in the second year, the secondary growth.

In the third year, sew and reap,

plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

31An escape group from Judah’s household that remains

will add root downward and produce fruit above.

32Because a remainder will go out from Jerusalem,

and an escape group from Mount Zion.

The passion of Yahweh Armies

will do this.

33Therefore Yahweh has said this concerning the king of Ashshur:

‘He will not come into this town;

he will not shoot an arrow there.

He will not meet it with a shield;

he will not heap up a ramp against it.

34By the way that he came he will go back;

into this town he will not come

(Yahweh’s declaration).

35I will shield this town so as to deliver it,

for my sake and for the sake of David my servant’.

## 37:36 The Praying Hezekiah

36Yahweh’s envoy went out and struck down 185,000 in the Ashshurites’ camp. People started early in the morning – there, all of them were dead corpses.

37Sanherib the king of Ashshur moved on and went, and returned and lived in Nineveh. 38He was bowing low in the house of Nisrok his god when Adrammelek and Sar’etser his sons struck him the sword. While they escaped to the country of Ararat, Esar-haddon his son began to reign in place of him.

38 In those days Hizqiyyahu became deathly ill. Isaiah ben Amots the prophet came to him and said to him, ‘Yahweh has said this: ‘Give orders to your household, because you’re dying. You won’t live on’’. 2Hizqiyyahu turned his face round to the wall and pleaded with Yahweh, 3‘Oh, Yahweh, please be mindful of how I’ve walked before you in truth and with a perfect mind, and done what is good in your eyes’. Hizqiyyahu cried and cried much.

4Yahweh’s word came to Isaiah: 5’Go and say to Hizqiyyahu: “Yahweh, the God of David your ancestor, has said this: ‘I have listened to your plea, I’ve seen your tears. Here, I am going to add to your time fifteen years. 6From the fist of the king of Ashshur I shall rescue you and this town, and I shall shield this town”. 7This will be the sign for you from Yahweh that Yahweh will do this thing that he has spoken of. 8“Here, I’m going to make the shadow go back on the steps, which has gone down on the steps of Ahaz with the sun, back ten steps”’. And the sun went back ten steps by the steps that it had gone down.

## 38:9 The Prayer

9Something written for Hizqiyyahu king of Judah, when he was ill and came back to life from his sickness.

10I myself said,

‘In the middle of my days I shall go.

I’ve been appointed to She’ol’s gateways

for the rest of my years’.

11I said, ‘I shall not see Yah;

Yah is in the land of the living.

I shall not look to humanity again,

with the inhabitants of the world.

12My dwelling has moved on and gone into exile from me,

like a shepherd’s tent.

I’ve rolled up my life like a weaver,

as he cuts me from the loom.

While from day until night you make an end of me,

13I have composed myself until morning.

Like a lion that thus breaks up all my bones,

from day until night you make an end of me.

14Like a swift, a swallow, so I chirp;

I murmur like a dove.

My eyes have looked to the height,

‘Lord, it’s oppression to me, make a pledge to me.

15What shall I speak of when he has said it to me,

and he himself has acted?

I shall walk all my years

in the bitterness of my heart.

16Lord, in such things people live,

and in all of them is the life of my spirit;

may you restore me and let me live’.

17There – as regards well-being,

it was bitter for me, bitter.

But you yourself delighted in me,

out of the pit of nothingness,

Because you threw all my wrongdoings

behind your back.

18Because She’ol does not confess you,

death praise you.

People who go down to the Pit

don’t expect your truthfulness.

19The living person, the living person, that one confesses you,

this very day.

A father makes known to his children

your truthfulness.

20Yahweh will deliver me,

and we will make music,

All the days of our lives

at Yahweh’s house.

(21Yesha’yahu had said, ‘They are to get a block of figs and apply it to the infection, and he will live on’, and Hizqiyyahu had said, ‘What will be the sign that I shall go up to Yahweh’s house?’)

## 39:1 How to Lose God’s Sympathy

39 At that time Merodak Bal’adan ben Bal’adan king of Babel sent documents and an offering to Hizqiyyahu; he had heard that he had been ill and had regained strength. 2Hizqiyyahu rejoiced about them and let them see his repository house, the silver, the gold, the spices, and the fine oil, and his entire equipment house, and everything that was to be found in his storehouses. There was not a thing that Hizqiyyahu didn’t let them see in his house and his entire kingdom.

3Isaiah the prophet came to King Hizqiyyahu and said to him, ‘What did these men say? Where did they come from to you?’ Hizqiyyahu said, ‘From a far country, they came to me from Babel’. 4He said, ‘What did they see in your house?’ Hizqiyyahu said, ‘They saw everything that’s in my house. There wasn’t a thing that I didn’t let them see in my storehouses’.

5Isaiah said to Hizqiyyahu, ‘Listen to the word of Yahweh Armies. 6“There, days are going to come when everything that’s in your house, and that your ancestors have stored up until this day, will be carried to Babel. Not a thing will be left”, Yahweh has said. 7“Some of your descendants who will issue from you, whom you will father, will be taken and will become courtiers in the palace of the king of Babel”’. 8Hizqiyyahu said to Isaiah, ‘The word from Yahweh that you have spoken is good’. He said, ‘Because there’ll be well-being and truthfulness in my days’.

## 40:1 Comfort My People

1’Comfort, comfort my people’,

says your God.

2’Speak to Jerusalem’s heart,

call to it,

That its tour of duty is fulfilled,

that its waywardness is paid for,

That it has taken from Yahweh’s hand

double for all its wrongdoings’.

3A voice is calling:

‘In the wilderness clear Yahweh’s way,

make straight in the steppe a causeway for our God.

4Every ravine is to rise up,

every mountain and hill is to fall down.

The ridge is to become level,

the cliffs a valley.

5Yahweh’s splendour will appear,

and all flesh will see it together,

because Yahweh’s mouth has spoken’.

6A voice is saying, ‘Call’,

but someone says, ‘Call what?

All flesh is grass,

and all its commitment is like a wild flower’s.

7Grass withers, a flower fades,

when Yahweh’s wind blows on it’.

‘Yes, the people is grass;

grass withers, a flower fades –

but our God’s word rises up permanently’.

9Get yourself up onto a high mountain

as a bringer of news to Zion.

Raise your voice with energy

as a bringer of news to Jerusalem.

Raise it, don’t be afraid,

say to Judah’s towns,

‘Here is your God,

10here is the Lord Yahweh!’

He comes as the strong one,

his arm is going to rule for him.

Here, his reward is with him,

his earnings before him.

11Like a shepherd who pastures his flock,

he collects lambs in his arm.

He carries them in his embrace,

guides the nursing ones.

12Who gauged the water in his palm,

surveyed the heavens with his span,

measured earth’s dirt by the gallon,

weighed the mountains with a balance,

the hills with scales?

13Who directed Yahweh’s spirit,

or as the person to give him counsel made it known to him?

14With whom did he take counsel, so that he helped him understand,

taught him the way to exercise authority,

Taught him knowledge,

made known to him the way of understanding?

15There, nations count like a drop from a pan,

like a cloud on scales;

there, foreign shores are like a fine cloud that rises.

16Lebanon – there’s not enough to burn up,

its animals – there aren’t enough as a burnt offering.

17All the nations are like nothing over against him;

they count as less than naught, emptiness, to him.

## 40:18 Hope Means Energy

18So to whom would you compare God,

or what comparison would you line up for him?

19The image, which a craftworker casts? –

a smith beats it out with gold,

and a smith with silver chains.

20Is it sissoo fit for tribute,

wood that doesn’t rot, that someone chooses?

He seeks for himself a smart craftworker

to set up an image so it doesn’t slip.

21You acknowledge, don’t you,

you listen, don’t you?

It’s been told you from the beginning, hasn’t it,

you've understood earth’s foundations, haven’t you?

22There’s one who sits above earth’s horizon,

with its inhabitants like grasshoppers,

One who stretched out the heavens like net,

spread them like a tent for sitting in,

23One who turns sovereigns into nothing,

makes earth’s authorities pure emptiness.

24They’re really not planted, really not sown,

their stem is really not rooting in the earth,

Then he blows on them and they shrivel,

and a hurricane carries them off like straw.

25So to whom would you compare me,

so I could be similar (says the sacred one)?

26Lift your eyes on high and see –

who created these?

The one who takes out their army by number

calls to all of them by name.

Because of the greatness of his power,

and as one firm in energy, not one lags behind.

27Why do you say, Jacob,

and speak, Israel,

‘My way has hidden from Yahweh,

a ruling for me passes away from my God’?

28Haven’t you acknowledged,

or haven’t you listened?

Yahweh is God of the ages,

creator of earth’s ends.

He doesn’t get faint or weary;

there’s no searching out of his understanding.

29He gives energy to the faint,

and to the one who has no resources he gives much strength.

30Youths may get faint and weary,

young men may totally collapse.

31But people who hope in Yahweh get new energy,

they grow pinions like eagles.

They run and don’t get weary,

they walk and don’t faint.

## 41:1 Don’t Be Afraid

41 Be silent for me, foreign shores;

peoples must renew their energy.

They must come up, then speak;

together let us draw near for making a ruling.

2Who aroused someone from the east

whom faithfulness calls to its heel?

He gives up nations before him,

enables him to put down kings.

He makes them like dirt with his sword,

like driven straw with his bow.

3As he pursues them, he passes on with things being well

by a path on which he doesn’t come straight.

4Who acted and did it,

calling the generations from the beginning?

I am Yahweh, the first,

and I myself with the last.

5Foreign shores have seen and become afraid,

earth’s ends tremble,

they’ve drawn near and come.

6An individual helps his neighbour,

and says to his brother, ‘Be strong!’

7Craftworker bids smith be strong,

one who flattens with a hammer [bids] one who strikes with a mallet.

One who says of the joint, ‘It’s good’,

strengthens it with fastenings so it doesn’t slip.

8But you as Israel are my servant,

as Jacob you’re the one that I chose.

As the offspring of Abraham you’re my friend,

9the one of whom I took strong hold from earth’s ends,

Called from its corners, and said to you,

‘You’re my servant, I chose you, and didn’t spurn you’.

10Don’t be afraid, because I’m with you;

don’t be frightened, because I’m your God.

I’m making you firm, yes, helping you,

yes, supporting you with my faithful right hand.

11There, they’ll be shamed and disgraced,

all who rage at you.

They’ll become absolutely nothing, they’ll perish,

the people who argue with you.

12You will seek them and not find them,

the people who attack you.

They will become absolutely nothing, zero,

the people who do battle against you.

13Because I am Yahweh your God,

who takes strong hold of your right hand,

Who says to you, ‘Don’t be afraid,

I myself am helping you.

14Don’t be afraid, worm Jacob,

relics Israel.

I’m helping you (Yahweh’s declaration),

Israel’s sacred one is your restorer.

15There, I am making you into a harrow,

a new thresher fitted with points.

You’ll trample mountains and crush them,

and make hills like chaff.

16You’ll winnow them and the wind will carry them,

the hurricane will scatter them.

And you yourselves will rejoice in Yahweh;

in Israel’s sacred one you’ll exult.

## 41:17 Do Anything!

17When the humble and the needy are seeking water,

but there is none, their tongue is parched with thirst.

I Yahweh will answer them;

the God of Israel will not abandon them.

18I will open up rivers on the bare places,

springs in the middle of the valleys.

I will make the wilderness into a pool of water,

dry land into water courses.

19In the wilderness I will put cedar,

acacia, myrtle, and oil tree.

In the steppe I will set juniper,

maple, and cypress, together,

20In order that people may see and acknowledge,

consider and discern together,

That Yahweh’s hand did this,

Israel’s sacred one created it.

21’Present your argument’,

Yahweh says.

‘Bring up your strong points’,

says Jacob’s King.

22They should bring them up

and tell us what will happen.

The previous events – tell us what they were,

so we may apply our mind and acknowledge their outcome.

Or let us hear about the coming events,

23tell us things that will arrive after,

so we may acknowledge that you are gods.

Yes, do something good or do something bad,

so we may bow low and see together.

24Here, you’re less than nothing,

your action is less than a sigh;

it’s an offence that someone chooses in you.

25I aroused one from the north and he arrived,

from the rising of the sun one who would call on my name.

He came on viceroys as if they were mire,

as it he was a potter who treads clay.

26Who told of it from the beginning so we might acknowledge him,

beforehand so we might say ‘He was right’?

No, there was no one telling of it;

no, there was no one letting us hear about it;

no, there was no one hearing your words.

27The first for Zion (‘Here, here they are’),

for Jerusalem, I give a bringer of news.

28Were I to look, there was no one;

of them, there was no counsellor,

who could speak a word back if I asked them.

29There, they are all a bane, their acts are zero,

their images are a breath, emptiness.

## 42:1 There Is My Servant

42 There is my servant whom I support,

my chosen whom I myself accept.

I’m putting my breath on him;

he will see that my exercise of authority gets out to the nations.

2He won’t cry out and he won’t raise

or make his voice heard, in the streets.

3A broken cane he won’t snap,

a flickering lamp he won’t snuff.

For the sake of truthfulness he’ll see the exercise of authority gets out,

4he won’t flicker or break,

Until he sets the exercise of authority in the earth,

as foreign shores wait for his instruction.

5The God Yahweh has said this,

the one who created the heavens and stretched them,

beating out the earth and its produce,

Giving air to the people on it,

breath to those who walk on it:

6‘I am Yahweh, I called you in faithfulness,

took strong hold of your hand.

I formed you and gave you as a pact for the people,

a light for the nations,

7In opening blind eyes,

in getting the captive out from the dungeon,

from the jail house people who are living in the dark.

8I am Yahweh, that is my name;

my splendour I do not give to another,

or my praise to images.

9The previous events – here, they came about;

and I’m telling of new events –

before they grow, I let you hear’.

10Sing Yahweh a new song,

his praise from the end of the earth,

You who go down to the sea, and what fills it,

foreign shores and those who live in them.

11The wilderness and its towns are to raise their voice,

the villages where Qedar lives.

The people who live in Sela are to resound,

they are to yell from the top of the mountains.

12They are to ascribe splendour to Yahweh,

to tell of his praise on foreign shores.

## 42:18 What Will We Do When God’s Servant is Deaf and Blind?

13Yahweh goes out like a strong man,

like a man of battle he arouses his passion.

He shouts, yes roars,

acts as a strong man against his enemies.

14’I’ve been quiet from of old;

I’ve been being still and restraining myself.

Like a woman giving birth I shall shriek,

I shall devastate and crush together.

15I shall waste mountains and hills,

wither all their growth.

I shall turn rivers into shores,

wither wetland.

16I shall enable blind people to go by a way they haven’t known,

lead them on paths they haven’t known.

I shall make the darkness in front of them into light,

rough places into level ground

These are the words I am acting on,

and I will not abandon them.

17They’re turning back, they’re utterly shamed,

the people who trust in an image,

Who say to an idol,

‘You’re our god’.

18Listen, you deaf people;

you blind people, look and see!

19Who is blind except my servant,

as deaf as my envoy I send?

Who is as blind as the one made good to,

as blind as Yahweh’s servant?

20While seeing many things, you don’t heed;

while opening ears, he doesn’t listen.

21Yahweh wants, for the sake of his faithfulness,

that he should magnify the instruction, glorify it.

22But that is a people plundered and spoiled,

trapped in holes all of them,

and they’re confined in jails.

They’ve become plunder with no rescuer,

spoil with no one saying, ‘Give it back!’

23Who among you will give ear to this,

will heed and listen for the future?

24Who gave Jacob as spoil, Israel to plunderers? –

it was Yahweh, against whom we had done wrong, wasn’t it.

They were not willing to walk in his ways,

they didn’t listen to his instruction.

25So he poured wrath upon it,

his anger and battling vigour.

It blazed upon it all round, but it didn’t acknowledge;

it burned it up, but it doesn’t take it into its mind.

## 43:1 You’ll Still Be My Witnesses

43 But now Yahweh has said this,

your creator, Jacob, your former, Israel:

‘Don’t be afraid, because I’m restoring you;

I call you by name, you’re mine.

2When you pass through water, I’ll be with you,

and through rivers, they won’t overwhelm you.

When you go in the middle of fire you won’t burn,

and into flames, they won’t consume you.

3Because I am Yahweh your God,

Israel’s sacred one, your deliverer.

I gave Egypt as your ransom,

Sudan and Seba in place of you.

4Because you were valuable in my eyes;

you were honoured and I myself was loyal to you,

So that I would give people in place of you,

nations in place of your life.

5Don’t be afraid,

because I’ll be with you.

From the east I shall bring your offspring,

from the west I shall gather you.

6I shall say to the north, ‘Give’,

and to the south, ‘Don’t restrain.

Bring my sons from far away,

my daughters from the end of the earth,

7Everyone called in my name and for my splendour,

whom I created, formed, yes made’.

8Take out the people that is blind though it has eyes,

those who are deaf though they have ears.

9All the nations must collect together,

the peoples must gather.

Who among them could tell of this,

could let us hear of the earlier events?

They must give their witnesses so they may prove right,

so people may listen and say, ‘It’s true’.

10You’re my witnesses (Yahweh’s declaration),

and my servant whom I chose,

In order that you may acknowledge and trust in me,

and understand that I am the one.

Before me no god was formed,

and after me there will be none.

11I myself, I am Yahweh,

and apart from me there’s no deliverer.

12I’m the one who told of it and delivered;

I let you hear, and there was no stranger among you.

And you’re my witnesses (Yahweh’s declaration);

I am God.

13Yes, from this day I’m the one,

and there is no one rescues from my hand;

I act, and who can make it go back?

## 43:14 I’m Sending to Babylon

14Yahweh has said this,

your restorer, Israel’s sacred one:

‘For your sake I am sending to Babel,

and I shall take down all of them as fugitives,

the Kasdites into their boats with a shout.

15I am Yahweh, your sacred one,

Israel’s creator, your King.

16Yahweh has said this,

the one who made a way in the sea,

a path in vigorous water,

17who took out chariot and horse,

force and vigorous one, altogether.

(They lie down, they don’t get up;

they were extinguished , they went out like a wick):

18’Don’t be mindful of the earlier events,

don’t consider previous events.

19Here am I, doing something new;

now it is to grow – you will acknowledge it, won’t you.

Yes, I shall make a way in the wilderness,

rivers in the desert.

20The animals of the wild will honour me,

jackals and ostriches,

Because I’m giving water in the wilderness,

rivers in the desert,

To give drink to my people, my chosen,

21the people that I formed for myself;

they will recount my praise.

22But it’s not me you’ve called on, Jacob,

because you’ve been weary of me, Israel.

23You haven’t brought me sheep as your whole offerings,

nor honoured me with your sacrifices.

I haven’t made you serve me with an offering,

nor made you weary with incense.

24You haven’t gained me cane with silver,

nor soaked me with the fat of your sacrifices.

Actually you have made me serve with your wrongdoings,

wearied me with your wayward acts.

25I, I’m the one,

who wipes away your rebellions for my sake,

and your wrongdoings I will not keep in mind.

26Remind me; let’s enter into judgment together –

you give an account, so you may prove to be in the right.

27Your first ancestor – he did wrong,

and your interpreters – they rebelled against me.

28So I treated the sacred officials as ordinary,

give Jacob to being devoted, Israel to taunts.

## 44:1 People Will Say, ‘I Am Yahweh’s’

44 But now listen, Jacob my servant,

Israel whom I chose.

2Yahweh your maker has said this,

your former from the womb, who will help you:

Don’t be afraid, my servant Jacob,

Jeshurun whom I chose.

3Because I shall pour water on the thirsty,

streams on the dry ground.

I shall pour my spirit on your offspring,

my blessing on those who go out from you.

4They’ll grow like a grassy tamarisk,

like willows by water channels.

5One will say, ‘I am Yahweh’s’,

one will call out in Yahweh’s name.

One will write on his hand ‘Yahweh’s’,

take as his name ‘Israel’.

6Yahweh, Israel’s King, has said this,

your restorer, Yahweh Armies:

‘I am first and I am last;

apart from me there is no God.

7Who is like me? – he must call out,

tell and lay it out for me.

Who let people hear of coming events from of old? –

they must tell us what will happen.

8Don’t fear or take fright,

I let you hear of in time past, and told of it, didn’t I.

And you’re my witnesses:

is there a God apart from me? –

but there is no crag, I don’t acknowledge one’.

## 44:9 The Stupidity of Images

9People who form an image – all of them are emptiness,

and the objects of their delight are no use.

They are their witnesses – they don’t see and they don’t acknowledge,

in order that they may be shamed.

10Who forms a god or casts an image

so that it may be of no use?

11There, all his associates will be shamed;

craftworkers are but human.

If all of them collect together and stand up,

They’ll be afraid, shamed, together.

12A craftworker in metal with a cutter

works in the fire.

He forms it with hammers,

works it with his energetic arm.

Should he get hungry, he’d have no energy;

should he not drink water, he’d be faint.

13A craftworker in wood stretches a line,

outlines it with a chalk.

He makes it with squares,

outlines it with a compass.

He makes it in the image of a person,

with the majesty of a human being, to live at home.

14In cutting himself cedars,

getting ilex or oak,

He secures it for himself among the trees of the forest,

plants a pine so the rain may make it grow,

15So it may be fuel for someone,

and he takes some of them and gets warm.

He both lights it and bakes bread,

and also makes a god and bows down to it.

He makes an image and prostrates himself to it,

16while half of it he burns in the middle of the fire.

Over the half of it he eats meat,

he makes a roast and is full.

He also gets warm and says,

‘Ah, I’m warm, I see a flame’.

17The remainder of it he makes into a god, into his image,

to which he will kneel down and bow low.

He will plead with it and say,

‘Rescue me, because you’re my god’.

18They don’t acknowledge,

they don’t understand,

Because their eyes are smeared so they don’t see,

their minds so they don’t discern.

19He doesn’t bring back to his mind,

there’s no knowledge nor understanding to say,

‘Half of it I burned in the middle of the fire,

also I baked bread on the coals.

I roasted meat and ate,

and the rest of it I’ll make into an offense.

‘ill kneel down to a lump of wood’ –

20feeder on dirt!

A deluded mind has directed him,

and he can’t rescue himself.

He can’t say,

‘Isn’t it a falsehood in my hand?’

## 44:21 No Forgetting

21Be mindful of these things, Jacob,

Israel, because you’re my servant.

I formed you as a servant, you’re mine;

Israel, there is to be no forgetting.

22I’m wiping away your rebellions like a cloud,

your wrongdoings like thundercloud.

Turn back to me,

because I’m restoring you.

23Resound, heavens, because Yahweh has acted;

shout, depths of the earth.

Break out in sound, mountains,

forest and every tree in it.

Because Yahweh is restoring Jacob,

and will show his majesty in Israel.

24Yahweh, your restorer, has said this –

your former from the womb:

‘I am Yahweh,

maker of everything,

Who stretched out the heavens on my own,

spread out the earth of myself,

25Who contravenes the signs of soothsayers,

makes fools of diviners,

Turns the smart back,

makes idiocy of their knowledge,

26Implements his servant’s word,

fulfils his envoys’ plan –

Who says of Jerusalem, ‘It will be inhabited’,

and of Judah’s towns, ‘They’ll be built up’,

and ‘I will raise its wastes’,

27Who says to the deep,

‘Be wasted – I shall dry up your rivers’,

28Who says to Cyrus, ‘My shepherd,

he’ll fulfil my every want’,

By saying of Jerusalem, ‘It will be built up’,

and to the palace, ‘Be founded’’.

## 45:1 Creator of Good and Bad Things

45 Yahweh has said this to his anointed, to Cyrus,

‘The one whom I took by the right hand,

Putting down nations before him,

undoing the hips of kings,

Opening doors before him,

so that gateways might not shut:

2I will go before you and level walls;

I will break up copper doors,

cut up iron bars.

3I will give you dark treasuries

and hidden hordes,

In order you may acknowledge that I am Yahweh;

Israel’s God is the one who calls you by your name.

4For the sake of my servant Jacob,

Israel my chosen,

I called you by your name,

I designate you though you haven’t acknowledged me.

5I am Yahweh and there is no other;

apart from me there is no God.

I put the belt on you, though you have not acknowledged me,

6in order that people may acknowledge,

from the rise of the sun and from the setting,

That there is none apart from me,

I am Yahweh and there is no other,

7Forming light and creating dark,

making well-being and creating bad fortune.

I am Yahweh,

doing all these things’.

8Rain, heavens above;

skies are to pour down faithfulness.

Earth is to open so that deliverance may fruit,

faithfulness is to burst out all at once;

I Yahweh have created it.

9Hey, you who argue with the one who forms him,

a pot with earthen pots!

Can clay say to the one who forms it, ‘What do you do’,

or can the thing you make say, ‘It has no handles’?

10Hey, you who say to a father, ‘What do you beget?’

or to a woman, ‘What do you give birth to?’

11Yahweh has said this –

Israel’s sacred one and the one who forms it:

‘Ask me about things to come for my children –

you can give me orders about the work of my hands!

12I’m the one who made the earth

and created humanity upon it.

I – my hands stretched out the heavens,

I ordered their entire army.

13I’m the one who aroused him in faithfulness

and level all his ways.

He’s the one who will build up my town

and send off my exiles,

Not for payment, not for a bribe’,

Yahweh Armies has said.

## 45:14 Every Knee Will Bend

14Yahweh has said this:

‘Egypt’s toil, Sudan’s profit,

the Ethiopians, people of stature,

Will pass over to you and be yours;

they’ll follow behind you.

They’ll pass over in fetters and bow low to you,

to you they’ll make their plea:

‘God is in you only,

and there’s no other, no God.

15Certainly you’re the God who hides,

God of Israel who delivers’.

16They are shamed, yes, they are disgraced, all of them at once,

they have gone in disgrace, the people who craft forms.

17Israel has found deliverance in Yahweh,

everlasting deliverance.

You will not be shamed, you will not be disgraced,

to everlasting ages’.

18Because Yahweh has said this,

the creator of the heavens, he is God,

the former of the earth and its maker –

he established it, he did not create it an emptiness,

he formed it for inhabiting:

‘I am Yahweh

and there is no other.

19It was not in hiddenness that I spoke,

in a place in a dark country.

I didn’t say to Jacob’s offspring,

‘Inquire of me in emptiness’.

I am Yahweh, speaking of faithfulness,

telling of what is right.

20Gather, come, draw near together,

escapees of the nations.

The people who carry their wooden images have not acknowledged,

the people who plead with a god who does not deliver.

21Tell out, bring near,

yes, consult together.

Who let people hear of this beforehand,

told about it of old?

Was it not I, Yahweh? –

and there was no other God apart from me,

The faithful God and deliverer;

There’s none except me.

22Turn your faces to me and find deliverance, all the ends of the earth,

because I am God and there’s no other.

23By myself I’ve sworn,

faithfulness has gone out from my mouth,

a word that will not turn back:

To me every knee will bend,

every tongue swear.

24’Only in Yahweh (of me it is said)

are faithful acts and vigour’.

To him they will come and be shamed,

all who rage at him.

25In Yahweh all Israel’s offspring

will be faithful and will exult.

## 46:1 Gods You Have to Carry and the God Who Carries You

46 Bel has bent down, Nebo is stooping;

their images have come to belong to creatures, to animals.

The things carried by you are loaded as a burden for weary ones;

2they’ve stooped, they’ve bent down together.

They couldn’t save the burden;

they themselves have gone into captivity.

3Listen to me, Jacob’s household,

all the remainder of Israel’s household,

Who’ve been loaded from birth,

Who’ve been carried from the womb.

4Even until old age I will be the one;

even until grey-headedness I will be the one who will bear.

I’m the one who made, I’m the one who carries;

I’m the one who bears, and I will save.

5To whom can you compare me so I should be similar,

or liken me so we are comparable?

6People who lavish gold from a purse,

or weigh out silver by the rod,

Hire a smith so he may make it into a god

to which they may fall down, bow low.

7They carry it on their shoulder, bear it,

so they can set it down in its position and it can stand;

from its place it won’t move away.

Yes, someone can cry out to it, but it doesn’t answer;

it doesn’t deliver him from the pressure on him.

8Keep this in mind, be strong,

bring it back to mind, you rebels,

9Keep in mind earlier events of old,

because I am God and there is no other.

I am God and there is none like me,

10telling of the outcome from the beginning,

And from beforehand things that haven’t been done,

saying ‘My counsel will arise, all I want I shall do,

11Calling from the east a shriek,

from a far country the person in my counsel.

I both spoke and will also bring it about;

I formed and will also do it.

12Listen to me, you sturdy of mind,

you who are far away from faithfulness.

13I have brought faithfulness near; it’s not far away,

and my deliverance won’t delay.

I shall put deliverance in Zion,

my magnificence for Israel.

## 47:1 The Unexpected Fall of the Superpower

47 Get down, sit in the dirt, young Miss Babel,

sit on the ground without a throne, Miss Kasdim.

Because you will not again have people call you

sensitive and delightful.

2Get the millstones and grind meal,

expose your hair.

Uncover your tresses, expose your leg,

cross rivers.

3Your nakedness will be exposed,

yes, your reviling will be visible.

I shall take redress,

no one will intervene.

4(Our restorer: Yahweh Armies is his name,

Israel’s sacred one.)

5Sit in silence, enter into darkness,

Miss Kasdim.

Because you will not again have them call you

mistress of kingdoms.

6I was angry with my people, I treated my domain as ordinary,

I gave them into your hand.

You didn’t show compassion to them;

upon the aged you made your yoke very heavy.

7You said, ‘I shall be here permanently,

mistress always’.

You didn’t receive these things into your mind;

you were not mindful of its outcome.

8So now listen to this, charming one,

who sits in confidence,

Who says to herself,

‘I and none else am still here,

I shall not sit as a widow,

I shall not know the loss of children’.

9The two of these will come to you,

in a moment, on one day.

The loss of children and widowhood

in full measure will have come upon you.

In the multiplying of your chants

and in the great abounding of your charms,

10You’ve been confident in your bad dealing;

you said, ‘There’s no one looking at me’.

Your smartness, your knowledge,

it turned you back.

You said to yourself,

‘I and none else am still here’.

11But bad fortune is going to come upon you

whose countercharm you won’t know.

Disaster will fall upon you

that you won’t be able to expiate.

There will come upon you suddenly

devastation that you won’t know about.

12Stand, please, in your charms and in the multiplying of your chants,

in which you’ve laboured from your youth.

Perhaps you’ll be able to succeed,

perhaps you will terrify.

## 47:13 I Knew You Were Tough-Minded

13You’re collapsing in the multiplying of your plans;

they should indeed stand up and deliver you,

The people who observe the heavens,

who look at the stars,

Who make known for the months

some of what will come upon you.

14There, they’ve become like straw

that fire burns up.

They can’t rescue themselves

from the power of the blaze.

It’s not a coal for warming,

a flame for sitting before.

15Such have they been for you,

those with which you have laboured,

your charmers from your youth.

They’ve wandered, each of them his own way;

There’s no one delivering you.

48 Listen to this, Jacob’s household,

you who call yourselves by Israel’s name,

You who came out of Judah’s water,

who swear by Yahweh’s name,

Who make mention of Israel’s God—

not in truthfulness, not in faithfulness—

2because they call themselves by the sacred town,

lean on Israel’s God,

whose name is Yahweh Armies.

3The earlier events I told about of old,

from my mouth they came out so I could make them heard.

Suddenly I acted and they came about,

4because of my knowing that you’re tough.

Your neck is an iron sinew,

your forehead copper.

5I told you about them of old,

before they came about I let you hear,

So you couldn’t say, ‘My icon did them;

my image, my idol ordered them’.

6You’ve heard – look at all of it;

will you yourselves not tell of it?

I’m letting you hear of new events right now,

secrets that you didn’t know.

7Now they’re created, not of old,

or before today, and you haven’t heard of them,

so you could say, ‘There, I knew about them’.

8No, you haven’t heard; no, you haven’t known;

no, of old your ear didn’t open up.

Because I knew you would utterly break faith;

rebel from birth, you were called.

9For the sake of my name I delay my anger,

for the sake of my praise I muzzle it for you

so that I don’t cut you off.

10There, I smelted you, and not in the silver [furnace];

I chose you in the affliction furnace.

11For my sake, for my sake, I act,

because how can my splendour be treated as ordinary? –

I will not give it to someone else.

## 48:12 If Only…

12Listen to me, Jacob,

Israel whom I called.

I’m the one, I’m the first,

yes, I’m the last.

13Yes, it was my hand formed earth;

my right hand spanned the heavens.

I’m going to call them

so they stand together.

14Collect together, all of you, and listen –

who among them told of these things?

One to whom Yahweh is loyal will do what he wants to Babel,

and his arm to the Kasdites.

15I, I’m the one who spoke,

yes, I called him,

I brought him and he will succeed in his journey.

16Draw near to me,

listen to this.

Not from the first did I speak in hiddenness;

from the time it came to be, I was there.

Now the Lord Yahweh

has sent me, with his spirit.

17Yahweh has said this—your restorer,

Israel’s sacred one.

‘I am Yahweh your God,

the one who teaches you to succeed,

Who directs you in the way you should go—

18if only you had heeded my orders.

Your well-being would have been like a river,

your faithfulness like the waves of the sea.

19Your offspring would have been like the sand,

the people who went out from you like its grains.

Your name would not be cut off,

not be annihilated, from before me.

20Go out from Babel,

flee from the Kasdites!

Tell it with resounding voice,

make it heard.

Send it out to the end of the earth,

say, ‘Yahweh is restoring his servant Israel’.

21They were not thirsty

as he made them go through wastes.

He made water flow from the crag for them,

he split the crag and water gushed out.

22There’s no well-being

(Yahweh has said) for faithless people.

## 49:1 The Servant’s Servant

1Listen, foreign shores, to me;

heed, peoples far away.

Yahweh called me from the womb,

from my mother’s insides he made mention of my name.

2He made my mouth like a sharp sword,

in the shadow of his hand he hid me.

He made me into a burnished arrow,

in his quiver he concealed me.

3He said to me, ‘You’re my servant, Israel;

in you I will show my majesty’.

4But I myself said, ‘It was to empty results that I toiled,

for futility and hollowness that I used up my energy’.

Yet a ruling for me is with Yahweh,

my earnings are with my God.

5Now Yahweh has said –

the one who formed me from the womb as a servant for him,

By bringing Jacob back to him,

so that Israel might not withdraw;

And I have found honour in Yahweh’s eyes,

and my God has become my vigour –

6He has said, ‘It’s slight, your being a servant for me

to raise Jacob’s clans and bring back Israel’s shoots.

I shall make you into a light of nations,

to be my deliverance to the end of the earth’.

7Yahweh has said this –

Israel’s restorer, its sacred one –

To one despised in spirit, offensive to nations,

to a servant of rulers:

Kings will see and rise,

leaders, and they will fall low,

For the sake of Yahweh, who is trustworthy,

Israel’s sacred one – he chose you.

8Yahweh has said this:

In a time of acceptance I’m answering you,

on a day of deliverance I’m helping you.

I’ll guard you and make you

into a pact for people,

By raising up the country,

by giving out the desolate domains,

9By saying to captives, ‘Go out’,

to people in darkness, ‘Appear’.

Along the roads they will pasture,

on all the bare places will be their pasture.

10They will not hunger and not thirst;

khamsin and sun won’t strike them down.

Because the one who has compassion on them will lead them,

and guide them by springs of water.

11I’ll make all my mountains into a road;

my causeways will rise up.

12There – these will come from afar;

there – these from the north and the west,

and these from the country of Sinim.

## 49:13 Can a Mother Forget?

13Resound, heavens, celebrate, earth,

break into sound, mountains.

Because Yahweh is comforting his people;

he will have compassion on his humble ones.

14But Zion says, ‘Yahweh has abandoned me,

the Lord has put me out of mind’.

15Can a woman put her baby out of mind,

so as not to have compassion on the child of her womb?

Yes, these may put out of mind,

but I – I cannot put you out of mind.

16There, on my palms I engraved you;

your walls are in front of me continually.

17Your children are hurrying the people who tore you down,

your devastators will go out from you.

18Lift your eyes round and look,

they’re all collecting, they’re coming to you.

As I am alive (Yahweh’s declaration),

you will indeed put on all of them like jewellery,

bind them on like a bride.

19Because your wastes, your devastations,

your country that was torn down –

Because now you’ll be too confined for your population,

while the people who swallowed you up go away.

20The children of your bereavement

will yet say in your ears,

‘The place is too narrow for me,

move over for me so I can settle down’.

21You’ll say to yourself,

‘Who fathered these for me,

When I was bereaved and barren,

gone into exile and passing away?

These, who reared them,

there, when I remained alone,

these – where were they?’

## 49:22 Can Prey Be Taken from a Strong Man?

22The Lord Yahweh said this:

Here, I shall raise my hand to the nations,

to the peoples I will lift up my signal.

They will bring your sons in their embrace,

carry your daughters on their shoulder.

23Kings will be your foster fathers,

their queens your nursing mothers.

Face to the ground they’ll bow low to you,

They’ll lick up the dirt under your feet.

And you will acknowledge that I am Yahweh;

those who hope in me will not be shamed.

24Can prey be taken from a strong man

or the captives of a faithful one escape?

25Because Yahweh has said this:

Yes, the strong man’s captives may be taken,

the prey of the violent may escape.

I myself will argue with the one arguing with you,

and your children I will deliver.

26I’ll feed your oppressors with their own flesh;

they’ll be drunk on their own blood as on grape juice.

And all flesh will acknowledge

that I am Yahweh your deliverer,

Jacob’s strong one, your restorer.

50 Yahweh has said this:

Where now is the divorce document

belonging to your mother whom I sent off?

Or who among my creditors was it

to whom I sold you?

There – you were sold for your wayward acts,

and for your rebellions your mother was sent off.

2Why did I come and there was no one there,

did I call and there was no one answering?

Has my hand become far too short for redeeming,

or is there no energy in me to rescue?

There, with my reprimand I can dry up the sea,

I can make rivers into wilderness.

Their fish will smell because there’s no water;

they’ll die of thirst.

3I can clothe the heavens in black,

make sack their covering.

## 50:4 Will You Follow?

4The Lord Yahweh gave me a disciples’ tongue,

so as to know how to aid someone faint.

With a word he wakens, morning by morning,

wakens my ear so as to hear like the disciples.

5The Lord Yahweh opened my ear,

and I didn’t rebel, I didn’t turn away.

6I gave my back to people striking me,

my cheeks to people pulling out my beard.

I didn’t hide my face

from deep disgrace and spit.

7The Lord Yahweh helps me;

therefore I haven’t been disgraced.

Therefore I set my face like flint,

and I knew I wouldn’t be shamed.

8The one who shows that I’m in the right is near;

who will argue with me? – let us stand up together.

Who’s the person with a case against me? –

he should come forward to me.

9There, the Lord Yahweh will help me –

Who’s the one who will show that I’m in the wrong?

There, all of them will wear out like clothing;

moth will consume them.

10Who among you lives in awe of Yahweh,

listens to his servant’s voice?

One who has walked in darkness

and has no illumination

Must rely on Yahweh’s name

and lean on his God.

11There, all of you who kindle fire,

who belted on firebrands:

Walk into your fiery flame,

into the firebrands you’ve lit.

This is coming about from my hand for you;

You’ll lie down in pain.

## 51:1 Wake Up, Yahweh

51 Listen to me, you who pursue faithfulness,

who seek help from Yahweh.

Look to the crag from which you were hewn,

to the cavity, the hole, from which you were dug.

2Look to Abraham your ancestor,

and Sarah who was labouring with you.

Because he was one when I called him,

so I might bless him and make him many.

3Because Yahweh is comforting Zion,

he’s comforting all its wastes.

He’s making its wilderness like Eden,

its steppe like Yahweh’s garden.

Gladness and rejoicing will be found there,

thanksgiving and the sound of music.

4Heed me, my people;

give ear to me, my nation.

Because instruction goes out from me,

my exercise of authority for the light of peoples.

In a flash 5my faithfulness is near,

my deliverance is going out,

my arm will exercise authority for peoples.

Foreign shores will hope in me,

they will wait for my arm.

6Lift up your eyes to the heavens,

look to the earth below.

Because the heavens are shredding like smoke,

the earth will wear out like clothing,

its inhabitants will die in like manner.

But my deliverance will be permanent,

my faithfulness will not shatter.

7Listen to me, you who acknowledge my faithfulness,

a people with my instruction in its mind.

Don’t be afraid of human reviling,

don’t shatter at their taunting.

8Because moth will consume them like clothing,

grub will consume them like wool.

But my faithfulness will be permanent,

my deliverance to all generations.

9Wake up, wake up, put on vigour,

Yahweh’s arm.

Wake up as in days of old,

generations long ago.

You’re the one who split Rahab,

pierced the dragon, aren’t you.

10You’re the one who dried up the sea,

the water of the great deep,

Who made the depths of the sea

a way for the restored people to pass, aren’t you.

11The people redeemed by Yahweh will go back,

they will come to Zion with resounding.

With eternal rejoicing on their head,

as joy and rejoicing overtake them,

and sorrow and sighing flee.

## 51:12 Wake Up, Jerusalem

12I, I am the one who’s comforting you –

who are you to be afraid,

Of a mortal who dies,

of a human being who is treated like grass?

13You’ve put Yahweh your maker out of mind,

the one who stretched out the heavens and founded the earth.

You’re fearful constantly, all day,

of the fury of the oppressor,

as he is preparing to devastate.

But where is the fury of the oppressor? –

14the one stooping is hastening to be released.

He won’t die in the pit,

he won’t lack his bread.

15I am Yahweh your God,

one who stills the sea when its waves roar –

Yahweh Armies is his name.

16I’ve put my words in your mouth,

and covered you with the shade of my hand,

In planting the heavens and founding the earth,

in saying to Zion ‘You’re my people’.

17Wake yourself up, wake yourself up,

get up, Jerusalem,

You who drank from Yahweh’s hand

his fury cup.

The chalice, the shaking cup,

you drank, you drained.

18There was no one guiding her,

of all the children to whom she gave birth.

There was no one taking her by the hand,

of all the children she brought up.

19There were two things befalling you

(who was to mourn for you?),

Destruction and breaking, famine and sword

(who was I to comfort you?).

20Your children were overcome,

they lay down at the entrance to all the streets

like a snared oryx,

The people full of Yahweh’s fury,

of your God’s reprimand.

21Therefore please listen to this, humble one,

drunk but not with wine.

22Your Lord Yahweh has said this,

your God who argues for his people:

‘There, I’m taking from your hand

the shaking cup,

My chalice, the fury cup,

which you will never drink again.

23I’ll put it into the hand of your tormentors,

the people who said to your neck,

“Bow down so we may pass over”.

And you made your back like the earth,

like the street for them to pass over’.

## 52:1 Beautiful Feet

52 Wake up, wake up,

put on your vigour, Zion!

Put on your majestic clothes,

Jerusalem, sacred town!

Because the foreskinned or taboo person

will never again come into you.

2Shake yourself from the dirt,

get up, sit down, Jerusalem!

They are loosening the bonds from on your neck,

captive Miss Zion.

3Because Yahweh has said this:

For nothing you were sold,

without silver you will be restored.

4Because the Lord Yahweh has said this:

My people went down to Egypt at the beginning

to reside there.

But Ashshur oppressed them to no purpose,

5so now what was there for me here (Yahweh’s declaration)?

Because my people was taken to no end,

while its rulers boast (Yahweh’s declaration).

And constantly, all day,

my name stands reviled.

6Therefore my people will acknowledge my name,

therefore on that day [it will acknowledge]

that I’m the one who speaks – here I am.

7How lovely on the mountains are the feet of one who brings news,

one who lets people hear ‘All is well’,

One who brings good news, lets people hear of deliverance,

who says to Zion, ‘Your God has begun to reign!’

8A voice!--lookouts are lifting voice,

together they resound!

Because with both eyes

they see Yahweh going back to Zion.

9Break out, resound together,

wastes of Jerusalem.

Because Yahweh is comforting his people,

He’s restoring Jerusalem.

10Yahweh is baring his sacred arm

before the nations’ eyes.

All the ends of the earth

will see our God’s deliverance.

11Depart, depart, get out from there,

don’t touch what is taboo.

Get out from within it, purify yourselves,

you who carry Yahweh’s things.

12Because you won’t get out in haste,

you won’t go in flight.

Because Yahweh is going before you,

and Israel’s God is bringing up your rear.

## 52:13 Who Could Have Believed It?

13There, my servant will thrive,

he’ll rise and lift up and be very high.

14As many people were appalled at you,

so his appearance is anointed beyond anyone,

his look beyond that of human beings.

15So he’ll spatter many nations;

at him kings will shut their mouths.

Because what hadn’t been told them they will have seen,

and what they hadn’t heard they will have understood.

53 Who believed what we heard,

and upon whom did Yahweh’s arm appear?

2He grew before him like a sucker

or a root out of dry ground.

He had no look and no majesty so we should look at him,

no appearance so we should want him.

3He was despised and the most frail of human beings,

a man of great suffering and acquainted with weakness.

As when people hide their face from someone,

he was despised and we didn’t count him.

4Yet it was our weaknesses that he carried,

our great suffering that he bore.

But we ourselves had counted him touched,

struck down, by God, and afflicted.

5But he was the one who was wounded through our rebellions,

crushed through our wayward acts.

Chastisement to bring us well-being was on him,

and by means of his being hurt there was healing for us.

6All of us like sheep had wandered,

each had turned his face to his own way.

Yahweh – he let fall on him

the waywardness of all of us.

## 53:7 The Man Who Kept His Mouth Shut

7He was put down, but he was one who let himself be afflicted,

and he wouldn’t open his mouth.

Like a sheep that’s led to slaughter

or like a ewe that’s silent before its shearers,

he wouldn’t open his mouth.

8By the restraint of authority he was taken;

who would complain at his generation?

Because he was cut off from the land of the living;

because of my people’s rebellion the touch came to him.

9He was given his tomb with the faithless,

his burial mound with the rich person,

Because he’d done no violence,

and no deceit with his mouth.

10While Yahweh desired the crushing of the one he weakened,

if with his whole person he lays down a reparation offering,

He’ll see offspring, he’ll prolong his life,

and Yahweh’s desire will succeed in his hand.

11Out of his personal trouble, when he sees he will be sated;

by his acknowledgment my servant will show many that he is indeed in the right,

when he bears their wayward acts.

12Therefore I’ll give him a share with the many;

He’ll share out the numerous as spoil,

In return for the fact that he exposed his person to death,

when he let himself be numbered with the rebels,

When he was the one who carried the wrongdoing of many people,

and was appealing for the rebels.

## 54:1 A Time to Cry and a Time to Whoop

54 Resound, infertile one, you who haven’t given birth;

break out into sound and bellow, you who haven’t laboured!

Because the children of the desolate are many,

more than the married woman’s children (Yahweh has said).

2Enlarge your tent space;

people must stretch your dwelling curtains, don’t hold back.

Lengthen your ropes, strengthen your pegs,

3because you’ll spread out right and left.

Your offspring will dispossess the nations,

They’ll inhabit the desolate towns.

4Don’t be afraid, because you will not be shamed;

don’t be disgraced, because you will not be confounded.

Because you will put out of mind the shame of your youth,

you will no more be mindful of the reviling of your widowhood.

5Because your maker will be the one who marries you;

Yahweh Armies is his name.

Israel’s sacred one is your restorer;

he calls himself ‘God of all the earth’.

6Because it’s as a wife abandoned

and distressed in spirit that Yahweh is calling you,

The wife of his youth when she’s been spurned,

your God has said.

7For a short moment I abandoned you,

but with great compassion I’ll gather you.

8In a burst of anger

I hid my face from you for a moment,

but with permanent commitment I’m having compassion for you

(your restorer, Yahweh, has said),

9because this is Noah’s water to me.

In that I swore that Noah’s water

would not pass over the earth again,

So I’m swearing

not to be angry with you or to reprimand you.

10Because mountains may move away, hills slip,

but my commitment will not move away from you.

My pact of well-being will not slip,

the one who has compassion for you, Yahweh, has said.

## 54:11 A Time to Cry and a Time to Whoop

11Humble, tossing, not comforted –

here I am, resting your stones in antimony.

I’ll found you with sapphires,

12make chalcedony your pinnacles,

Your gateways into sparkling stones,

your entire border into delightful stones.

13All your children will be Yahweh’s disciples;

great will be your children’s well-being.

14In faithfulness you’ll establish yourself;

you can be far from oppression,

Because you will not be afraid,

and from shattering, because it will not come near you.

15There, someone need be in dread

of nothing from me.

Who quarrels with you? –

he’ll fall to you.

16There, I’m the one who created the smith

who blows into the fire of coals,

And who brings out a tool for his work,

and I’m the one who created the destroyer to ravage.

17Any tool formed against you will not succeed;

you will show to be in the wrong every tongue

that arises with you for a judgment.

This is the domain of Yahweh’s servants,

their faithfulness from me (Yahweh’s declaration).

55 Hey, anyone who’s thirsty,

come for water!

Whoever has no silver, come,

buy and eat!

Come, buy without silver,

wine and milk without cost!

2Why weigh out silver for what isn’t bread,

and your labour for what isn’t filling?

Listen hard to me and eat what’s good;

you can delight your appetite with rich food.

3Bend your ear, come to me;

listen, so you may come to life.

I will solemnize for you a permanent pact,

the trustworthy commitments to David.

4Here, I made him a witness for peoples,

a leader and commander for peoples.

5Here, you’ll call a nation that you don’t acknowledge,

and a nation that doesn’t acknowledge you will run to you,

For the sake of Yahweh your God,

and for Israel’s sacred one, because he’s glorifying you.

## 55:6 Our Ideas and Plans, and God’s

6Inquire of Yahweh while he is letting himself be found,

call him while he’s near.

7The faithless person must abandon his way,

the person who brings trouble [must abandon] his intentions.

He must turn back to Yahweh so he may have compassion on him,

to our God because he does much pardoning.

8Because my intentions are not your intentions,

your ways are not my ways (Yahweh’s declaration).

9Because the heavens are higher than the earth;

so are my ways higher than your ways,

my intentions than your intentions.

10Because as the rain or snow

falls from the heavens,

And doesn’t go back there

but rather soaks the earth,

And makes it bear and produce,

and give seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

11So will my word be that

goes out from my mouth.

It will not come back to me empty,

but rather do that which I wanted,

achieve that for which I sent it.

12Because you’ll go out with joy,

and be brought in with well-being.

The mountains and the hills

will break out before you in resounding.

All the trees in the open country

will clap the palms of their hands.

13Instead of the thorn a juniper will come up,

instead of the briar a myrtle will come up.

It will be a memorial for Yahweh,

a permanent sign that will not be cut down.

## 56:1 An Ambiguous ‘Because’

56 Yahweh has said this:

Keep the exercise of authority,

act in faithfulness,

Because my deliverance is near to coming,

my faithfulness to appearing.

2The blessings of the person who does this,

the individual who holds onto it,

Keeping the sabbath rather than treating it as ordinary,

and keeping his hand from doing anything bad.

3So the foreigner who attaches himself to Yahweh

is not to say,

‘Yahweh will quite separate me

from among his people’.

The eunuch is not to say,

‘Here am I, a dry tree’.

4Because Yahweh has said this,

‘To the eunuchs who keep my sabbaths,

and choose what I want, and hold onto my pact –

5I will give to them,

within my house and within my walls,

A memorial and name

better than sons and daughters.

I will give him a permanent name,

one that will not be cut off.

6And the foreign people

who attach themselves to Yahweh, to minister to him

And to give themselves to Yahweh’s name,

to be servants to him,

Anyone who keeps the sabbath rather than treating it as ordinary,

and holds strongly to my pact,

7I will bring them to my sacred mountain,

and let them rejoice in my prayer house.

Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices

will be for acceptance on my altar.

Because my house will be called

a prayer house for all the peoples’.

8A declaration of the Lord Yahweh,

the one gathering the scattered people of Israel:

‘I will gather yet more toward it, to its gathered ones’.

## 56:9 Slaughter in the Wadis

9All you animals of the wild, come and eat –

all you animals in the forest!

10Its lookouts are blind,

all of them; they don’t know.

All of them are dumb dogs, they can’t bark;

they’re lying snoozing, loving to doze.

11But the dogs are vigorous of appetite;

they don’t know about being full.

And these people – they are shepherds

that don’t know how to discern.

All of them have turned their face to their own way,

each to his loot, every last bit of it.

12’Come on, I’ll get wine,

we’ll swill liquor.

Tomorrow will be like this,

exceedingly, very great!’

57 The faithful person has perished,

and there was no one taking it into their mind.

Committed people are gathered up

without anyone discerning

That it is from before a bad situation

that the faithful person has been gathered up.

2He goes while things are well (while they rest on their beds),

the one who walks straight.

3But you people, draw near here,

children of a diviner.

Offspring of an adulterer and a woman who acts the whore,

4in whom do you revel?

At whom do you open your mouth wide,

put out your tongue?

Are you not rebellious children,

the offspring of falsehood,

5You who inflame yourselves among the oaks,

under any verdant tree,

Who slaughter children in the wadis,

under the clefts in the cliffs?

6Among the deceptions in the wadi is your share;

they are your allocation.

Yes, to them you’ve poured a libation,

you’ve lifted up an offering:

in view of these things, should I relent?

7On a high and lofty mountain

you’ve put your bed.

Yes, you’ve gone up there

to offer a sacrifice.

8Behind the door and the doorpost

you’ve set your memorial.

Because from me you’ve gone away, you’ve gone up,

you’ve opened wide your bed.

You’ve solemnized things for yourself from them,

you’ve been loyal to their bed, you’ve beheld their love.

## 57:9 High and Holy, but Present with the Crushed

9You’ve appeared to the King in your oils,

you’ve multiplied your perfumes.

You’ve sent off your envoys afar,

you’ve got them to go down to She’ol.

10When you grew weary with the length of your way,

you didn’t say, ‘It’s futile’.

You found life for your capacity;

therefore you haven’t weakened.

11For whom have you felt reverence and awe,

that you lie?

You haven’t been mindful of me;

you haven’t received me into your mind.

I’ve been still, yes from of old, haven’t I,

but you’re not in awe of me.

12I myself will tell of your ‘faithfulness’,

and your acts – they won’t avail you.

13When you cry out, your abominable gatherings can rescue you;

but a wind will carry them all off, a breath will take them.

But the person who takes shelter with me will receive the country as his domain,

will possess my sacred mountain.

14Someone has said, ‘Build up, build up, clear a way,

lift high the obstacles from my people’s way!’

15Because the one who is high and lofty

has said this,

The one who dwells permanently,

whose name is ‘Sacred one’:

‘I dwell on high and sacred,

but with the crushed and low in spirit,

Bringing life to the spirit of people who are low,

bringing life to the heart of the crushed.

16Because I will not argue permanently,

I will not be perpetually irate.

Because before me the spirit would faint,

the breathing beings I made.

17At the waywardness of its looting I was irate;

I hit it, hiding – I was irate.

It lived turning back to the way of its own mind;

18I’ve seen its ways, but I will heal it.

I’ll lead it and make good all comfort to it;

for its mourners 19creating as the fruit of lips well-being,

well-being for one far away and one near

(Yahweh has said), and I’ll heal it.

20But the faithless – they are like the sea tossing,

because it cannot be calm.

Its water toss muck and mud;

21there’s no well-being (my God has said) for faithless people.

## 58:1 (Un)spiritual Practices

1Call with full throat, don’t hold back,

lift your voice like the horn.

Tell my people about their rebellion,

Jacob’s household about their wrongdoings.

2They inquire of me day by day

and want to acknowledge my ways,

Like a nation that has acted in faithfulness,

and not abandoned its God’s ruling.

They ask me for faithful rulings,

they want to draw near to God.

3’Why have we fasted and you haven’t seen,

We’ve humbled ourselves and you haven’t acknowledged?’

There – on your fast day you find what you want,

but you oppress the people who toil for you.

4There – you fast for argument and strife,

and for hitting with faithless fist.

You don’t fast this very day

in such a way as to make your voice heard on high.

5Will the fast that I choose be of this very kind,

a day for a person to humble himself?

Will it be for bowing one’s head like a bulrush,

and spreading sack and ash?

Is it this that you call a fast,

a day accepted by Yahweh?

6This will be the fast I choose, won’t it:

loosing faithless chains,

Untying the cords of the yoke,

letting the oppressed go free,

and tearing apart every yoke.

7It will be dividing your food with the hungry person, won’t it,

and bringing home the humble, downtrodden.

When you see the naked, you’ll cover him,

and not hide from your fellow flesh and blood.

8Then your light will break out like dawn,

and your restoration will flourish speedily.

Your faithfulness will go before you;

Yahweh’s splendour will gather you.

9Then you’ll call and Yahweh will answer;

you’ll cry for help and he’ll say, ‘I’m here’.

If you do away with the yoke from within you,

the pointing of the finger and the troublesome word,

10And offer yourself to the hungry person,

and fill the need of the humble person,

Your light will shine in the darkness,

your gloom will be like midday.

11Yahweh will guide you continually,

and fill your appetite in scorched places.

He’ll renew your frame

and you will be like a watered garden,

Like a spring of water

whose water do not deceive.

12People of yours will build up the ruins of old;

you’ll raise the foundations from past generations.

You’ll be called ‘Repairer of a breach,

restorer of paths for living on’.

## 58:13 Honouring the Sabbath

13If you take back your foot from the sabbath,

doing the things you want on my sacred day,

Call the sabbath ‘Revelling’,

and Yahweh’s sacred thing ‘Honourable’,

And honour it rather than acting in your ways,

or finding what you want, and speaking your word,

14Then you’ll revel in Yahweh

and I’ll let you ride over the heights of the earth.

I’ll let you eat the domain of Jacob your father;

because Yahweh’s mouth has spoken.

59 Here – Yahweh’s hand hasn’t become too short to deliver,

his ear hasn’t become too heavy to listen.

2Rather, your wayward acts have become separators

between you and your God.

Your wrongdoings have hidden his face

so as not to listen to you.

3Because your fists – they’ve become polluted with blood,

your fingers – with waywardness.

Your lips – they’ve spoken falsehood,

your tongue – it talks of evil.

4There’s no one calling in faithfulness,

there’s no one entering into judgment with trustworthiness.

Relying on nothingness and speaking emptiness,

conceiving trouble and giving birth to wickedness!

5They’ve broken open a serpent’s eggs,

they spin a spider’s webs.

Someone who eats of their eggs – he will die,

and one that is smashed – an adder breaks out.

6Their webs won’t become a garment,

they won’t cover themselves in the things they make.

The things they make are things that bring trouble;

the doing of violence is in their fists.

7Their feet run to what is bad,

they hurry to shed the blood of one free of guilt.

Their intentions are troublesome intentions,

destruction and breaking is on their causeways.

8The way of well-being they haven’t acknowledged,

and there’s no exercise of authority on their tracks.

They’ve made their paths crooked for themselves;

no one who walks on it acknowledges well-being.

## 59:9 That’s Why There’s No Restoration

9That’s why the exercise of authority is far from us,

faithfulness doesn’t reach us.

We look for light but there, darkness;

for brightness, whereas we walk in gloom.

10We grope like blind people along a wall;

like people without eyes we grope.

We’ve fallen over at midday as if it was dusk,

among sturdy people as if we were dead.

11We rumble like bears, all of us,

and murmur on like doves.

We look for the exercise of authority but there is none,

for deliverance that’s far from us.

12Because our rebellions are many in your sight,

and our wrongdoings have testified against us.

Because our rebellions are with us,

and our wayward acts – we acknowledge them.

13Rebelling, breaking faith with Yahweh,

and turning back from following our God,

Speaking of fraud, conceiving defiance,

and talking words of falsehood inside us.

14So the exercise of authority has turned away,

faithfulness stands far off.

Because truthfulness has fallen over in the square,

and straightness can’t come in.

15Truthfulness has gone missing;

the one who turns from dealing badly is despoiled.

Yahweh saw and it was bad in his eyes

that there was no exercise of authority.

16He saw that there was no one,

he was devastated that there was no one intervening.

But his arm brought deliverance for him;

his faithfulness – it sustained him.

17He put on faithfulness like a coat of mail,

and a deliverance helmet on his head.

He put on redress clothes as clothing,

he wrapped on passion as a coat.

18In accordance with their dealings,

as the one on high he will make good with fury to his adversaries,

With dealings to his enemies,

dealings to foreign shores, he will make good.

19They will be in awe of Yahweh’s name from the west,

and of his splendour from the sunrise.

When an adversary comes like the river,

Yahweh’s wind raises a banner against him.

20He will come to Zion as restorer,

to the people who turn from rebellion in Jacob

(Yahweh’s declaration).

21’And me – this is my pact with them (Yahweh has said). My breath that is on you, and my words that I’ve put in your mouth will not move away from your mouth, from the mouth of your offspring, and from the mouth of your offspring’s offspring (Yahweh has said) from now and permanently.

## 60:1 An Invitation to Imagination

60 Get up, be alight, because your light is coming,

Yahweh’s splendour has shone on you!

2Because there – darkness covers the earth,

gloom the peoples.

But on you Yahweh will shine;

his splendour will appear over you.

3Nations will come to your light,

kings to your shining brightness.

4Lift your eyes round and look,

all of them are collecting, they’re coming to you.

Your sons will come from afar,

your daughters will support themselves on the hip.

5Then you’ll see and glow,

your mind will be in awe and will swell.

Because the sea’s horde will turn to you,

the resources of nations will come to you.

6A mass of camels will cover you,

dromedaries from Midyan and Ephah;

all of them will come from Sheba.

They will carry gold and frankincense,

and bring news of Yahweh’s great praise.

7All the sheep of Qedar will collect to you,

rams of Nebayot will minister to you.

They will go up with acceptance on my altar,

and I will add majesty to my majestic house.

8Who are these that fly like a cloud,

and like doves to their hatches?

9Because foreign shores will look for me,

Tarshish ships at the first,

To bring your sons from afar,

their silver and their gold with them,

For the name of Yahweh your God, for Israel’s sacred one,

because he has made you majestic.

10Foreigners will build your walls,

kings will minister to you.

Because in wrath I struck you,

but with acceptance I’m having compassion on you.

11Your gateways will open continuously,

day and night they will not shut,

To bring you the nations’ resources,

with their kings being led along.

12Because the nation or kingdom that doesn’t serve you –

they will perish, and the nations will become a total waste.

## 60:13 An Invitation to Hope

13The Lebanon’s splendour will come to you,

juniper, fir, and cypress together,

To add majesty to my sacred place,

so I may honour the place for my feet.

14They’ll walk to you bending down,

the children of the people who humbled you.

They’ll bow low at the soles of your feet,

all the people who despised you.

They’ll call you ‘Yahweh’s town,

the Zion of Israel’s sacred one’.

15Instead of being abandoned,

treated hostilely with no one passing through,

I’ll make you an object of permanent pride,

a joy generation after generation.

16You’ll suck the nations’ milk,

suck the kings’ breast.

And you will acknowledge that I am Yahweh;

Jacob’s champion is your deliverer and your restorer.

17Instead of copper I’ll bring gold,

instead of iron I’ll bring silver,

instead of wood, copper;

instead of stone, iron.

I’ll make well-being your oversight,

faithfulness your bosses.

18Violence will not make itself heard any more in your country,

destruction and breaking in your borders.

You will call deliverance your walls,

praise your gateways.

19The sun will no longer be light for you by day,

and as brightness the moon will not be light for you.

Because Yahweh will be light for you permanently;

your God will be your majesty.

20Your sun will not set any more,

your moon will not withdraw.

Because Yahweh will be light for you permanently;

your mourning days will be complete.

21Your people, all of them, will be faithful ones,

who will possess the country permanently.

They will be the shoot that I plant,

the work of my hands, to demonstrate majesty.

22The smallest will become a clan,

the least a numerous nation.

I am Yahweh;

I will speed it in its time.

## 61:1 Blown Over and Anointed

61 The Lord Yahweh’s breath is on me,

because Yahweh has anointed me.

He’s sent me to bring news to the humble,

to bind up the people broken in mind,

To call for release for captives,

the opening of eyes for prisoners,

2To call for a year of Yahweh’s acceptance,

our God’s day of redress,

To comfort all the mourners,

3to provide for the people who mourn Zion –

To give them majesty instead of ash,

festive oil instead of mourning,

A praise garment

instead of a flickering spirit.

They’ll be called faithful oaks,

Yahweh’s planting, to demonstrate majesty.

4People will build up permanent ruins,

raise up the ancestors’ desolations.

They’ll renew ruined towns,

desolations from generation after generation.

5Strangers will stand and pasture your sheep,

foreigners will be your farmworkers and vinedressers.

6You yourselves will be called ‘Yahweh’s priests’,

You’ll be termed ‘our God’s ministers’.

You’ll eat the nations’ resources

and thrive on their splendour.

7Instead of your shame, double;

[instead of] disgrace, people will resound at the share you have.

Therefore in their country they’ll possess double;

permanent joy will be theirs.

8Because I am Yahweh, one loyal to exercising authority,

hostile to robbery in evil.

I’ll give them their earnings in truthfulness;

a permanent pact I’ll solemnize for them.

9Their offspring will gain acknowledgment with the nations,

their descendants among the peoples.

All who see them will recognize them,

that they are offspring Yahweh has blessed.

## 61:10 People Who Won’t Let Yahweh Rest

10I shall be ardently glad in Yahweh,

my entire being will joy in my God.

Because he’s clothing me in deliverance clothes,

wrapping me in a faithfulness coat,

Like a groom who behaves priestly in majesty,

or like a bride who adorns herself in her things.

11Because as the earth brings out its growth

and as a garden makes its seed grow,

So the Lord Yahweh will make faithfulness and praise grow

before all the nations.

62 For the sake of Zion I will not be silent,

for Jerusalem’s sake I will not be calm,

Until its faithfulness goes out like brightness,

its deliverance like a torch that blazes.

2The nations will see your faithfulness,

all the kings your splendour.

You’ll be called by a new name,

which Yahweh’s mouth will determine.

3You’ll be a majestic crown in Yahweh’s hand,

a royal diadem in your God’s palm.

4You’ll no longer be termed ‘Abandoned’,

your country will no longer be termed ‘Desolate’.

Rather, you’ll be called ‘My Delight Is in Her’,

and your country ‘Married’.

Because Yahweh delights in you

and your country will be married.

5Because a young man marries a girl;

your sons will marry you.

With a groom’s gladness over a bride,

your God will be glad over you.

6Upon your walls, Jerusalem,

I’m appointing guards.

All day and all night

they will never be silent.

You who remind Yahweh,

there’s no stopping for you.

7Don’t give him stopping , until he establishes,

until he makes Jerusalem an object of praise in the earth.

## 62:8 I Had to Do It Myself

8Yahweh has sworn by his right hand,

by his vigorous arm:

If I give your grain again

as food for your enemies,

If foreigners drink your new wine,

for which you’ve laboured….

9Because the people who harvest it will eat it,

and praise Yahweh.

The people who collect it will drink it

in my sacred courtyards.

10Pass through, pass through the gateways,

clear the people’s way!

Build up, build up the causeway,

clear it of stones!

Raise a banner over the peoples –

11there, Yahweh has let it be heard to the end of the earth.

Say to Miss Zion,

‘There, your deliverance is coming!

There, his reward is with him,

his earnings before him!’

12People will call them

‘The sacred people, ones restored by Yahweh’.

You’ll be called

‘Sought out, a town not abandoned’.

63 Who’s this coming from Edom,

marked in clothes from Botsrah,

This person majestic in attire,

stooping in his mighty energy?

‘I’m the one speaking in faithfulness,

mighty to deliver’.

2Why is your attire red,

your clothes like someone treading in a wine trough?

3’I trod a press alone;

from the peoples there was no one with me.

I tread them in my anger,

trample them in my fury.

Their spray spatters on my clothes;

I’ve stained all my attire.

4Because a day of redress has been in my mind,

my year of restoration has arrived.

5But I look, and there’s no helper;

I stare, and there’s no support.

So my arm has effected deliverance for me;

my fury – it’s supported me.

6I trample peoples in my anger,

make them drunk in my fury,

bring down their eminence to the earth’.

## 63:7 On Hurting God’s Holy Spirit

7I shall recount Yahweh’s acts of commitment,

Yahweh’s praises,

In accordance with all that Yahweh dealt to us,

the great goodness to Israel’s household,

That which he dealt to them in accordance with his compassion

and the greatness of his acts of commitment.

8He said, ‘Yes, they’re my people,

children who won’t be false’.

He became their deliverer;

9in all their trouble it became troublesome to him.

His personal envoy –

he delivered them, in his love and pity.

He was the one who restored them, lifted them up,

carried them all the days of old.

10But they – they rebelled

and hurt his sacred spirit.

So he turned into their enemy;

he himself battled against them.

11But he was mindful of the days of long ago,

of Moses, of his people.

Where is the one who brought them up from the sea,

the shepherds of his flock?

Where is the one who put within it

his sacred spirit,

12The one who made his majestic arm go

at Moses’ right hand,

Dividing the water in front of them

to make himself a name permanently,

13Enabling them to go through the depths like a horse in the wilderness,

so they wouldn’t collapse,

14Like a beast in the valley that goes down,

so that Yahweh’s spirit would enable them to settle down?

In that way you drove your people,

to make a majestic name for yourself.

15Look out from the heavens,

see from your sacred and majestic height!

Where are your passion and your acts of strength,

the roar from inside you and your compassion?

In relation to me they have withheld themselves,

16when you are our Father.

When Abraham wouldn’t acknowledge us,

Israel wouldn’t recognize us,

You Yahweh are our Father;

‘Our restorer from forever’ is your name.

17Why do you let us wander from your ways, Yahweh,

let our mind be tough so as not to be in awe of you?

Turn for the sake of your servants,

the clans that are your domain.

18As something small they dispossessed your sacred people;

our adversaries trampled your sanctuary.

19Permanently we have become people over whom you haven’t ruled,

who haven’t been called by your name.

## 64:1 But You’re Our Father

64 Oh that you’d torn apart the heavens and gone down,

that mountains had quaked before you,

2Like fire lighting brushwood,

so that the fire boils water,

To cause your name to be acknowledged by your adversaries,

so that the nations might tremble before you!

3When you did wonders that we didn’t hope for,

you went down and mountains quaked before you.

4Never had people heard or given ear,

eye had not seen,

A God apart from you,

who acts for one who waits for him.

5You met with the one who was joyful and doing what was faithful,

the people who were mindful of you in your ways.

There, you yourself got furious,

and of old we did wrong in relation to them, but we were delivered.

6We became like something taboo, all of us,

and all our faithful deeds like menstrual clothing.

We withered like leaves, all of us,

and our wayward acts carry us off like the wind.

7There’s no one calling on your name,

stirring himself to take hold of you.

Because you’ve hidden your face from us,

and made us fade away at the hand of our wayward acts.

8But now, Yahweh, you’re our Father;

we’re the clay, you’re our potter –

the work of your hand, all of us.

9Don’t be so very furious, Yahweh,

don’t be mindful of waywardness.

There, please do look at your people, all of us:

10your sacred towns became a wilderness,

Zion became a wilderness,

Jerusalem a devastation.

11Our sacred and majestic house,

where our ancestors praised you,

became something consumed by fire,

and all that we valued became a ruin.

12At these things do you restrain yourself, Yahweh,

do you remain still and let us be humbled so much?

## 65:1 Straight-talking Meets Straight-talking

65 I could be inquired of people who didn’t ask,

I could be found by people who didn’t seek help from me.

I said, ‘I’m here, I’m here’,

to a nation that wasn’t calling on my name.

2I spread my hands all day

to a defiant people,

Who walk in a way that is not good,

following their own intentions.

3The people are ones who provoke me,

to my face, continually,

Sacrificing in the gardens,

burning incense on the bricks,

4Ones who sit in tombs,

who spend the night in secret places,

Who eat swine’s flesh,

with a broth of desecrating things in their bowls,

5Who say, ‘Keep to yourself, don’t come near me,

because I’m too sacred for you’.

These people are smoke in my nostrils,

a fire burning all day.

6There, it’s written before me,

I will not be still, rather I am making good,

I’ll make good into their lap 7your waywardness

and your ancestors’ waywardness together

(Yahweh has said).

The people who burned incense on the mountains,

who reviled me on the hills:

I’m counting out their earnings

first of all into their lap.

8Yahweh has said this:

As the new wine can be found in the cluster,

and someone will say ‘Don’t destroy it,

because there’s a blessing in it’,

So I will act for my servants’ sake,

so as not to destroy everything.

9I shall bring out offspring from Jacob,

and from Judah one who’s going to possess my mountains.

My chosen ones will possess it,

my servants will dwell there.

10The Sharon will become an abode for sheep,

Disaster Vale a resting place for cattle,

for my people who’ve inquired of me.

11But you who abandon Yahweh,

who put out of mind my sacred mountain,

Who set a table for Luck,

who fill a mixing chalice for Destiny:

12I shall destine you to the sword,

all of you will bend down for slaughter.

Because I called but you didn’t answer,

I spoke but you didn’t listen.

You did what was bad in my eyes,

and what I didn’t want, you chose.

## 65:13 The Renewed Jerusalem

13Therefore the Lord Yahweh has said this:

There, my servants will eat,

but you’ll be hungry.

There, my servants will drink,

but you’ll be thirsty.

There, my servants will rejoice,

but you’ll be shamed.

14There, my servants will resound

from happiness of heart,

But you’ll cry out from pain of heart,

from brokenness of spirit you’ll howl.

15You’ll leave your name

as an oath for my chosen ones,

‘So may the Lord Yahweh kill you’,

but for his servants he will call out another name,

16So that the person who prays for blessing in the country

will pray for blessing by the God who says ‘Amen’.

Because the earlier pressures will have been put out of mind,

and because they’ll have been hidden from my eyes.

17Because here I am, creating

new heavens and a new earth.

The earlier ones won’t be recollected;

they won’t come into mind.

18Rather, be glad and celebrate permanently

what I am creating.

Because here I am, creating Jerusalem reason for celebration

and its people as reason for gladness.

19I will celebrate Jerusalem

and be glad in my people.

There will not make itself heard in it any more

the sound of weeping or the sound of a cry.

20There will no longer be from there any more

a baby of [few] days

or an old person who doesn’t fulfil his days.

Because the youth will die as a person of a hundred years,

and the wrongdoer will be slighted as a person of a hundred years.

21They’ll build houses and dwell [in them],

they’ll plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

22They won’t build and another dwell;

they won’t plant and another eat.

The days of my people will be like a tree’s days;

my chosen ones will use up the work of their hands.

23They won’t toil with empty result;

they won’t give birth with fearful outcome.

Because they’ll be offspring blessed by Yahweh,

they and their descendants with them.

24Before they call, I myself will answer;

while they’re still speaking, I myself will listen.

25The wolf and the lamb will pasture together,

the cougar, like cattle, will eat straw,

but the snake – dirt will be its food.

People won’t do deal badly, they won’t devastate,

in all my sacred mountain (Yahweh has said)’.

## 66:1 Trembling at Yahweh’s Word

1Yahweh has said this:

The heavens are my throne,

the earth is my footstool.

Wherever would be the house that you would build for me,

wherever would be the place that would be for me to settle down?

2All these things my hand made (Yahweh’s declaration),

and to this person I look:

To the humble, to the broken in spirit,

one who trembles at my word.

3One who slaughters an ox is one who strikes a person down;

one who sacrifices a lamb is one who strangles a dog.

One who lifts up an offering – it’s pig’s blood;

one who makes a memorial of incense – he worships a bane.

They for their part have chosen their ways,

their soul delights in their abominations.

4I for my part will choose caprices for them,

and bring upon them what they dread.

Because I called and there was no one answering,

I spoke and they didn’t listen.

They did what was bad in my eyes,

and what I didn’t delight in, they chose.

5Listen to Yahweh’s word,

you who tremble at his word.

‘Your brothers have said, people who are hostile to you,

who exclude you for the sake of my name,

“May Yahweh be severe, so that we may see your celebration” –

they will be shamed’.

6The sound of a din from the town,

a sound from the palace,

The sound of Yahweh

making good with his dealings to his enemies.

7Before she labours she’s given birth,

before pain comes to her she delivers a boy.

8Who has heard something like this,

who has seen things like these?

Can a country be brought through labour in one day,

or a nation be born in one moment?

Because Zion is labouring

and also giving birth to her children.

9’Will I myself make a breach

and not bring to birth? (Yahweh says).

Or will I myself bring to birth

and close [the womb]? (your God says)?’.

10Rejoice with Jerusalem,

be glad in her, all you who love her.

Be glad with her in joy,

all you who mourned over her,

11In order that you may nurse and be full

from her comforting breast,

In order that you may drink deeply and delight yourself

from her splendid bosom.

## 66:12 Choose Your Ending

12Because Yahweh has said this:

Here I am, stretching out to her

well-being like a river,

Like a flooding wadi

the splendour of the nations,

So you may drink of it as you’re carried on her side

and dandled on her knees.

13Like someone whom his mother comforts,

so I myself will comfort you.

You’ll be comforted in Jerusalem,

14you’ll see, and your heart will be glad,

and your limbs will flourish like grass.

Yahweh’s hand will cause itself to be acknowledged among his servants,

and he will condemn his enemies.

15Because there – Yahweh will come in fire,

his chariots like a whirlwind,

To give back his anger in wrath,

his reprimand in fiery flame.

16 Because Yahweh is going to enter into judgment with fire,

with his sword, among all flesh;

the people run through by Yahweh will be many.

17’The people who make themselves sacred and purify themselves for the gardens,

following after one in the middle,

People who eat the flesh of pig, reptile, and mouse,

will come to an end together (Yahweh’s declaration).

18But as for me, on the basis of their deeds and their intentions, the gathering of all the nations and tongues is coming. They’ll come and see my splendour. 19I shall set a sign among them and send off from them survivors to the nations – Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, the people who draw the bow, Tubal, Greece, the distant shores, which haven’t heard report of me and haven’t seen my splendour. They will tell of my splendour among the nations.

20They will bring all your kin-group members from all the nations as an offering to Yahweh, by means of horses, chariotry, coaches, mules, and dromedaries, to my sacred mountain, Jerusalem (Yahweh has said), as the Israelites bring the offering in a pure vessel to Yahweh’s house. 21Also from them I will take people as priests and Levites (Yahweh has said).

22Because as the new heavens and the new earth that I’m going to make are going to stand before me (Yahweh’s declaration), so will your offspring and your name stand. 23New moon by new moon, sabbath by sabbath, all flesh will come to bow low before me (Yahweh has said).

24But they will go out and look at the corpses of the people who rebel against me. Because their worm will not die and their fire will not go out. They will be a horror to all flesh.

# Jeremiah

Jeremiah lived a century later than Isaiah. He was summoned to be a prophet in 626 B.C. and he continued prophesying until after the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians forty years later. He thus lived through tumultuous years and changing fortunes in Judah. His summons came as King Josiah was involved in a reformation of religious life in Judah and a cleaning up of forms of worship that accepted other Middle-Eastern peoples’ practices (including sacrificing children) instead of Israel’s own. After Josiah’s death the nation reverted to those habits, which led to Yahweh’s abandoning Jerusalem to the Babylonians. Jeremiah speaks positively of Josiah but spent most of his life confronting kings and people about their faithlessness to Yahweh and to one another.

That confrontation involves him in issuing repeated warnings that this continuing faithlessness will issue in disaster, which makes him a deeply unpopular figure, especially with Judah’s leadership. From their perspective he is simply a troublemaker. Slightly illogically, they do not become more tolerant of Jeremiah as a result of the fact that Yahweh keeps not fulfilling his threats. One might have inferred that Jeremiah looked like a prophet who could safely be ignored. Instead they persecute him, imprison him, and threaten to kill him. Naturally this has an effect on Jeremiah himself, who doesn’t appreciate the fact that he has to keep issuing warning that don’t come true. He expresses his resentment frankly to Yahweh. His book includes many stories about him, presumably written by people such as Baruk who do support him. More surprisingly, his book also he incorporates a number of the prayers he prayed, which have a place there not because of an assumption that his readers will be interested in the nature of his relationship with God but because (like the stories) they give readers another angle on his persecution. It is an expression of the attitude the community takes to the God whom he serves.

The book of Jeremiah is not clearly organized like Isaiah and Ezekiel, but we can say that the first half is dominated by his prophecies and by those prayers, while the second half is dominated by stories about him and then by prophecies about other nations.

Some stand-out chapters in his book are:

1. His account of his summons to be a prophet (Jer 1), which later inspired the prophet who speaks in Isaiah 49 and later inspired Paul (Gal 1:15) in their accounts of their summons
2. His grief over Judah’s failure of memory (Jer 2)
3. His reminder about the fate of Shiloh (Jer 7)
4. His ridicule of the making of images (Jer 10)
5. His accepting a command not to marry (Jer 16)
6. His emphasis on the way God can have a change of mind over his threats and over his promises in light of the response they receive (Jer 18)
7. His wrestling with the question how to tell a false prophet from a true one (Jer 23)
8. His declaration that the Babylonian king is Yahweh’s servant (Jer 25)
9. His declaration that the exile will last seventy years—both a warning and a promise (also Jer 25)
10. His confrontation with the prophet Hananiah (Jer 28)
11. His exhortation to people already exiled in 597 to settle down and not think they are coming back soon (Jer 29)
12. His promise that after the exile God will make a new covenant with Judah (Jer 31)
13. His willingness to invest in real estate at an inauspicious moment (Jer 32)
14. The account of how he puts his prophecies into writing and enlarges the collection when the king burns his scroll (Jer 36)
15. The account of his continuing struggle with people resisting Yahweh’s expectations after the fall of Jerusalem and their forcing him to flee with them to Egypt (Jer 39—44)
16. The closing narrative that shows how he was proved right after all (Jer 52).

## 1:1 Yahweh’ Summons

1The words of Jeremiah [Yirmeyahu] ben Hilqiyyahu, one of the priests of Anatot in the Benjamin region, 2to whom Yahweh’s word came in the days of Yoshiyyahu [Josiah] ben Amon king of Judah in the thirteenth year of his reign, 3and came in the days of Yehoyaqim ben Yoshiyyahu king of Judah, until the end of the eleventh year of Tsidqiyyahu [Zedekiah] ben Yoshiyyahu king of Judah, until Jerusalem’s exile in the fifth month.

4Yahweh’s word came to me:

5Before I formed you in the womb I acknowledged you,

Before you went out from the womb I made you sacred.

I made you a prophet concerning the nations.

6I said:

Oh, Lord Yahweh –

Here, I don’t know how to speak,

Because I’m a boy.

7But Yahweh said to me:

Don’t say, ‘I’m a boy’.

Because you’re to go out to anyone to whom I send you,

And speak anything that I order you.

8Don’t be afraid of their faces,

Because I’ll be with you to rescue you (Yahweh’s declaration).

9Yahweh put out his hand and touched my mouth, and Yahweh said to me:

Here, I’m putting my words into your mouth.

10See, I’m appointing you this day

Over the nations, over the kingdoms,

To uproot and to pull down, to obliterate and to tear down,

To build and to plant.

11Yahweh’s word came to me:

What are you looking at, Jeremiah?

I said:

I’m looking at the branch of a watcher tree.

12Yahweh said to me:

You’ve done good in looking,

Because I’m watching, over my word, to put it into effect.

## 1:13 The Iron Pillar

13Yahweh’s word came to me a second time:

What are you looking at?

I said:

I’m looking at a boiling pot,

With its face facing from the north.

14Yahweh said to me:

From the north bad things will open out

on all the inhabitants of the country.

15Because here am I calling

all the kin-groups of the northern kingdoms (Yahweh‘s declaration).

They’ll come and put each one his throne

at the opening of Jerusalem’s gateways,

Against all its walls round,

and against all Judah’s towns.

16I shall speak my rulings to them,

for all their bad dealing, in that they’ve abandoned me.

They’ve burned incense to other gods,

bowed low to things their hands made.

17You, you’re to put your belt round your hips,

and get up and speak to them

anything that I myself order you.

Don’t shatter before them,

in case I shatter you before them.

18I – here I am, making you

into a fortified town today,

`Into an iron pillar

and copper walls against the entire country,

For Judah’s kings and its officers,

for its priests and the people of the country.

19They’ll battle against you but they won’t prevail over you,

because I’m with you (Yahweh’s declaration) to rescue you.

## 2:1 Digging Cisterns that Leak

1 Yahweh’s word came to me, 2Go, call out in Jerusalem’s ears:

Yahweh has said this:

I have kept in mind for you the commitment of your youth,

your loyalty as a bride,

Your following me through the wilderness,

through a country not sown.

3Israel was sacred to Yahweh,

the first fruits of his yield.

All the people who ate of it would incur liability;

bad fortune would come upon them (Yahweh’s declaration).

4Listen to Yahweh’s word, Jacob’s household,

all the kin groups of Israel’s household.

5Yahweh has said this:

What did your ancestors find that was evil in me,

that they went far away from me,

Followed something hollow and became hollow,

6and didn’t say ‘Where is Yahweh,

The one who got us up from the country of Egypt

and enabled us to go through the wilderness,

Through a country of steppe and pit,

through a country of drought and deep darkness,

Through a country through which no one passed

and where no human being lived?’

7I enabled you to come into a country of farmland,

to eat its fruit and its good things.

But you came and defiled my country;

you made my domain something offensive.

8The priests didn’t say ‘Where is Yahweh?’,

the people controlling the instruction didn’t acknowledge me.

The shepherds rebelled against me,

the prophets prophesied by the Master,

and followed beings that couldn’t prevail in anything.

9Therefore I’ll argue with you more (Yahweh’s declaration)

and I’ll argue with your grandchildren.

10Because cross over to the shores of Kittim and see,

send off to Qedar and consider well,

see if something like this has happened.

11Has a nations changed its gods,

when those are not gods?

But my people have changed my splendour

for what doesn’t prevail in anything.

12Be devastated at this, heavens,

shudder, be utterly desolate (Yahweh’s declaration).

13Because my people have done two bad things:

they’ve abandoned me, the fountain of living water,

To dig themselves cisterns, breakable cisterns,

that don’t prevail over water.

## 2:14 ‘I Haven’t Become Defiled’

14Was Israel a servant, or someone born in a household –

why has he become plunder?

15Lions roar over him,

they’ve given their voice.

They’ve made his country a devastation;

his towns are burned, without inhabitant.

16The people of Memphis and Tahpanhes

will also break your skull [Jerusalem].

17It’s this that does it to you, isn’t it—

your abandoning of Yahweh your God

at the time when he was enabling you to go on your journey?

18So now what is there for you in a journey to Egypt

to drink the Nile’s water?

What is there for you in a journey to Ashshur

to drink the River’s water?

19Your bad dealing should discipline you,

your turning back should reprove you.

Acknowledge and see how bad and bitter it is,

your abandoning Yahweh your God,

and you have no dread toward me (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh Armies).

20Because of old you broke your yoke,

you tore off your straps, and said, ‘I won’t serve’.

Because on every high hill and under every verdant tree

you’re lying down as a whore.

21I – I planted you as a top-class vine,

all of it trustworthy seed.

So how have you changed for me

into the turnings of a foreign vine?

22Because if you wash with soap

and use much detergent for yourself,

your waywardness is inscribed before me (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh).

23How can you say, ‘I haven’t become defiled,

I haven’t followed the Masters’.

Look at your journey into the Ravine,

acknowledge what you’ve done,

A swift camel twisting her journeys,

24a wild donkey taught about the wilderness,

Sniffing the wind in the desire of her appetite –

who can turn back her craving?

None who seek her get tired;

in her season they find her.

## 2:25 Why Do You Gad About?

25Hold your foot back from being shoeless

and your throat from being dry.

But you say, ‘It’s desperate,

because I’m loyal to strangers, I shall follow them’.

26Like a thief’s shame when he’s found out,

so Israel’s household was shamed.

They, their kings, their officials,

their priests, their prophets,

27Were saying to a piece of wood, ‘You’re our father’,

to some stone, ‘You gave me birth’.

Because they turned their back to me,

not their face.

At the time when something bad happened to them

they’d say, ‘Arise, deliver us’.

28But where are your gods

that you made for yourself?

They should arise if they can deliver you,

at the time when something bad happens to you.

Because your gods have become

more than the number of your towns, Judah.

29Why do you argue with me

when all of you have rebelled against me? (Yahweh’s declaration).

30With empty results I struck down your children;

they didn’t accept discipline.

Your sword consumed your prophets

like a destroying lion.

31This generation,

look at Yahweh’s word!

Did I become a wilderness to Israel,

or a country of deep darkness?

Why did my people say, ‘We’ve wandered off,

we won’t come to you any more’?

32Can a girl put her jewellery out of mind,

a bride her adornments?

But my people have put me out of mind,

days without number.

33How good you’ve made your journey in seeking love [Jerusalem];

therefore you’ve even taught bad women your journeys.

34Further, on your garments is found

the blood of the lives of needy people who are free of guilt

(you didn’t find them breaking in).

Because despite all these things,

35you’ve said, ‘I’m free of guilt,

his anger has surely turned back from me’.

Here I am, entering into judgment with you,

because of your saying ‘I haven’t done wrong’.

36Why do you go about so much,

changing your journey?

Through Egypt you’ll be shamed again,

as you were shamed through Ashshur.

37Through this you’ll again come out

with your hands on your head.

Because Yahweh has rejected the ones you rely on,

and you won’t succeed through them.

## 3:1 Is It Possible to Come Back?

3 Saying: ‘If someone sends off his wife, she goes from him, and she comes to belong to another man, can he come back to her again? That country will be totally profaned, won’t it. And you [Jerusalem] have been whoring with many lovers. Would you come back to me? (Yahweh’s declaration).

2Raise your eyes to the bare places and look –

where have you not been laid?

By the roads you sat for them,

like a Bedouin in the wilderness.

You profaned the country

with your whoring and your bad dealing.

3Showers held back,

there was no rain,

But you had the brazenness of a whore;

you refused to be shamed.

4Now you’ve called to me, haven’t you,

‘Father, you’re the partner of my youth!’

5‘Does he hold onto things permanently

or keep watch for all time?’

There – you’ve spoken;

You’ve done what was bad, and prevailed.

6Yahweh said to me in the days of King Yoshiyyahu, ‘Have you seen what Israel did, she who turned back? She was going onto every high mountain and under every verdant tree and whoring there. 7I said, ‘After she’s done all these things, she’ll come back to me’. But she didn’t come back. And her faith-breaking sister Judah saw. 8I saw that because of the acts of adultery that Israel committed, she who turned back, I sent her off and gave her divorce document to her. But her sister Judah, she who broke faith, wasn’t afraid. She went and acted as a whore, too. 9It came about that because of the frivolity of her whoring she profaned the country; she committed adultery with stone and wood. 10But even in all this, her sister, faith-breaking Judah, didn’t come back to me with her whole mind but rather with falsehood (Yahweh’s declaration)’.

## 3:11 Breaking Faith

11Yahweh said to me, ‘Israel who turned back has shown herself more faithful than Judah who broke faith. 12Go and call out these words to the north. Say, ‘Come back, Israel who turned back (Yahweh’s declaration); I shall not make my face fall against you, because I am committed (Yahweh’s declaration), I don’t hold onto things permanently. 13Only acknowledge your waywardness, that you’ve rebelled against Yahweh your God and scattered your journeys to strangers under every verdant tree, and not listened to my voice (Yahweh’s declaration).

14Come back, children who are turning back (Yahweh’s declaration), because I’m your master. I’ll take you, one from a town, two from a kin-group, and bring you to Zion. 15I’ll give you shepherds in accordance with my will and they’ll shepherd you with knowledge and insight.

16When you increase and are fruitful in the country in those days (Yahweh’s declaration), people will no longer say ‘Yahweh’s pact chest!’ It won’t come to mind, they won’t be mindful of it or give attention; it won’t be made again. 17At that time they’ll call Jerusalem ‘Yahweh’s throne’, and all the nations will gather to it, to Yahweh’s name, to Jerusalem. People will no more follow the bad determination of their mind.

18In those days Judah’s household will go to Israel’s household, and they’ll come together from the northern country to the country that I gave your ancestors as a domain.

19I myself had said, “How gladly I’ll put you among my children and give you a desirable country, the most splendid domain of the nations”. I said you’d call me “Father”, and not turn back from following me. 20Actually, as a woman breaks faith with her lover, so you broke faith with me, Israel’s household (Yahweh’s declaration).

## 3:21 I’ll Heal Their Turnings

21A sound makes itself heard on the bare places,

the Israelites’ crying that pleads for grace.

Because they’ve misdirected their way,

they’ve put Yahweh their God out of mind.

22Come back, children who are turning back;

I’ll heal your turnings.

‘Here we are, we’re coming to you,

because you are Yahweh our God.

23Yes, what comes from the hills belongs to falsehood,

the uproar from the mountains.

Yes, in Yahweh our God

is the deliverance of Israel.

24But the Shame has consumed

our ancestors’ labour from our youth,

Their flock and their cattle,

their sons and their daughters.

25We must lie down in our shame,

our disgrace should cover us.

Because we’ve done wrong to Yahweh our God,

we and our ancestors from our youth until this day.

We haven’t listened

to the voice of Yahweh our God’.

4 If you come back, Israel (Yahweh’s declaration),

come back to me.

If you remove your abominations from before me

and don’t flit,

2But swear ‘As Yahweh lives’,

in truth and in the faithful exercise of authority,

Nations will pray to be blessed by him,

and will exult in him’.

3Because Yahweh has said this to Judah’s people and to Jerusalem:

Till the tillable land for yourselves,

and don’t sow among thorns.

4Circumcise yourselves for Yahweh,

remove the foreskin from your mind,

People of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem,

so that my wrath doesn’t come out like fire,

And burn up with no one putting it out,

because of the bad nature of your practices.

5Tell out in Judah,

make it heard in Jerusalem,

Say, ‘Sound the horn in the country’,

call out, fulfil it, say:

‘Gather together, let’s go into the fortified towns,

6raise a banner toward Zion, take refuge, don’t stand still’.

Because I’m going to bring something bad from the north,

a great breaking.

## 4:7 The Searing Wind

7A lion has gone up from its thicket,

a destroyer of nations has moved on.

He’s gone out from his place

to make your country a devastation.

Your towns will be wasted,

without inhabitant.

8On account of this, wrap on sack,

lament and howl:

‘Yahweh’s angry blazing

isn’t turning back from us’.

9On that day (Yahweh’s declaration)

the king’s mind and the officials’ mind will expire.

The priests will be devastated,

the prophets will be dumbfounded.

10I said, ‘Oh, Lord Yahweh,

really you’ve totally deceived this people and Jerusalem,

In saying “Things will be well for you”,

whereas the sword has reached as far as their throat’.

11At that time it will be said

concerning this people and concerning Jerusalem:

On the way to the daughter of my people

a searing wind comes,

From the bare places in the wilderness,

not to winnow, not to fan.

12A wind too full for these things comes on my behalf;

now I myself announce rulings against them.

13There, one will go up like clouds,

his chariots like a whirlwind.

His horses are swifter than eagles –

oh, alas for us, because we are destroyed!

14Wash your mind of what is bad, Jerusalem,

in order that you may find deliverance.

How long will you let your intentions to bring trouble

lodge within you?

15Because a voice tells it from Dan,

it lets trouble be heard from Mount Ephrayim.

16Make mention to the nations;

there – make it heard against Jerusalem.

Watchers are coming from a far off country,

they’ll give voice against Judah’s towns.

17Like people keeping watch on the fields

they’ve come against it all round,

because it has rebelled against me (Yahweh’s declaration).

18Your way and your practices

have done these things to you.

This is the bad fortune that’s come to you, because it’s bitter,

because it’s reached your heart.

## 4:19 The Empty Void

19My pain, my pain, I writhe, the walls of my heart,

my heart howls within me, I can’t be still.

Because you’ve heard, my soul,

the sound of the horn, the battle shout.

20Breaking meets with breaking,

because the entire country is destroyed.

Suddenly my tents have been destroyed,

in an instant my tent cloths.

21How long shall I see a banner,

listen to the sound of the horn?

22Because my people are dense,

they haven’t acknowledged me.

They’re idiotic children,

they’re not people who understand.

They’re smart at doing what’s bad

but they don’t know how to do good.

23I looked at the earth and there – it was empty, void;

and at the heavens – there was no light in them.

24I looked at the mountains and there – they were quaking,

and all the hills were moving to and fro.

25I looked and there – no human being,

and every bird in the heavens had fled.

26I looked and there – the farmland was wilderness,

and all its towns were burned,

In the face of Yahweh,

in the face of his angry blazing.

27Because Yahweh has said this:

“The entire country will become desolation

(but I won’t make an end).

28On account of this the earth mourns,

the heavens are dark above.

Since I have spoken, I have made a scheme;

I haven’t relented, I won’t turn back from it.

29At the sound of cavalry and bowman

the entire town is fleeing.

They’ve gone into the woods,

climbed onto the rocks.

The entire town is abandoned,

there’s no inhabitant in it, not one.

30So you who are going to be destroyed,

what do you do when you dress in scarlet,

When you adorn yourself in gold adornment,

when you broaden your eyes with mascara?

It’s with empty results that you look beautiful;

your lovers have rejected you, they seek your life.

31Because I’ve heard a voice like someone in pain,

distress like someone having her first baby,

The voice of Miss Zion—

as she gasps, she stretches out the palms of her hands:

‘Oh, me, please,

because my life faints before my killers!’

## 5:1 Can You Find Anyone

5 Explore Jerusalem’s streets, please look, and get to know,

seek in its squares, if you can find anyone,

If there’s someone exercising authority

seeking truthfulness, and I’ll pardon it.

2But even when they say, ‘As Yahweh lives’—

therefore they swear in falsehood.

3Yahweh, your eyes look for truthfulness, don’t they;

you struck them down but they didn’t feel sick.

When you finished them off,

they refused to accept discipline.

They made their faces stronger than a cliff;

they refused to turn back.

4I myself said,

‘They’re only the poor who act foolishly,

Because they don’t acknowledge the way of Yahweh,

the authority of their God.

5I’ll go to the big people

and speak with them,

Because those people acknowledge the way of Yahweh,

the authority of their God’.

Yet those people had altogether broken the yoke,

torn off the straps.

6That’s why the lion from the forest has struck them down,

the wolf from the steppes destroys them.

The leopard is lying by their townships;

anyone who goes out from them will be torn to pieces.

Because their rebellions are many,

their turnings away are numerous.

7For what reason should I pardon you?—

your children have abandoned me and sworn by no-gods.

I filled them and they committed adultery;

they troop off to the whore house.

8They were horses in heat, lusty;

they were bellowing, each for his neighbour’s wife.

9Shall I not attend to these things (Yahweh’s declaration),

or myself not take redress

against a nation that’s like this one?

10Go up among its vine-rows and destroy them,

but don’t make an end.

Remove its branches,

because those people don’t belong to Yahweh.

11Because Israel’s household and Judah’s household

have totally broken faith with me (Yahweh’s declaration).

12They’ve acted deceptively toward Yahweh,

and said ‘He isn’t the one.

Bad fortune won’t come upon us,

we won’t see sword or famine.

13The prophets – they’ll be but wind,

the word isn’t in them; so it will be done to them’.

## 5:14 Senseless People

14Therefore Yahweh, God of Armies, has said this,

since you people have spoken this thing:

Here I am, putting my words in your mouth as fire:

this people is the wood, and it will consume them.

15Here I am, bringing a nation from afar against you,

Israel’s household (Yahweh’s declaration).

It’s an enduring nation,

it’s an age-old nation,

A nation whose tongue you don’t know;

you can’t listen to what it speaks.

16Its quiver is like an open grave;

all of them are strong men.

17It will consume your harvest and your bread;

it will consume your sons and your daughters.

It will consume your flock and your cattle;

it will consume your vine and your fig.

It will destroy your fortified towns,

on which you rely, with the sword.

18But even in those days (Yahweh’s declaration) I won’t make an end of you. 19And when they say, ‘On what account did Yahweh our God do all these things to us’, you’re to say to them, ‘As you abandoned me and served alien gods in your country, so you’ll serve foreigners in a country that isn’t yours’.

20Tell of this in Jacob’s household,

make it heard in Judah:

21Listen to this, please, idiotic people,

without sense,

Who have eyes but don’t look,

have ears but don’t listen.

22It’s me that you should be in awe of, isn’t it (Yahweh’s declaration),

and before me that you should tremble,

The one who set the sand as a boundary for the sea,

a permanent limit that it shouldn’t pass over.

Its waves toss but don’t overcome,

they roar but don’t pass over.

23But this people has a defiant and rebellious mind;

they’ve defied and gone.

24They haven’t said to themselves,

‘We must be in awe of Yahweh our God,

Who gives the rain, the early and later rain at its time,

who keeps watch for us the weeks set for harvest’.

25It’s your wayward acts that have turned these things aside,

your wrongdoings that have withheld good things from you.

## 5:26 How to Become Sleek

26Because faithless people were found among my people,

like someone who watches in a bird-catchers’ hide.

They’ve set up a means of destruction so they may capture people,

27like a basket full of birds.

So their houses are full of deceit;

that’s how they’ve got big and rich.

28They’ve become fat, become sleek;

further, they’ve passed over words about bad dealing in giving judgment.

They haven’t given judgment for the orphan, so that they might be successful;

they haven’t exercised authority for the needy.

29Shall I not attend to these things (Yahweh’s declaration),

or myself not take redress against a nation that’s like this one?

30A devastating thing, a horrifying thing

has happened in the country.

31The prophets prophesy falsely,

the priests rule on the basis of their own capacity,

And my people like it so –

but what will you do at the end of it?

6 Take refuge, Benjaminites,

from inside Jerusalem!

Sound the horn in Teqoa,

raise the signal at Bet Hakkerem!

Because something bad is looking out from the north,

a big breaking.

2I’m terminating Miss Zion, lovely and refined:

3shepherds and their flocks will come to it.

They pitch their tents against it all round,

they pasture each one his own responsibility.

4’Make battle sacred against it,

set to, we’ll go up at noon!’

‘Oh, alas for us, because the day is declining,

because the evening shadows get long.

5Set to, we’ll go up at night

and devastate its citadels’.

6Because Yahweh Armies has said this:

Cut down the trees,

heap up a ramp against Jerusalem.

The town is appointed;

within it, all of it is fraud.

7Like a well flowing with its water,

so it flows with its bad dealing.

In it violence and destruction makes itself heard,

sickness and wound are before me continually.

8Accept discipline, Jerusalem,

so that I myself don’t withdraw from you,

so that I don’t make you a devastation ,

a country not inhabited.

## 6:9 Weary of Holding in Yahweh’s Wrath

9Yahweh Armies has said this:

Like a vine they are to glean and glean

the remainder of Israel.

‘Put your hand again

like a grape-picker over the branches’.

10To whom shall I speak,

and testify so they listen?

There, their ear is foreskinned,

they can’t heed.

There, Yahweh’s word has become for them

a reviling; they don’t delight in it.

11So Yahweh’s wrath – I’m full of it,

I’m weary of holding it in.

‘Pour it on the child in the street

and on the group of young men, together.

Because both man and woman will be captured,

the elder with the one full of years.

12Their houses will pass to other people,

fields and wives together.

Because I shall stretch out my hand

against the inhabitants of the country (Yahweh’s declaration).

13Because from their smallest to their biggest,

every one of them is greedy for loot.

Prophet and priest alike,

every one of them is acting falsely.

14They’ve healed my people’s break too lightly,

saying, “Things are well, they’re well”,

when they’re not well.

15They’ve been shameful, because they’ve done something offensive;

they neither manifest any shame

nor do they know how to be disgraced.

Therefore they will fall among the people who fall;

at the time when I attend to them, they will collapse

(Yahweh has said)’.

## 6:16 The Analyst

16Yahweh has said this:

Stand by the roads, and look,

ask about the old paths.

Which is the road to good things? –

walk on it, and find peacefulness for yourselves’.

But they said, ‘We won’t walk’,

17so I raised up lookouts for you.

‘Heed the sound of the horn’,

but they said, ‘We won’t heed’.

18Therefore listen, you nations,

and acknowledge, you assembly, what will be against them.

19Listen, earth:

here am I.

I’m going to bring something bad on this people,

the fruit of their intentions.

Because they haven’t heeded my words,

and my instruction – they’ve rejected it.

20What use to me is incense that comes from Sheba,

or fine cane from a far off country?

Your burnt offerings don’t find acceptance,

your sacrifices aren’t pleasing to me.

21Therefore Yahweh has said this:

Here am I; I’m going to set for this people

things to make them collapse, and they’ll collapse because of them.

Parents and children together,

neighbour and friend – they’ll perish.

22Yahweh has said this:

There, a people is going to come from a northern country,

a big nation will arise from earth’s remotest parts.

23They take strong hold of bow and javelin;

it's violent—they don’t have compassion.

Their sound is like the sea that roars,

they ride on horses.

It’s lined up like a man for battle,

against you, Miss Zion.

24‘We’ve heard report of them, our hands go slack,

pressure has taken strong hold of us, anguish like a woman giving birth.

25Don’t go out into the fields, don’t walk by the road,

because the enemy has a sword, terror is all round.

26My dear people, wrap on sack, roll in the dust,

make for yourself the mourning for an only child,

Bitter lament,

because suddenly the destroyer will come upon us’.

27I made you an analyst among my people,

a refiner, so you might know and analyze their way.

28All of them are the most defiant people,

people who live by slander,

Copper and iron,

all of them are people who devastate.

29The bellows are scorched by fire,

the lead has come to an end.

With empty results the smelter smelted,

and bad people were not separated out.

30Reject silver, people have called them,

because Yahweh has rejected them.

## 7:1 Remember Shiloh

7 The word that came to Jeremiah from Yahweh: 2’Stand at the gateway of Yahweh’s house and call out this word there. You’re to say, “Listen to Yahweh’s word, all of Judah who are coming through these gateways to bow low to Yahweh. 3Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, has said this: ‘Make your ways and your practices good, and I’ll let you dwell in this place. 4Don’t rely for yourselves on words of falsehood, “These buildings are Yahweh’s palace, Yahweh’s palace, Yahweh’s palace”. 5Rather, make your ways and your practices truly good. If you really exercise authority between an individual and his neighbour, 6don’t exploit alien, orphan, and widow, don’t shed the blood of someone who is free of guilt in this place, and don’t follow other gods with bad results for yourselves, 7I’ll let you dwell in this place, in the country that I gave to your ancestors from of old, permanently.

8There, you’re relying for yourselves on words of falsehood that won’t prevail. 9Is there stealing, murder, adultery, swearing falsely, and burning sacrifices to the Master, and following other gods that you didn’t acknowledge, 10and you come and stand before me in this house over which my name has been called out and say “We are rescued” – in order to do all these offensive things? 11Has it become a cave for thugs in your eyes, this house over which my name has been called out? Yes, I myself, I’ve been looking (Yahweh’s declaration).

12Because you can go to my site that was at Shiloh where I let my name dwell before, and look at what I did to it in the face of my people Israel’s bad dealing. 13So now because of your doing all these things (Yahweh’s declaration), and I’ve spoken to you, starting early, but you haven’t listened, and I’ve called you but you haven’t answered, 14I shall do to the house over which my name has been called out, on which you’re relying, the site that I gave to you and your ancestors, as I did to Shiloh. 15I’ll throw you out from my presence as I threw your brothers out, Ephrayim’s entire offspring’”.

## 7:16 The Prophet Forbidden to Pray

16You, don’t plead for this people, don’t lift up a cry or plea for them, don’t intercede with me, because I’m not listening to you. 17You see what they’re doing in Judah’s towns and in Jerusalem’s streets, don’t you. 18The sons are collecting wood, the fathers are lighting the fire, and the women are kneading the dough, to make loaves for the Queen of Heaven and to pour libations to other gods, to provoke me. 19Is it me they’re provoking (Yahweh’s declaration)? Is it not themselves, in order to bring shame on their faces?’

20Therefore the Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Here, my anger, my fury is going to pour out on this place, on human beings, on animals, on the trees in the open country, and on the fruit of the earth. It will burn up and not go out’.

21Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, has said this: ‘Add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices, eat meat. 22Because I didn’t speak with your ancestors or order them on the day I got them out of the country of Egypt regarding matters concerning burnt offering and sacrifice. 23Rather I ordered them this thing: “Listen to my voice, and I’ll be God for you and you’ll be a people for me; walk in every way that I order you so that it may go well for you”. 24But they didn’t listen, they didn’t bend their ear, they walked by their own counsels, by the bad determination of their mind. They went back, not forward, 25from the day that I got your ancestors out from the country of Egypt until this day. I sent them all my servants the prophets, starting early and sending daily, 26but they didn’t listen to me, they didn’t bend their ear, they toughened their neck; they acted badly more than their ancestors.

27You’re to speak to them all these things, but they won’t listen to you. You’re to call them but they won’t answer you. 28You’re to say to them: “This is the nation that hasn’t listened to the voice of Yahweh its God. They haven’t accepted discipline. Truthfulness has perished, cut itself off from their mouth”’.

## 7:29 Slaughter Ravine

29Shave your hair and throw it away,

take up a lament on the bare places.

Because Yahweh has rejected and deserted

the generation with which he’s furious.

30Because the Judahites have done what is bad in my eyes (Yahweh’s declaration). They’ve set up their abominations in the house over which my name has been called out, so as to defile it. 31They’ve built shrines at Tophet, in the Ben-hinnom Ravine, to burn their sons and daughters in fire, which I didn’t order; it didn’t come into my mind. 32Therefore, now, days are coming (Yahweh’s declaration) when it will no longer be said ‘Tophet and the Ben-hinnom Ravine’ but rather ‘Slaughter Ravine’. They’ll bury in Tophet because there’s no other place. 33This people’s carcasses will be food for the birds of the heavens and the animals of the land, with no one making them tremble. 34I shall silence from Judah’s towns and from Jerusalem’s streets the joyful voice, the rejoicing voice, the voice of groom and the voice of bride. Because the country will become a waste.

8 At that time (Yahweh’s declaration) people will take out the bones of Judah’s kings, its officials, the priests, the prophets, and Jerusalem’s inhabitants from their graves, 2and expose them to the sun, the moon, and all the army of the heavens that they were loyal to and that they served and that they followed and that they inquired of and that they bowed low to. They won’t be gathered up and buried; they’ll become manure on the face of the ground. 3Death will be preferable to life for all the remainder that remain of this bad kin-group in all the remaining places where I’ll drive them (a declaration of Yahweh Armies).

## 8:6 The Misleading Scholars

6You’re to say to them, Yahweh has said this:

When people fall, don’t they get up –

if they turn back, don’t they turn back?

5Why is this people turning back,

Jerusalem, with a permanent turning back?

They’ve taken strong hold on deceit,

they’ve refused to turn back.

6I’ve heeded and listened;

they don’t speak dependably.

There’s no one relenting of his bad dealing,

saying ‘What did I do?’

All of it has turned back, at a run,

like a horse flooding into battle.

7Even the stork in the heavens—

it acknowledges its set times.

The dove, the swift, and the crane—

they keep the time for their coming.

But my people—it doesn’t acknowledge

Yahweh’s ruling.

8How can you say, ‘We are smart,

Yahweh’s instruction is with us’?

Actually, there, the false pen of the scholars

has made it into falsehood.

9The smart people have been shamed,

they’ve shattered and been captured.

There, they’ve rejected Yahweh’s word;

what smartness do they have?

10Therefore I shall give their wives to other men,

their fields to dispossessors.

Because from small to big,

every one of them is greedy for loot.

Prophet and priest alike,

every one of them is acting falsely.

11They’ve healed my dear people’s break too lightly,

saying, ‘Things are well, they’re well’,

when they’re not well.

12They’ve been shameful, because they’ve done something offensive;

they neither manifest any shame

nor do they know how to be disgraced.

Therefore they will fall among the people who fall;

at the time when I attend to them, they’ll collapse (Yahweh has said).

13I shall totally gather them up (Yahweh’s declaration):

there’ll be no grapes on the vine,

no figs on the fig tree.

The leaves will wither,

and what I have given them will pass away from them.

## 8:14 No Balm in Gilead?

14Why are we sitting? – gather up,

we’ll come into the fortified towns and be still there.

Because Yahweh our God is letting us perish

and drink poisoned water,

Because we’ve done wrong to Yahweh,

15hoping for things to go well but there’s nothing good,

for a time of healing but here – terror.

16From Dan its horses’ snort has made itself heard:

at the sound of the neighing of its sturdy ones

the entire country has shaken.

They came and consumed the country and what fills it,

the town and the people who live in it.

17’Because here I am,

sending off snakes against you,

Vipers for which there’s no charming;

they’ll bite you’ (Yahweh’s declaration).

18You who cheer me in sorrow,

my mind is sick.

19Here is the sound of my dear people’s cry for help

from the country far away:

‘Isn’t Yahweh in Zion,

or isn’t its King in it?’

‘Why did they provoke me with their images,

with hollow foreign beings?’

20Harvest has passed, summer is finished,

but we ourselves haven’t found deliverance.

21Because of my dear people’s breaking I’m broken,

I mourn, devastation has taken strong hold of me.

22Isn’t there ointment in Gil’ad,

or is there no healer there?

Because why has my dear people’s restoration

not developed?

9 If only my head were water,

my eye a fountain of tears.

I’d cry day and night

for those who are run through among my dear people.

2‘If only I could have a travellers’ lodge in the wilderness,

and abandon my people, go from them,

Because all of them are adulterers,

a pack of people breaking faith.

3They’ve directed their tongue, their bow has been falsehood;

it’s not on behalf of truthfulness that they’ve been strong in the country.

Because they’ve gone out from something bad, to something bad,

and not acknowledged me (Yahweh’s declaration).

4They should keep watch, each person, on his neighbour;

don’t rely on any brother.

Because every brother is totally crooked,

and every neighbour goes about as a slanderer.

5Each one trifles with his neighbour;

they don’t speak the truth.

They’ve taught their tongue false speech;

they’ve got tired being wayward.

6You [Jeremiah] have lived in the middle of deceit;

in deceit they’ve refused to acknowledge me (Yahweh’s declaration)’.

## 9:7 Who Is the Smart Person Who Understands All This?

7Therefore Yahweh Armies has said this:

Here am I; I’m going to smelt them, test them,

because how [else] can I act in the face of my dear people?

8Their tongue is a sharpened arrow,

it’s spoken deceit.

With his mouth someone speaks with his neighbour of how things will be well,

but inside he lays an ambush for him.

9For these things shall I not attend to them (Yahweh’s declaration),

or on a nation that’s like this shall I myself not take redress?

10For the mountains I shall take up crying and wailing,

and for the wilderness pastures a lament.

Because they’re laid waste, with no one passing through,

and people don’t hear the sound of livestock.

Both the birds of the heavens and the animals,

they’ve fled; they’ve gone.

11I shall make Jerusalem into heaps of rubble,

the dwelling of jackals.

Judah’s towns I shall make into a devastation,

with no inhabitant.

12Who is the smart individual who understands this,

to whom has Yahweh’s mouth spoken so that he can tell of it?

On what account has the country perished,

become wasted like a wilderness, with no one passing through?

13Yahweh said, ‘Because they abandoned my instruction which I put before them. They didn’t listen to my voice and they didn’t walk by it. 14They followed the determination of their mind and followed the Masters, as their ancestors taught them’.

15Therefore Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, said this: ‘Here am I; I’m going to make this people eat bitter plants and make them drink poisoned water. 16I shall scatter them among the nations that they and their ancestors haven’t known. I shall send off the sword after them until I’ve finished them off’.

## 9:17 The Real Circumcision

17Yahweh Armies has said this:

Show some discernment, and call the lamenting women so they may come,

send for the smart women so they may come.

18They must hurry and raise a wailing over us,

so our eyes may run with tears,

our pupils flow with water.

19Because the sound of wailing—

it has made itself heard from Zion:

‘How we are destroyed,

we are very shamed.

Because we are abandoning our country,

because they’ve overthrown our dwellings’.

20Because listen, women, to Yahweh’s word;

your ear must receive the word from his mouth.

Teach wailing to your daughters,

lamentation one woman to her neighbour.

21Because death is climbing through our windows,

coming into our citadels,

To cut off children from the streets,

young men from the squares.

22Speak like this (Yahweh’s declaration):

Human corpses will fall

like manure on the face of the fields,

Like a sheaf behind the reaper

with no one gathering it up.

23Yahweh has said this:

“The smart person isn’t to exult in his smartness,

the strong person isn’t to exult in his strength,

the wealthy person isn’t to exult in his wealth.

24Rather the person who exults is to exult in this:

showing insight and acknowledging me,

That I am Yahweh,

acting with commitment,

With authority and faithfulness in the country,

because I delight in these things (Yahweh’s declaration).

25There, days are coming (Yahweh’s declaration) when I shall attend to everyone circumcised in the foreskin, 26with Egypt, Judah, Edom, the Ammonites, Mo’ab, and all the people shaved at the forehead who live in the wilderness, because all the nations are foreskinned, and Israel’s entire household—foreskinned in mind.

## 10:1 Facing the Facts about Images

1Listen to the word that Yahweh spoke to you, Israel’s household. 2Yahweh has said this:

Don’t learn the nations’ way;

don’t shatter at signs in the heavens.

Because the nations may shatter at those,

3because the nations’ laws are hollow.

Because someone cuts a tree from the forest,

the work of a craftsman’s hands, with an axe.

4With silver and gold he beautifies it,

with nails and hammers he strengthens it, so it doesn’t wobble.

5They’re like a scarecrow in a melon patch;

they don’t speak.

They’re carried, carried, because they don’t walk;

don’t be in awe of them.

Because they don’t do anything bad,

nor is doing good with them.

6There is none like you, Yahweh;

you are great and your name is great, with strength.

7Who would not be in awe of you, king of the nations,

because it’s fitting to you.

Because among all the nations’ smart people

and in all their dominion there’s none like you.

8As one, they’re stupid, dimwitted;

the correction that comes from hollow beings is wood.

9Beaten silver is brought from Tarshish,

gold from Uphaz,

A craftsman’s work, a goldsmith’s hands,

their clothing blue and purple,

the work of smart people, all of them.

10But Yahweh is the true God,

he’s the living God, the everlasting king.

At his fury, earth shakes;

nations can’t cope with his condemnation.

11You’re to speak in this way to them:

The gods that didn’t make the heavens and the earth

will perish from the earth and from under the heavens.

12One who made the earth by his energy,

established the world by his expertise,

by his understanding stretched out the heavens –

13At his giving voice there was a roar of water in the heavens,

and he made clouds go up from the end of the earth.

He made lightning for the rain,

made wind come out from his storehouses.

## 10:14 Discipline with Judgment

14Every human being proves stupid, without knowledge;

every goldsmith is put to shame by the image,

Because his figure is a falsehood,

and there’s no breath in them.

15They’re hollow, a work for mockery;

at the time they’re attended to, they’ll perish.

16Not like these is Jacob’s share,

because he’s the former of everything.

Israel is the clan that is his domain;

Yahweh Armies is his name.

17Gather up your baggage from the country [Jerusalem],

you who dwell under siege.

18Because Yahweh has said this:

Here am I, I’m going to fling away the people who dwell in the country,

at this moment.

I shall pressure them

in order that they experience it.

19Oh, alas for me, on account of my break,

my wound is sickening,

Whereas myself I had said,

‘This is only an sickness, and I shall bear it’.

20My tent is destroyed, all my tent cords have broken.

my children have gone out from me, there are none of them,

No one spreading my tent again,

hanging out my tent cloths.

21Because the shepherds are stupid,

they haven’t inquired of Yahweh.

That’s why they haven’t thrived,

and all their flock has scattered.

22A sound, a report – there, it’s coming,

a great shaking from a northern country,

To make Judah’s towns a devastation,

the abode of jackals.

23I acknowledge, Yahweh,

that an individual’s road doesn’t belong to him.

It doesn’t belong to a person walking

to set his step.

24Discipline me, Yahweh, only with judgment,

not in your anger, so you don’t make me small.

25Pour your wrath on the nations that haven’t acknowledged you,

on the kin-groups that haven’t called out in your name.

Because they’ve consumed Jacob,

consumed him and finished him off, and devastated his abode.

## 11:1 No Shrugging of God’s Shoulders

11 The word that came to Jeremiah from Yahweh: 2’You people, listen to the words in this pact’.

‘So you’re to speak them to Judah’s people and against Jerusalem’s inhabitants, and say to them, “Yahweh, Israel’s God, has said this: ‘The person is cursed who doesn’t listen to the words in this pact 4that I ordered your ancestors on the day I got them out from the country of Egypt, from the iron smelter, saying “Listen to my voice and act on them in accordance with all that I order you, and you will be a people for me and I will be God for you”, 5in order to implement the oath that he swore to your ancestors to give them a country flowing with milk and syrup this very day’”’.

I said, ‘Yes, Yahweh’.

6Yahweh said to me, ‘Call out all these words in Judah’s towns and in Jerusalem’s streets: “Listen to the words in this pact and act on them. 7Because I testified solemnly to your ancestors on the day I got them out from the country of Egypt and until this day, starting early to testify, saying ‘Listen to my voice’. 8But they didn’t listen or bend their ear but walked each person by the bad determination of their mind. So I brought on them all the words in this pact that I ordered them to act on but they didn’t act on”’.

9Yahweh said to me, ‘A conspiracy can be found among Judah’s people and among Jerusalem’s inhabitants. 10They’ve turned back to the wayward acts of their ancestors of old, who refused to listen to my words. As those people followed other gods, Israel’s household and Judah’s household have contravened my pact that I solemnized with their ancestors’.

## 11:11 Don’t Pray

11Therefore Yahweh has said this: ‘Here am I; I’m going to bring upon them bad fortune from which they won’t be able to get away. They’ll cry out to me but I won’t listen to them. 12Judah’s towns and Jerusalem’s inhabitants will go and cry out to the gods to whom they’ve been burning incense. But they won’t deliver them at all at the time when the bad fortune comes to them. 13Because according to the number of your towns, Judah, have been your gods, and according to the number of your streets, Jerusalem, have you set up altars to shame , altars to burn incense to the Master’.

14And you, don’t plead on this town’s account,

don’t raise on its account a resounding shout or plea.

Because I won’t be listening at the time when they call to me

on account of the bad fortune that comes to them.

15What business does my beloved have in my house,

as she acts on her strategy?

Many will make the sacred flesh pass from you,

because you deal badly, then you exult.

16’Verdant olive, beautiful with shapely fruit’,

Yahweh named you.

To a big roaring sound he’s set fire to it,

and its branches have broken.

17Yahweh Armies who planted you –

he’s spoken of bad fortune for you,

On account of the bad dealing of Israel’s household

and Judah’s household,

Which they did for themselves

to provoke me by burning incense to the Master.

18When Yahweh made it known to me so that I might know –

then you let me see their practices.

19And I myself had been like a docile lamb

that’s led to slaughter.

I didn’t know that against me

they’d thought up their intentions:

‘Let’s destroy the tree with its sap,

let’s cut him off from the land of the living,

so that his name isn’t mentioned anymore’.

20So, Yahweh Armies, who exercises authority with faithfulness,

who tests the inner being and the mind:

May I see your redress on them,

because I’ve laid out my argument to you.

## 11:21 Why Do the Faithless Get Away with It?

21Therefore Yahweh has said this:

‘About the people of Anatot who are seeking your life, saying “You will not prophesy in Yahweh’s name, then you won’t die by our hand”’. 22Therefore Yahweh Armies has said this:

Here am I; I’m going to attend to them;

the young men will die by the sword.

Their sons and their daughters will die by famine;

23there will be no remainder of them.

Because I shall bring bad fortune on the people of Anatot,

the year when they’re attended to.

12 You’ll be in the right, Yahweh, when I argue with you,

yet I shall speak of your rulings with you.

Why does the way of the faithless succeed,

why are all the people who break faith at ease?

2You plant them, yes they root;

they go on, yes they produce fruit.

You’re near in their mouth,

but far from their inner being.

3But you, Yahweh, have acknowledged me and seen me,

you’ve tested my mind in relation to you.

Drive them off like sheep to the slaughter,

make them sacred for the killing day.

4How long will the country mourn,

the grass in all the fields wither?

Through the bad action of the people who live in it,

animals and birds come to an end,

Because people say,

‘He won’t look at our future’.

5When you [Jeremiah] have run with people on foot and they’ve exhausted you,

then how can you compete with horses?

If you’re secure in a country where things are well,

then how will you do in the Jordan jungle?

6Because yes, your brothers and your father’s household –

yes, those people have broken faith with you;

yes, those people have called after you in full voice.

Don’t trust them,

when they speak good things to you.

## 12:7 Why Do the Faithless Get Away with It?

7I have abandoned my household,

I have deserted my domain.

I have given my dearly beloved

into her enemies’ fist.

8My domain has become to me

like a lion in the forest.

She’s given her voice against me;

therefore I’ve been hostile to her.

9My domain is a coloured bird of prey;

birds of prey are against her, all round.

Go, gather all the creatures of the wild,

bring them to eat.

10Many shepherds have devastated my vineyard,

trampled my share.

They’ve made my desirable share

into a devastated wilderness.

11Someone has made it into a devastation;

it mourns before me, devastated.

The entire country is devastated,

because there’s no one taking it into their mind.

12Into all the bare places in the wilderness destroyers have come

because Yahweh’s sword consumes.

From one end of the country to the other end of the country

there’s no well-being for all flesh.

13They’ve sown wheat but reaped thorns,

they’ve pained themselves but they don’t prevail.

So be shamed by your yield

because of Yahweh’s angry blazing.

14Yahweh has said this: ‘About all my neighbours who deal badly, who touch the domain that I gave to my people Israel: here am I, I’m going to uproot them from on their land, and Judah’s household I shall uproot from among them. 15But after I’ve uprooted them I shall again show compassion to them and bring them back, each to his domain, each to his country. 16If they really learn the ways of my people, swearing by my name “As Yahweh lives” as they taught my people to swear by the Master, they’ll be built up among my people. 17But if they don’t listen, I’ll uproot that nation, uproot and destroy it (Yahweh’s declaration)’.

## 13:1 A Shorts Story

13 Yahweh said this to me: ‘Go and get yourself a linen garment and put it round your hips, but don’t let it come into water’. 2So I got the garment in accordance with Yahweh’s word and put it round my hips. 3Yahweh’s word came to me a second time: 4’Take the garment that you got, which is round your hips, and set off for Perat. Hide it there in a crevice in the cliff’. 5So I went and hid it at Perat as Yahweh ordered me. 6After many days Yahweh said to me, ‘Set off for Perat and get the garment from there that I ordered you to hide there’. 7I went to Perat and dug, and got the garment from the place where I’d hidden it, and there, the garment was destroyed; it wouldn’t be useful for anything.

8Yahweh’s word came to me. 9Yahweh said this: ‘In this way I shall devastate Judah’s majesty and Jerusalem’s majesty, which are great. 10This people that deals badly, who refuse to listen to my words, who walk by the determination of their mind, and who follow other gods to serve them and bow low to them, will become like this garment that isn’t useful for anything. 11Because as a garment sticks to someone’s hips, so I made Israel’s entire household and Judah’s entire household stick to me (Yahweh’s declaration) to be for me a people, a name, praise, and splendour. But they didn’t listen.

12So you’re to speak this word to them. Yahweh the God of Israel says this: “Every bottle should be full of wine”. They’ll say to you, “We know very well that every bottle should be full of wine, don’t we”. 13You’re to say to them, “Yahweh has said this: ‘Here am I; I’m going to fill all the inhabitants of this country, the kings who sit on David’s behalf on his throne, the priests, the prophets, and all Jerusalem’s inhabitants – with drunkenness. 14I shall smash them, one person against his brother, parents and children together (Yahweh’s declaration). I shall not pity and I shall not spare and I shall not have compassion so that I don’t devastate them”’.

## 13:15 Can the People Change?

15Listen, give ear, don’t be superior,

because Yahweh has spoken.

16Give honour to Yahweh your God

before he brings darkness,

Before your feet stumble

on the mountains at dusk,

And you hope for light but he turns it into deep darkness,

makes it into dark gloom.

17If you don’t listen to this, my soul will cry in hidden places

before your majesty.

My eye will cry and cry, and run with crying,

because Yahweh’s flock has gone into captivity.

18Say to the king and to the queen mother,

‘Fall down, sit.

Because your headwear is coming down,

your glorious crown’.

19The Negeb towns are closed,

there’s no one opening them.

Judah is taken into exile, all of it,

taken into exile, completely.

20Lift up your eyes

and look at the people coming from the north.

Where are the sheep that were given you [Jerusalem],

your glorious flock?

21What will you say when he appoints over you

ones whom you trained for yourself,

as allies, as your head?

Contractions will take hold of you, won’t they,

like a woman giving birth.

22And when you say to yourself,

‘Why have these things happened to me?’ –

Because of the magnitude of your waywardness

your skirts have been stripped off and your body has been violated.

23Does the Sudanese change his skin,

the leopard his spots?

You people too can do good,

you who have been taught to do bad.

24So I shall scatter them like chaff

passing away before the wilderness wind.

25This will be your fate,

your lot measured out from me (Yahweh’s declaration),

In that you put me out of mind

and relied on falsehood.

26Yes, I myself will lift up your skirts over your face,

and your slighting will become visible,

27Your adulteries and your bellowings,

your whorish scheming.

On the hills, in the open country,

I’ve seen your abominable deeds.

Oh, alas for you, Jerusalem, you’re not clean –

how much longer will it be?

## 14:1 The God Who Doesn’t Answer Prayer

14 What came as a word from Yahweh to Jeremiah concerning the matter of the drought.

2Judah mourns,

its settlements languish.

People look down to the ground,

Jerusalem’s crying goes up.

3Their important people send their underlings for water;

they come to the cisterns, they don’t find water.

They return, their vessels empty;

they’re shamed, disgraced, they cover their head.

4On account of the fact that the ground has broken up,

because there hasn’t been rain in the country,

The farmers are shamed,

they cover their head.

5When the hind in the open country, too, gives birth,

it abandons, because there’s been no grass.

6As the donkeys stand on the bare places,

they gasp for air like jackals.

Their eyes fail,

because there’s no vegetation.

7If our wayward acts avow against us, Yahweh,

act for the sake of your name.

Because our turnings away are many;

we’ve done wrong to you.

8Israel’s hope,

its deliverer in time of pressure,

Why should you become like an alien in the country,

like a traveller who turns aside to lodge?

9Why should you become like someone bewildered,

like a strong man who can’t deliver?

But you’re among us, Yahweh,

your name has been called out over us, don’t let go of us.

10Yahweh has said this to this people:

Yes, they’ve loved straying,

they haven’t restrained their feet.

Given that Yahweh doesn’t accept them,

he’ll now be mindful of their waywardness

and he’ll attend to their wrongdoings.

## 14:11 The Encouraging Prophets

11Yahweh said to me, ‘Don’t plead for good things on behalf of this people. 12When they fast I won’t be listening, when they make a burnt sacrifice or offering , I won’t be accepting them, because by sword, by famine, and by epidemic I’m going to finish them off’.

13I said, ‘Oh! Lord Yahweh! There, the prophets are saying to them, “You won’t see a sword, famine won’t happen to you, because I shall give you true well-being in this place”’.

14Yahweh said to me, ‘It’s falsehood that the prophets have prophesied in my name; I didn’t send them, I didn’t order them, I didn’t speak to them. A false vision, divination and nothingness , their mind’s deceit, is what those people are prophesying to you. 15Therefore Yahweh has said this to the prophets who prophesy in my name when I didn’t send them and they’re saying, “Sword and famine won’t happen in this country”: by sword and famine those prophets will come to an end. 16And the people to whom they’re prophesying will be thrown out into Jerusalem’s streets because of famine and sword. There’ll be no one burying them – them, their wives, their sons, and their daughters. I’ll pour out on them their bad fortune.

17And you’re to speak this word to them.

My eyes run down with crying,

night and day they won’t stop.

Because with a great breaking

the dear daughter of my people has broken,

a very sickening wound.

18If I go out into the open country –

there, people run through by the sword.

If I come into the town –

there, sicknesses that come from famine.

Because both prophet and priest go round the country

but don’t acknowledge it’.

## 14:19 No Matter Who Prayed

19Have you totally rejected Judah,

have you renounced Zion with your entire being?

Why have you struck us down

and we have no one healing us?—

Hoping for things to go well, but there’s nothing good,

for a time of healing, but there – terror.

20We acknowledge our faithlessness, Yahweh,

our ancestors’ waywardness.

Because we’ve done wrong to you,

21don’t spurn us, for the sake of your name.

Don’t disgrace your honoured throne;

be mindful, don’t contravene your pact with us.

22Are there any among the nations’ hollow beings who make it rain,

or do the heavens give showers?

You’re the one, Yahweh our God, aren’t you,

so we hope in you, because you made all these things.

15 Yahweh said to me, ‘If Moses and Samuel were to stand before me, my soul wouldn’t go out to this people. Send them away from my presence. They’re to go away. 2When they say to you, “Where shall we go”, say to them, “Yahweh has said this:

Those who are for death, to death;

those who are for the sword, to the sword;

Those who are for famine, to famine;

those who are for captivity, to captivity.

3I shall appoint over them four species (Yahweh’s declaration):

The sword to slay

and the dogs to drag off,

The birds of the heavens and the animals of the earth

to eat and to devastate.

4I shall make them a horror to all earth’s kingdoms on account of Menashsheh ben Yehizqiyyahu king of Judah, because of what he did in Jerusalem”’.

## 15:5 I’m Tired of Relenting

5Because who will pity you, Jerusalem,

who will grieve for you,

Who will turn aside

to ask about your well-being?

6You are one who has deserted me (Yahweh’s declaration);

you go backward.

So I’m stretching out my hand against you and devastating you;

I’m tired of relenting.

7I’m winnowing them with a pitchfork

in the country’s settlements.

I’m bereaving, I’m obliterating my people,

because of their ways from which they wouldn’t turn back.

8Their widows will be more numerous

than the sand of the seas.

I shall bring to them (against mother, young man)

a destroyer at noon.

I shall let shock and terror

fall on them suddenly.

9One who has born seven languishes,

she’s breathed out her life.

Her sun has set while it’s still day;

she’s shamed and confounded.

Their remainder I’ll give to the sword

before their enemies (Yahweh’s declaration).

10Oh, alas for me,

my mother, that you gave birth to me,

An argumentative man and a disputatious man

for the entire country.

Although I haven’t lent and they haven’t lent to me,

everyone slights me.

11Yahweh said:

If I do not free you for good things,

if I do not get the enemy to intervene for you

in a bad time and in a time of distress….

12Can one break iron,

iron from the north or copper?

13Your wealth [Jerusalem] and your treasures I shall give as plunder,

not for payment but for all your wrongdoings, yes through all your territory.

14I shall make your enemies [Jeremiah] pass on

through a country they haven’t known.

Because fire is blazing in my anger;

it will blaze against you all.

## 15.15 You’ve Been a Deceiver

15You yourself acknowledge, Yahweh;

be mindful of me, attend to me.

Grant me redress from my persecutors;

don’t let me be taken, because of your long tempered-ness.

Acknowledge my bearing of reviling because of you;

16your words presented themselves and I consumed them.

Your word became joy to me,

the rejoicing of my mind.

Because your name was called out over me,

Yahweh God of Armies.

17I haven’t sat in the company of people having fun, and exulted;

because of your hand I’ve sat alone,

because you’d filled me with condemnation.

18Why has my pain become endless,

my wound grave, refusing to heal?

You really have been to me a veritable deceiver,

water that’s not trustworthy.

19Therefore Yahweh has said this:

If you turn back, I’ll let you come back;

you can stand before me.

If you let out what is valuable rather than what is empty,

you can be my very mouth.

Those people will turn back to you,

but you yourself won’t turn back to them.

20To this people I shall make you

a copper wall, fortified;

They’ll battle against you

but not prevail over you.

Because I shall be with you

to deliver you and to rescue you (Yahweh’s declaration).

21I will rescue you from the hand of people who deal badly,

redeem you from the fist of the violent.

## 16:1 Your Marriage Isn’t Your Own

16 Yahweh’s word came to me: 2’You will not get yourself a wife and you will not have sons or daughters in this place’. 3Because Yahweh has said this about the sons and the daughters that are born in this place, and about the mothers who give birth to them and about the fathers who father them in this country: 4‘Sickening deaths they will die. They won’t be lamented or buried. As manure on the face of the ground they’ll be. By sword and famine they’ll come to an end. Their corpse will be food for the birds of the heavens and for the animals of the earth’.

5Because Yahweh has said this:

Don’t come to a house where there’s a wake,

don’t go to lament and grieve for them.

Because I have gathered up my well-being from this people

(Yahweh’s declaration), my commitment and compassion.

6Big people and little people in this country will die;

they won’t be buried.

People won’t lament for them,

they won’t gash themselves and they won’t shave their heads for them.

7They won’t break bread for them in mourning

to comfort someone over a death.

They won’t give them a cup of comfort to drink,

for his father or for his mother.

8And you’re not to come to a house where there’s a banquet,

to sit with them to eat and drink.

9Because Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, has said this:

Here am I—I’m going to make cease from this place

in front of your eyes and in your days,

The joyful voice and the rejoicing voice,

the voice of groom and the voice of bride.

## 16:10 Fishers and Hunters

10’When you tell this people all these things, and they say to you, “Why has Yahweh spoken against us all this great bad fortune, and what is our waywardness and our wrongdoing that we’ve committed against Yahweh our God?” 11you’re to say to them, “Because your ancestors abandoned me (Yahweh’s declaration) and followed other gods, served them and bowed low to them. They abandoned me and didn’t keep my instruction. 12And you’ve dealt badly more than your ancestors. There you are, following each of you the bad determination of his mind, so as not to listen to me. 13So I shall hurl you from upon this country to a country that you haven’t known, you or your ancestors, and there you will serve other gods, day and night, in that I won’t show you grace”.

14Therefore, here, days are coming (Yahweh’s declaration) when it will no more be said, “As Yahweh lives, who got the Israelites up from the country of Egypt”, 15but rather, “As Yahweh lives, who got the Israelites up from the northern country and from all the countries where he’d driven them”. I shall bring them back to their country, which I gave their ancestors’.

16Here am I; I’m going to send for many fishers

(Yahweh’s declaration), and they’ll fish for them.

Afterward I shall send

for many hunters and they’ll hunt for them,

From on every mountain and from on every hill

and from the clefts in the cliffs.

17Because my eyes have been upon all their ways;

they haven’t hidden from my presence.

Their waywardness hasn’t stayed concealed

from in front of my eyes.

18So I shall make good to them first,

double for their waywardness and their wrongdoing,

Because of their profaning my country,

with their abominable corpses;

they filled my domain with their offensive practices.

19Yahweh, my vigour and my stronghold,

my escape in the day of pressure,

To you nations will come

from earth’s ends and say,

‘Our ancestors indeed had falsehood as their domain,

hollowness, and there was nothing in them that would prevail.

20Can a human being make himself gods? –

but they’re not gods’.

21Therefore here am I, I’m going to make them acknowledge it

at this moment.

I shall make them acknowledge my hand and my strength,

and they will acknowledge that my name is Yahweh.

## 17:1 Yahweh Tests the Inner Being

17 Judah’s wrongdoing is written

with an iron pen,

Engraved with a diamond point

on their mind’s tablet

And at the horns of their altars

2in accordance with their children’s being mindful of their altars and their totem poles,

By a verdant tree and by high hills,

3the mountains in the open country.

Your resources, all your treasures, I shall give as plunder,

the shrines for your wrongdoing, in all your territory.

4You’ll forfeit hold (and by your own act)

of your domain that I gave you.

I shall make you serve your enemies

in a country that you haven’t known.

Because you’ve lit a fire in my anger

that will burn permanently.

5Yahweh has said this:

Cursed is the man

who relies on human beings,

Makes flesh his strength,

and his mind turns aside from Yahweh.

6He’ll be like a shrub in the steppe;

it can’t see that good will come.

It dwells in parched places in the wilderness,

salty land where no one lives.

7Blessed is the man who relies on Yahweh,

and Yahweh is his reliance.

8he’ll be like a tree planted by water;

it sends out its roots by a channel.

It isn’t afraid that heat will come;

its foliage will be verdant.

In a year of drought it isn’t anxious;

it doesn’t move away from producing fruit.

9The mind is more crooked than anything;

it’s grave – who can know it?

10I am Yahweh, searching the mind,

testing the inner being,

To give to an individual in accordance with his ways,

in accordance with the fruit proper to his practices.

11A partridge hatching when it didn’t give birth –

someone who makes wealth but not by [proper] exercise of authority.

At the midpoint of his days it will abandon him,

and at his end he’ll be a villain.

12Splendid throne, on high from of old,

our sacred place!

13Israel’s hope, Yahweh,

all who abandon you will be shamed.

People who turn aside in the country will be written down,

because they’ve abandoned

the fountain of living water, Yahweh.

## 17:14 Making the Sabbath Sacred

14Heal me, Yahweh, so I may find healing;

deliver me, so I may find deliverance,

because you’re my praise.

15There, those people are saying to me,

“Where is Yahweh’s word? – yes, it should come’.

16I myself haven’t hurried away from being a shepherd after you;

I haven’t longed for the grave day.

You yourself know what has come out from my lips;

it’s been in front of your face.

17Don’t become a terror to me;

you’re my shelter on the day of bad fortune.

18My persecutors must be shamed;

I myself must not be shamed.

They’re the ones who must shatter;

I myself must not shatter.

Bring upon them the day of bad fortune,

break them with a double breaking.

19Yahweh said this to me: ‘Go and stand in the ordinary people’s gateway by which Judah’s kings come in and by which they go out, and in all Jerusalem’s gateways. 20Say to them, “Listen to Yahweh’s word, Judah’s kings and all Judah and all Jerusalem’s inhabitants, who come in by these gateways. 21Yahweh has said this: ‘Keep watch on yourselves, and don’t carry a load on the sabbath day or bring them through Jerusalem’s gateways. 22Don’t take out a load from your houses on the sabbath day or do any work. Make the sabbath day sacred, as I ordered your ancestors – 23but they didn’t listen, they didn’t bend their ear, but toughened their neck so as not to listen and so as not to accept discipline.

24But if you really listen to me (Yahweh’s declaration) so as not to bring a load through the gateways of this town on the sabbath day but make the sabbath day sacred so as not to do any work on it, 25then there will come through this town’s gateways kings and officials sitting on David’s throne, riding on chariots and horses, they and their officials, Judah’s people and Jerusalem’s inhabitants. This town will stay permanently. 26People will come from Judah’s towns, from Jerusalem’s environs, from Benjamin’s region, from the foothills, from the mountains, and from the Negeb, bringing burnt offering, sacrifice, grain offering, and incense, and bringing a thank-offering to Yahweh’s house.

27But if you don’t listen to me by making the sabbath day sacred and not carrying a load, and you come through Jerusalem’s gateways on the sabbath day, I shall set fire to its gateways, and it will consume Jerusalem’s citadels and not go out”’.

## 18:1 Clay in the Potter’s Hand

18The word that came to Jeremiah from Yahweh: 2’Set off and go down to a potter’s house, and there I’ll let you hear my words’. 3So I went down to a potter’s house, and there, he was doing work at the stones. 4If the object were to spoil that he was making with clay, in the potter’s hand, he’d make it again into another object, as it was right in the potter’s eyes to do.

5Yahweh’s word came to me: 6’Like this potter I can do to you, Israel’s household (Yahweh’s declaration), can’t I. There, like clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, Israel’s household. 7Momentarily I may speak concerning a nation or kingdom about uprooting, demolishing, and destroying, 8but that nation concerning which I’ve spoken may turn back from its bad dealing. I may then relent about the exile that I intended to do to it. 9But momentarily I may speak concerning a nation or kingdom about building and planting, 10and it may do what is bad in my eyes so as not to listen to my voice. I may then relent about the good that I said I’d do to it.

11So now, say to Judah’s people and Jerusalem’s inhabitants, please: “Yahweh has said this: ‘Here, I’m shaping bad fortune for you. I’m thinking up intentions concerning you. Turn back, please, each person from his bad way, and make your ways and your practices good’”. 12But they’ll say, “It’s desperate, because we shall follow our intentions, and we shall act, each person by the bad determination of his mind”’.

## 18:13 Don’t Expiate Their Waywardness

13Therefore Yahweh has said this:

Ask among the nations, please:

who has heard anything like this?

She’s done something very horrible,

Miss Israel.

14Does Lebanon snow abandon

the crags in the open country?

Or does foreign water,

cool streams, uproot?

15Because my people have put me out of mind,

so they may burn incense to something empty.

They’ve made them collapse on their ways,

the age-old paths,

By walking on [other] tracks,

a way not built up,

16To make their country a devastation,

something to whistle at permanently.

Anyone who passes by it will be devastated

and will shake his head.

17Like the east wind

I shall scatter them in front of the enemy.

At their back, not their face,

I shall look at them, on their day of disaster.

18People said, ‘Come on, we’ll think up some intentions against Jeremiah, because instruction won’t perish from the priest, counsel from the smart person, or word from the prophet. Come on, let’s strike him down with the tongue, so we may not heed any of his words’.

19Heed me, Yahweh,

listen to the voice of the people who argue with me.

20Is someone to make good with bad, for good? –

because they’ve dug a pit for me.

Be mindful of how I stood before you

to speak good things concerning them,

to turn away your wrath from them.

21Therefore give their children to famine,

tip them out to the edges of the sword.

Their women should be bereaved of children and widowed,

their men should be slain by death,

their young men struck down by the sword in battle.

22May an outcry make itself heard from their houses,

when suddenly you bring a raiding gang on them.

Because they’ve dug a pit to capture me

and laid snares for my feet.

23Yahweh, you yourself know

their entire counsel against me, for my death.

Don’t expiate their waywardness,

don’t blot out their wrongdoing from before you.

They should become people caused to collapse before you;

in the time of your anger, act against them.

## 19:1 The Pitcher That’s to Be Pitched

19 Yahweh said this: ‘Go and get a potter’s earthenware pitcher, and some of the elders of the people and some of the elders of the priests, 2and go out into the Ben-hinnom Ravine, which is at the entrance of the Potsherd Gate, and call out there the words that I shall speak to you. 3Say, “Listen to Yahweh’s word, Judah’s kings and Jerusalem’s inhabitants. Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, has said this: ‘Here am I; I’m going to bring bad fortune on this place such that everyone who hears of it – his ears will ring, 4since they’ve abandoned me, made this place alien, burned sacrifices in it to other gods that that they hadn’t acknowledged, they, their ancestors, and Judah’s kings. They’ve filled this place with the blood of people free of guilt. 5The’ve built shrines for the Master for burning their children in fire as burnt offerings to the Master, which I didn’t order or speak of; it didn’t come up into my mind.

6Therefore days are coming (Yahweh’s declaration) when this place will no longer be called Tophet or Ben-hinnom Ravine but rather Slaughter Ravine. 7I shall pitch out the counsel of Judah and Jerusalem in this place. I shall make them fall by the sword before their enemies, by the hand of people who seek their lives, and give their corpse as food to the birds of the heavens and to the animals of the earth. 8I shall make this town into a devastation and something to whistle at; anyone who passes by it will be devastated and will whistle at all its wounds. 9I shall cause them to eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and they’ll each eat the flesh of his neighbour in the siege and in the straits that their enemies, the people who seek their lives, impose on them”.

## 19:10 Terror-is-all-around

10And you’re to break the pitcher before the eyes of the men who go with you, 11and say to them, “Yahweh Armies has said this: ‘In this way I shall break this people and this town, as one breaks a potter’s article, which cannot be mended again. In Tophet they’ll bury, because there’ll be no place for burying. 12Thus I shall do to this place (Yahweh’s declaration) and to its inhabitants, to make this town like Tophet. 13Jerusalem’s houses and the kings of Judah’s houses will become like the place Tophet, defiled – that is, all the houses on whose roofs people have burned sacrifices to the entire heavenly army and poured libations to other gods’”’

14Jeremiah came from Tophet where Yahweh had sent him to prophesy, stood in the courtyard of Yahweh’s house, and said to the entire people: 15’Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, has said this: “Here am I; I’m going to bring on this town and on all its towns all the bad fortune of which I’ve spoken concerning it, because they’ve toughened their neck so as not to listen to my words”’.

20 Pashhur son of Immer, the priest (he was the leading appointee in Yahweh’s house), heard Jeremiah prophesying these things. 2Pashhur struck the prophet Jeremiah down and put him in the stocks at the Upper Benjamin Gate, which is in Yahweh’s house.

3Next day Pashhur let Jeremiah out from the stocks. Jeremiah said to him, ‘Yahweh has named you not Pashhur but rather Terror-is-all-round. 4Because Yahweh has said this: “Here am I; I’m going to give you to terror, you and all your friends. They’ll fall by the sword of their enemies, with your eyes seeing it. I shall give all Judah into the hand of the king of Babel and he’ll exile them to Babel and strike them down with the sword. 5I shall give this town’s entire wealth – all its profit, all its valuables, and all the treasures of Judah’s kings, I shall give into their enemies’ hand. They’ll plunder them, take them, and carry them off to Babel. 6You, Pashhur, and all the people who live in your house – you’ll go into captivity. You’ll come to Babel, and there you’ll die and there you’ll be buried, you and all your friends to whom you’ve prophesied falsely.

## 20:7 Cursed Be the Day I Was Born

7You enticed me, Yahweh, I was enticed;

you’ve taken strong hold of me and prevailed.

I’ve become an object of fun all the time,

everyone ridicules me.

8Because every time I speak, I cry out,

I call out violence and destruction.

Because Yahweh’s word has become for me

reviling and derision all the time.

9 When I said, ‘I won’t make mention of him,

not speak in his name any more’,

It became in my mind like a raging fire,

shut up in my bones.

I was weary of holding it in—

I couldn’t.

10Because I heard the murmuring of many,

‘Terror is on every side – tell of it, let’s tell of it’.

Every person who was my friend –

they’re watching my step:

‘Perhaps he can be trapped and we can prevail over him,

and take our redress from him’.

11But Yahweh – he’s with me as a violent strong man;

therefore my persecutors will collapse and not win.

They’re being utterly shamed, because they aren’t thriving,

with a disgrace for all time that won’t be put out of mind.

12Yahweh Armies, you who test the faithful person,

who see inner being and mind,

May I see your redress on them,

because to you I’ve rolled my argument.

13Sing for Yahweh,

praise Yahweh!

Because he’s rescued the life of a needy person

from the hand of people who deal badly.

14Cursed be the day

on which I was born.

The day when my mother gave birth to me –

may it not be blessed.

15Cursed be the man

who brought the news to my father,

‘A male child has been born to you’;

he made him rejoice so much.

16That man will become like the towns

that Yahweh overthrew and didn’t relent.

He’ll hear an outcry in the morning

and a shout at noon time,

17The one who didn’t kill me before birth,

so that my mother became my grave,

her womb pregnant permanently.

18Why then did I go out from the womb

to see oppression and sorrow

and so my days might consume themselves in shame?

## 21:1 The Way to Life and the Way to Death

21 The word that came to Jeremiah from Yahweh when King Tsidqiyyahu sent to him Pashhur ben Malkiyyah and Tsephanyah ben Ma‘aseyah the priest to say, 2’Inquire on our behalf of Yahweh, please, because Nebukadre’tstsar king of Babel is doing battle against us. Perhaps Yahweh will act with us in accordance with his wonders, so that he goes up from us’.

3Jeremiah said to them, ‘You’re to say this to Tsidqiyyahu: 4”Yahweh, Israel’s God, has said this: ‘Here am I; I’m going to turn back the battle implements that are in your hand, with which you’re doing battle with the king of Babel and the Kasdites who are besieging you from outside the wall, and I shall gather them up into the middle of this town. 5I myself will do battle against you with hand bent and strong arm, with anger, with wrath, and with great fury. 6I shall strike down this town’s inhabitants, human beings and animals; they’ll die in a great epidemic.

7After this (Yahweh’s declaration) I shall give Tsidqiyyahu king of Judah and his servants and the people, those who remain in this town from epidemic, sword, and famine, into the hand of Nebukadre’tstsar king of Babel and into the hand of their enemies, into the hand of the people seeking their life. He’ll strike them down with the mouth of the sword. He won’t have pity for them. He won’t have mercy. He won’t have compassion’”.

8And to this people you are to say, “Yahweh has said this: ‘Here am I, putting before you the way to life and the way to death. 9The one who lives in this town will die by sword, by famine, or by epidemic. But the one who goes out and goes over to the Kasdites who are besieging you will live. His life will be his as a trophy. 10Because I have set my face against this town for bad fortune and not for good fortune (Yahweh’s declaration). Into the hand of the king of Babel it will be given, and he will burn it in fire’”’.

## 21:11 About False Confidence

11And to the household of the king of Judah, listen to Yahweh’s word. 12Household of David, Yahweh has said this:

Judge with authority morning by morning,

rescue the person who’s been robbed from the hand of the oppressor,

So that my wrath doesn’t go out like fire,

and burn up with no one quenching it,

because of the bad nature of your practices.

13Here am I toward you [Jerusalem], you who dwell in the vale,

a crag in the flatland (Yahweh’s declaration).

People who say, ‘Who can come down against us,

who can come into our abodes?’

14I shall attend to you

in accordance with the fruit of your practices (Yahweh’s declaration).

I shall set fire to its forest

and consume all that’s round it.

22 Yahweh said this: ‘Go down to the house of the king of Judah and speak there this word. 2Say, “Listen to Yahweh’s word, king of Judah, you who sit on David’s throne and your servants and your people who come through these gateways. 3Yahweh has said this: ‘Exercise authority with faithfulness, rescue the person who’s been robbed from the hand of the oppressor, don’t wrong alien, orphan, and widow, don’t be violent, don’t shed the blood of someone free of guilt in this place. 4Because if you really do act on this word, then through this house’s gateways will come David’s kings sitting on his throne, riding chariot and horses, he and his servants and his people. 5But if you don’t listen to these words, I swear by myself (Yahweh’s declaration) that this house will become a waste’”’.

6Because Yahweh has said this concerning the house of the king of Judah:

‘You are Gil’ad to me,

the top of Lebanon.

If I don’t make you a wilderness,

towns that aren’t inhabited….

7I shall make devastators sacred to go against you,

each with his implements.

They’ll cut the choicest of your cedars

and make them fall into the fire.

## 22:8 How to Evaluate a King

8Many nations will pass by this town and will say, an individual to his neighbour, ‘Why did Yahweh act in this way to this great town?’ 9And they’ll say, ‘On account of the fact that they abandoned the pact of Yahweh their God and bowed low to other gods and served them’.

10Don’t cry for the one who is dead,

don’t lament for him.

Cry and cry for the one who is going,

because he won’t come back again

and see the country of his birth.

11Because Yahweh has said this regarding Shallum ben Yoshiyyahu king of Judah, who was reigning in place of Yoshiyyahu his father, who has gone out from this place: ‘He won’t come back here again, 12because in the place where they have exiled him, there he’ll die. This country he won’t see again’.

13Hey, one who builds his house without faithfulness,

his lofts without the [proper] exercise of authority!

He makes his neighbour serve for nothing;

he doesn’t give him his earnings.

14The one who says, ‘I’ll build myself a vast house,

spacious lofts’.

He cuts windows for it, panelled with cedar,

painted with vermilion.

15Are you a king

because you’re competing in cedar?

Your father – he ate and drink, didn’t he,

and acted in faithful exercise of authority.

Then things were good for him,

16when he gave judgment for the weak and needy.

Then things were good;

this is to acknowledge me, isn’t it (Yahweh’s declaration).

17Because you have no eye or mind

except for loot,

For shedding the blood of the one free of guilt,

and for fraud and for extortion.

18Therefore Yahweh has said this concerning Yehoyaqim ben Yoshiyyahu king of Judah:

‘They won’t mourn for him,

‘Oh my brother, oh my sister’.

They won’t mourn for him,

‘Oh my lord, oh his majesty’.

19He’ll be buried with a donkey’s burial,

dragged and dumped outside Jerusalem’s gateways.

## 22:20 The Despised Potsherd

20Climb the Lebanon and cry out [Jerusalem],

in the Bashan lift your voice.

Cry out from Abarim,

because all your friends are broken.

21I spoke to you during your peaceful times;

you said, ‘I won’t listen’.

This was your way from your youth,

because you didn’t listen to my voice.

22All your shepherds – the wind will shepherd them;

your friends will go into captivity.

Because then you’ll be shamed and disgraced

because of all your bad dealing.

23You who live in the Lebanon, nesting among the cedars,

how needy of grace you’ll be,

When contractions come to you,

labour like someone giving birth.

24As I live (Yahweh’s declaration), if Konyah ben Yehoyaqim king of Judah were the ring on my right hand…. Because from there I’d tear you off. 25I shall give you into the hand of the people who seek your life, into the hand of the people whom you yourself dread, into the hand of Nebukadre’tstsar king of Babel, into the hand of the Kasdites. 26I’ll hurl you and your mother who gave birth to you into another country where you were not born, and there you’ll die. 27The country where people will be lifting up their longing to come back: they won’t come back there’.

28Is he a despised broken piece of pottery,

this man Konyahu,

or an implement in which there’s no delight?

Why are they being hurled, he and his offspring,

thrown to a country that they don’t know?

29Country, country, country,

listen to Yahweh’s word.

30Yahweh has said this:

‘Write down this person as childless,

A man who won’t succeed in his time,

because not one of his offspring will succeed,

Sitting on David’s throne

and ruling again in Judah’.

## 23:1 A Wicked Play on Words in a King’s Name

23 ‘Hey, shepherds who led astray and scattered my flock (Yahweh’s declaration)’. 2Therefore Yahweh, Israel’s God, has said this about the shepherds who shepherd my people: ‘You – you’ve let my flock scatter. You’ve driven them away and not attended to them. Here am I; I’m going to attend to you, to the bad nature of your practices (Yahweh’s declaration). 3And I myself will draw together the remainder of my flock from all the countries where I’ve driven them. I’ll take them back to their abode, and they’ll be fruitful and become many. 4I’ll set up shepherds over them and they’ll shepherd them, and they won’t be afraid anymore or shatter or be missing (Yahweh’s declaration).

5There, days are coming (Yahweh’s declaration) when I shall set up for David a faithful branch. He will reign as king and show insight and exercise authority and faithfulness in the country. 6In his days Judah will find deliverance and Israel will dwell with confidence. This is the name by which he’ll be called: “Yahweh is our faithfulness” [Yahweh Tsidqenu]. 7Therefore, here, days are coming (Yahweh’s declaration) when they will no longer say “As Yahweh lives, who got the Israelites up from the country of Egypt”. 8Rather, “As Yahweh lives, who got up and brought the offspring of Israel’s household from the northern country” and from all the countries where I will have driven them. And they will live on their land.

## 23:9 False Prophets

9Concerning the prophets.

My mind has broken within me,

all my bones have become weak.

I’ve become like someone drunk,

like a man wine has overcome,

Before Yahweh and before his sacred words,

10because the country is full of adulterers.

Because the country mourns before a vow;

the wilderness pastures have dried up.

People’s running has become something bad,

their strength not right.

11Because both prophet and priest are impious;

‘Even in my house I’ve found their bad dealing’ (Yahweh’s declaration).

12Therefore their way will become for them like slippery slopes,

they’ll be driven into darkness and they’ll fall there.

Because I shall bring bad fortune upon them,

the year when they’re attended to (Yahweh’s declaration).

13In Shomron’s prophets I saw corruptness:

they prophesied by the Master and led my people astray.

14In Jerusalem’s prophets I saw a horror:

adultery, walking by falsehood,

And they strengthen the hands of people dealing badly,

so that no one may turn back from his bad dealing.

They’ve become like Sedom [Sodom] to me, all of them,

its inhabitants like Amorah [Gomorrah].

15Therefore Yahweh Armies has said this concerning the prophets.

Here am I; I’m going to feed this people bitter plants

and make them drink poisoned water.

Because from Jerusalem’s prophets

impiety has gone out to the whole country.

16Yahweh Armies has said this:

Don’t listen to the words of the prophets

who prophesy to you.

They’re giving you something hollow;

they speak a vision from their mind,

not from Yahweh’s mouth.

17They’re saying to people who disdain Yahweh’s word,

‘Things will go well for you’.

To everyone who’s walking by the determination of his mind,

they’ve said, ‘Bad fortune won’t come upon you’.

## 23:18 Who Has Stood in Yahweh’s Council?

18Because who has stood in Yahweh’s council,

and seen and listened to his word—

who has heeded his word and listened?

19There – Yahweh’s hurricane,

wrath has gone out.

The storm is whirling,

on the head of the faithless it will whirl.

20Yahweh’s anger won’t turn back until he’s acted,

until he’s implemented the strategies in his mind.

At the end of the time

you’ll understand it fully.

21I didn’t send the prophets, but those people ran;

I didn’t speak to them, but those people prophesied.

22If they’d stood in my council,

they’d have got my people to listen to my word.

They’d have turned them back from their bad way,

from the bad nature of their practices.

23Am I a God nearby (Yahweh’s declaration),

and not a God far away?

24If a man hides in a hiding place,

will I not see him (Yahweh’s declaration)?

I fill the heavens and the earth, don’t I (Yahweh’s declaration).

25’I’ve listened to what the prophets who prophesy falsehood in my name say, “I’ve dreamed, I’ve dreamed”. 26How long? Is there in the mind of the prophets who prophesy falsehood, the prophets with deceit in their mind – 27are they intending to get my people to put my name out of mind with their dreams that they recount, each to his neighbour, as their ancestors put my name out of mind because of the Master? 28The prophet who has a dream with him should recount a dream, and the one who has my word with him should speak my word truthfully. What does straw have compared with grain (Yahweh’s declaration)? 29My word is like fire (Yahweh’s declaration) and like a hammer that shatters a cliff, isn’t it.

## 23:30 Another Wicked Play on Words

30Therefore here am I, against the prophets (Yahweh’s declaration), who steal my words each from his neighbour. 31Here am I, against the prophets (Yahweh’s declaration), who take up their tongue and make a “declaration”. 32Here am I, against the prophets of false dreams (Yahweh’s declaration) who recount them and lead my people astray with their falsehoods and their recklessness, when I didn’t send them, didn’t order them. In no way will they prevail for this people (Yahweh’s declaration).

33When this people or the prophet or the priest ask you, “What is Yahweh’s burden?” you’re to say to them, “You’re the burden and I shall desert youereHere” (Yahweh’s declaration). 34As for the prophet and the priest and the people that says, “Yahweh’s burden”, I shall attend to that person and his household. 34You’re to say this, each to his neighbour, each to his brother: “What has Yahweh avowed?” or “What has Yahweh spoken?” 36But don’t make mention of Yahweh’s burden anymore, because the burden will belong to the person with his word, and you will overturn the words of the living God, Yahweh Armies, our God.

37You’re to say this to the prophet: “What did Yahweh avow to you?” or “What did Yahweh speak?” 38If you say “Yahweh’s burden” – therefore Yahweh has said this: “Since you said this thing, ‘Yahweh’s burden’, and I had sent to you saying, ‘Don’t say, “Yahweh’s burden”’, 39therefore here am I: I shall simply forget you and desert you, you and the town that I gave you and your ancestors, from in front of my face. 40I shall put upon you permanent reviling, permanent shame, which won’t be put out of mind’.

## 24:1 Lucky Figs and Unlucky Figs

24 Yahweh showed me: there, two baskets of figs placed before Yahweh’s palace (after Nebukadre’tstsar king of Babel exiled Yekonyahu ben Yehoyaqim king of Judah, Judah’s officials, the craftworkers, and the smiths, from Jerusalem and brought them to Babel). 2One basket was very good figs, like early figs, one basket was very bad figs that couldn’t be eaten because of being bad. 3Yahweh said to me, ‘What are you looking at, Jeremiah?’ I said, ‘Figs – the good figs very good, the bad very bad, that couldn’t be eaten because of being bad’.

4Yahweh’s word came to me. 5Yahweh, Israel’s God, has said this: ‘Like these good figs, so I shall mark down for good Judah’s exile community that I’ve sent off from this place to the country of the Kasdites. 6I shall set my eye on them for good and bring them back to this country. I shall build them and not overthrow. I shall plant them and not uproot. 7I shall give them a mind to acknowledge me, that I am Yahweh. They will be a people for me and I shall be God for them, because they will turn back to me with their entire mind.

8But like bad figs that can’t be eaten because of being bad (because Yahweh has said this), so shall I make Tsidqiyyahu king of Judah, his officials, and the remainder of Jerusalem who remain in this country and who are living in the country of Egypt – 9I shall make them a horror, something bad, to all earth’s kingdoms, an insult and an example, a taunt and a slighting, in all the places where I drive them. 10I shall send against them sword, famine, and epidemic until they come to an end from on the land that I gave to them and to their ancestors’.

## 25:1 Twenty-three Years

25 The word that came to Jeremiah concerning the entire people of Judah in the fourth year of Yehoyaqim ben Yoshiyyahu king of Judah (it was the first year of Nebukadre’tstsar king of Babel), 2which Jeremiah the prophet spoke to all Judah’s people and all Jerusalem’s inhabitants: 3’From the thirteenth year of Yoshiyyahu ben Amon king of Judah, to this day, twenty-three years, Yahweh’s word has come to me, and I’ve spoken to you, starting early and speaking, but you haven’t listened. 4Yahweh has been sending to you all his servants, sending urgently, but you haven’t listened. You haven’t bent your ear to listen: 5”Please turn back each one from his bad way, from the bad nature of your acts, so you may live on the land that Yahweh gave you and your ancestors, from earliest ages to farthest ages. 6Don’t follow other gods so as to serve them and bow down to them. Don’t provoke me with the things your hands have made, and I won’t bring bad fortune to you. 7But you didn’t listen to me (Yahweh’s declaration), so as to provoke me with the things your hands have made, to bring bad fortune to you”.

8Therefore Yahweh Armies has said this: “Since you haven’t listened to my words, 9here am I; I’m going to send and get all the northern kin-groups (Yahweh’s declaration) and Nebukadre’tstsar king of Babel my servant, and bring them against this country and against its inhabitants, and against all these nations round about. I shall ‘devote’ them and make them a devastation, something to whistle at, a complete waste permanently. 10I shall eliminate from them the sound of celebration and the sound of rejoicing, the sound of bride and the sound of groom, the sound of mill and the light of lamp. 11This entire country will become a waste, a desolation.

## 25:11b Seventy Years

11bThese nations will serve the king of Babel for seventy years, 12but when seventy years are fulfilled, I shall attend to the king of Babel and to that nation (Yahweh’s declaration) for their waywardness, to the country of the Kasdites, and make it a desolation permanently. 13I shall bring on that country all my words that I’ve spoken against it, all that’s written in this book that Jeremiah prophesied against all the nations. 14Because they, too, will serve many nations and great kings. I shall make good to them in accordance with their action and with the work of their hands”.

15Because Yahweh, Israel’s God, has said this to me: “Take this chalice of wine (wrath) from my hand and get all the nations to which I’m sending you to drink it. 16They will drink and throw up and go mad because of the sword that I’m sending among them”’.

17So I took the chalice from Yahweh’s hand and got all the nations to which Yahweh sent me to drink: 18Jerusalem and all Judah’s towns, its kings and its officials, to make them a waste, a desolation, something to whistle at, a slighting, this very day; 19Pharaoh king of Egypt, his servants, his officials, all his people, 20and all the foreign group; all the kings of the country of Uts; all the kings of the country of the Philistines, Ashqelon, Azzah [Gaza], Eqron, and the remainder of Ashdod; 21Edom, Mo’ab, and Ammon; 22all the kings of Tsor [Tyre], all the kings of Tsidon, and the kings of the shore that’s across the sea; 23Dedan, Tema, and Buz, and all the people shaved at the forehead; 24all the kings of Arabia and all the kings of the foreign group who dwell in the wilderness; 25all the kings of Zimri, all the kings of Elam, and all the kings of Media; 26all the northern kings, near or far each to his brother; all the kingdoms of the earth that are on the face of the land; and the king of Sheshak will drink, as the last of them.

## 25:27 The Demon Drink

27You’re to say to them: “Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, has said this: ‘Drink, get drunk, throw up, fall down, and don’t get up again, because of the sword that I’m sending among you’”. 28When they refuse to take the chalice from your hand to drink, you’re to say to them, “Yahweh Armies has said this, ‘Drink, drink, 29because here, in the town over which my name has been called out, I’m beginning to make bad things happen, and you, will you really be treated as free of guilt? You will not be treated as free of guilt, because I’m calling a sword against all earth’s inhabitants (a declaration of Yahweh Armies)”.

30You’re to prophesy all these things to them, and say to them:

Yahweh roars from on high,

from his sacred dwelling he gives voice,

he roars and roars against his abode.

He chants a cry like grape-treaders

to all earth’s inhabitants.

31The din has come to the end of the earth,

because Yahweh has an argument for the nations.

He’s entering into judgment with all flesh;

the faithless – he’s giving them to the sword (Yahweh’s declaration).

32Yahweh Armies has said this:

There something bad going out, from nation to nation;

a great storm arises from earth’s remotest parts.

33There will be people run through by Yahweh

on that day

From the end of the earth

as far as the end of the earth.

They won’t be lamented

and they won’t be gathered up and they won’t be buried;

they’ll become manure on the face of the ground.

34Howl, you shepherds, cry out,

throw yourselves about, you who are eminences over the flock.

Because the days of your slaughter are fulfilled;

I shall scatter you, and you will fall like a desirable bowl.

35Flight will perish from the shepherds,

escape from the people who are eminences over the flock.

36The sound of the shepherds’ cry,

the howls of the people who are eminences over the flock!

Because Yahweh is destroying their pastures;

37the meadows with their well-being will be still

in the face of Yahweh’s angry burning.

38He’s abandoned his thicket like a lion

because his country has become a desolation,

In the face of the oppressor’s blazing,

and in the face of his angry blazing.

## 26:1 The Threat of Martyrdom

1At the beginning of the reign of Yehoyaqim ben Yoshiyyahu king of Judah, this word came from Yahweh: 2’Yahweh has said this: “Stand in the courtyard of Yahweh’s house and speak to all Judah’s towns, the people coming to bow low in Yahweh’s house, all the words that I’m ordering you to speak to them. Don’t omit a thing. 3Perhaps they’ll listen and turn back, each from his bad way, and I shall relent regarding the bad things that I’m intending to do to them because of the bad nature of their practices. 4You’re to say to them, ‘Yahweh has said this: “If you don’t listen to me by walking according to the instruction that I’ve put before you, 5listening to the words of my servants the prophets whom I’ve been sending to you, starting early and sending them (but you haven’t listened), 6I shall make this house like Shiloh, and make this town a slighting to all the nations of the earth”’”’.

7The priests, the prophets, and the entire people listened to Jeremiah speaking these words in Yahweh’s house, 8and when Jeremiah finished speaking all that Yahweh had ordered him to speak to the entire people, the priests, the prophets, and the entire people seized him, saying: ‘You are definitely to die! 9Why have you been prophesying in Yahweh’s name, “This house will become like Shiloh, and this town will be waste, without inhabitant?”’

So the entire people congregated against Jeremiah in Yahweh’s house. 10Judah’s officials heard these things and went up from the king’s house to Yahweh’s house and sat in the entrance of Yahweh’s New Gate. 11The priests and the prophets said to the officials and to the entire people, ‘A sentence of death for this man, because he’s prophesied against this town, as you’ve heard with your own ears!’

## 26:12 Remember Micah

12Jeremiah said to all the officials and to the entire people, ‘It was Yahweh sent me to prophesy to this house and to this town all the words that you heard. 13So now make you ways and your practices good and listen to the voice of Yahweh your God, so Yahweh may relent of the bad thing that he’s spoken of against you. 14And me – here am I in your hand. Do to me in accordance with what is good and right in your eyes. 15Yet you must fully acknowledge that if you put me to death, that you’re putting on yourselves the blood of someone who’s free of guilt. Because in truth Yahweh sent me to you to speak all these things in your ears’.

16The officials and the entire people said to the priests and to the prophets, ‘There’s no sentence of death, because it was in the name of Yahweh our God that he spoke to us’. 17Some people from the country’s elders got up and said to all the congregation of the people, 18’Micah the Morashtite was prophesying in the days of Hizqiyyahu king of Judah. He said to Judah’s entire people:

‘Yahweh Armies has said this:

‘Zion will be ploughed as open countryside.

Jerusalem will become heaps of rubble,

the mountain of the house shrines in the forest’’.

19Did Hizqiyyahu king of Judah and all Judah put him to death at all? Was he not in awe of Yahweh and did he not seek Yahweh’s goodwill, so that Yahweh relented of the bad thing that he spoke against them? We’re going to do a great bad thing to ourselves’.

## 26:20 Not Always the Hollywood Ending

20There was also a man prophesying in Yahweh’s name, Uriyyahu ben Shema’yahu from Ye’arim Township. He prophesied against this town and against this people in accordance with all Jeremiah’s words. 21King Yehoyaqim , all his strong men, and all the officials heard his words, and the king sent to put him to death. Uriyyahu heard and was afraid and fled, and came to Egypt. 22But King Yehoyaqim sent men to Egypt, Elnatan ben Akbor and men with him, to Egypt. 23They got Uriyyahu out of Egypt and brought him to King Yehoyaqim , and he struck him down with the sword and threw his corpse into the common graves. 24However, the hand of Ahiqam ben Shaphan was with Jeremiah so as not to give him into the people’s hand to put him to death.

27 At the beginning of the reign of Yehoyaqim ben Yoshiyyahu king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from Yahweh: 2’Yahweh said this to me: “Make yourself straps and bars and put them on your neck, 3and send them to the king of Edom, the king of Mo’ab, the king of the Ammonites, the king of Tsor, and the king of Tsidon, by the hand of the envoys who have come to Jerusalem to Tsidqiyyahu king of Judah. 4Order them regarding their lords: ‘Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, has said this: “You’re to say this to your lords: 5’I’m the one who made the earth, the human beings, and the animals that are on the face of the earth, by my great energy and by my bent arm, and I give it to whoever is right in my eyes. 6So now, I’m giving all these countries into the hand of Nebukadne’tstsar king of Babel my servant. Even the creatures of the wild I’m giving him to serve him. 7All the nations will serve him, his son, and his grandson, until the time comes for his country, him too. Many nations and great kings will serve him. 8The nation or kingdom that won’t serve him (Nebukadne’tstsar king of Babel), that won’t give its neck to the yoke of the king of Babel: I’ll attend to that nation by sword, by famine, and by epidemic (Yahweh’s declaration) until I have brought them to an end by his hand.

## 27:9 Don’t Listen to Your Prophets

9So you, don’t listen to your prophets, to your augurs, to your dreams, to your mediums, or to your diviners, who are saying to you, ‘Don’t serve the king of Babel’.10Because they’re speaking falsehood to you, so he may take you far from your country, and I drive you out and you perish. 11But the nation that brings its neck to the yoke of the king of Babel and serves him, I’ll allow to stay on its land (Yahweh’s declaration) and serve it and live on it”’”’.

12To Tsidqiyyah king of Judah I spoke in accordance with these words: ‘Bring your necks to the king of Babel’s yoke, serve him and his people, and live. 13Why should you die, you and your people, by sword, by famine, and by epidemic, as Yahweh has said regarding the nation that doesn’t serve the king of Babel? 14Don’t listen to the words of the prophets who are saying to you, “Don’t serve the king of Babel”, because they’re prophesying falsehood to you. 15Because I didn’t send them (Yahweh’s declaration) and they’re prophesying falsely in my name, so that I’ll drive you out and you’ll perish, you and the prophets who are prophesying to you’.

16And to the priests and to this entire people I spoke: ‘Yahweh has said this: “Don’t listen to the words of the prophets who are prophesying to you, ‘There, the things from Yahweh’s house are going to be brought back from Babel now, very soon’, because they’re prophesying falsehood to you. 17Don’t listen to them; serve the king of Babel and live – why should this town become a waste? 18If they are prophets and Yahweh’s word is with them, they should please intercede with Yahweh Armies so that the rest of the things in Yahweh’s house, in the house of the king of Judah, and in Jerusalem don’t come to Babel.

## 27:19 Things Have to Get Worse

19Because Yahweh Armies has said this about the pillars, the Sea, the stands, and the rest of the things that remain in this town, 20which Nebukadne’tstsar king of Babel didn’t take when he exiled Yekonyah ben Yehoyaqim king of Judah from Jerusalem to Babel, with all the important people from Judah and Jerusalem – 21because Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, has said about the things that remain in Yahweh’s house, in the house of the king of Judah, and in Jerusalem: “To Babel they will be brought, and there they will be, until the day when I attend to them (Yahweh’s declaration) and take them up and bring them back to this place”’.

28 That year, at the beginning of the reign of Tsidqiyyah king of Judah, in the fifth month of the fourth year, Hananyah ben Azzur the prophet, who was from Gib’on, said to me in Yahweh’s house in the eyes of the priests and the entire people: 2’Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, has said this: “I am breaking the king of Babel’s yoke. 3In yet two years’ time I’m going to bring back to this place all the things from Yahweh’s house that Nebukadne’tstsar king of Babel took from this place and brought to Babel. 4And I am going to return to this place Yekonyah ben Yehoyaqim king of Judah and all Judah’s exile community who came to Babel (Yahweh’s declaration), because I’m breaking the king of Babel’s yoke”’.

## 28:5 Prophet Confronts Prophet

5Jeremiah the prophet said to Hananyah the prophet in the eyes of the priests and the entire people standing in Yahweh’s house – 6Jeremiah the prophet said, ‘Amen! So may Yahweh do. May Yahweh act on your words, which you’ve prophesied, bringing back the things from Yahweh’s house and the entire exile community from Babel to this place. 7Nevertheless please listen to this word that I’m speaking in your ears and the ears of the entire people. 8The prophets who were before me and before you, from of old, prophesied against many countries and about great kingdoms, regarding battle, famine, and epidemic. 9The prophet who prophesies of things going well – when the prophet’s word comes about, he can be acknowledged as one whom Yahweh sent in truth’.

10Hananyah the prophet took the bar from on Jeremiah the prophet’s neck and broke it. 11Hananyah said in front of the entire people: ‘Yahweh has said this: “In this way I shall break the yoke of Nebukadne’tstsar king of Babel, in yet two years, from on the neck of all the nations”’.

Jeremiah the prophet went his way. 12But Yahweh’s word came to Jeremiah after Hananyah the prophet broke the bar from on Jeremiah the prophet’s neck: 13’Go and say to Hananyah, “Yahweh has said this: ‘You broke bars of wood, but you’re to make bars of iron’. 14Because Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, has said this: ‘I’m putting an iron yoke on the neck of all these nations so that they serve Nebukadne’tstsar king of Babel. They will serve him; even the creatures of the wild I am giving him’”’. 15Jeremiah the prophet said to Hananyah the prophet, ‘Please listen, Hananyah. Yahweh hasn’t sent you, and you’re one who has made this people trust in falsehood. 16Therefore Yahweh has said this: “Here am I; I’m going to send you off from on the face of the land. This year you’re going to die, because you’ve spoken of defiance toward Yahweh”’.

17Hananyah the prophet died that year in the seventh month.

## 29:1 Settle Down

1These are the words in a document that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the rest of the elders of the exile community, the priests, the prophets, and the entire people that Nebukadne’tstsar had exiled from Jerusalem to Babel 2(after King Yekonyah, the queen mother, the courtiers, the officials of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftworkers, and the smiths left Jerusalem), 3by the hand of El’asah ben Shaphan and Gemaryah ben Hilqiyyah, whom Tsidqiyyah king of Judah sent to Babel to Nebukadne’tstsar king of Babel.

4’Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, has said this to the entire exile community that I exiled from Jerusalem to Babel. “Build houses and live, plant gardens and eat their fruit. 6Take wives and have sons and daughters, take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, so they may have sons and daughters. Become many there; don’t become few. 7Seek the well-being of the town where I’ve exiled you; plead on its behalf with Yahweh, because in its well-being there will be well-being for you”.

8Because Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, has said this: “Your prophets who are among you and your diviners must not deceive you. You must not listen to your dreams that you’re dreaming. 9Because they’re prophesying to you falsely in my name; I didn’t sent them (Yahweh’s declaration)”.

10Because Yahweh has said this: “At the bidding of the fulfilment for Babel of seventy years I shall attend to you, and act for you on my word about good things, bringing you back to this place. 11Because I myself acknowledge the intentions that I’m formulating for you (Yahweh’s declaration), intentions for your well-being and not for bad things, to give you a future, a hope. 12You will call me and come and plead with me and I shall listen to you. 13You will seek me and find me if you inquire of me with your entire mind, 14and I’ll be able to be found by you (Yahweh’s declaration). I shall restore your fortunes, collect you from all the nations and from all the places where I’ve driven you (Yahweh’s declaration) and bring you back to the place from where I’ve exiled you”.

## 29:15 The Fate of False Prophets

15Because you have said, “Yahweh has set up prophets for us in Babel”. 16Rather, Yahweh has said this regarding the king who sits on David’s throne and the entire people that lives in this town, your brothers who haven’t gone out with you into exile – 17Yahweh Armies has said this: “Here am I; I’m going to send off against them sword, famine, and epidemic. I shall make them like horrible figs that may not be eaten because of being bad. 18I shall pursue them with sword, famine, and epidemic and make them a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth, a vow, a devastation, something to whistle at, and a reviling among all the nations where I drive them out, 19on account of the fact that they haven’t listened to my words (Yahweh’s declaration), in that I sent them my servants the prophets, starting early and sending. But you haven’t listened (Yahweh’s declaration). 20So you people, the entire exile community that I sent off from Jerusalem to Babel, listen to Yahweh’s word”.

21Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, has said this regarding Ah’ab ben Qolayah and regarding Tsidqiyyahu ben Ma‘aseyah who are prophesying to in my name: “Here am I; I’m going to give them into the hand of Nebukadre’tstsar king of Babel. He will strike them down in front of your eyes. 22A formula of slighting will be taken from them for the entire exile community of Judah in Babel: ‘May Yahweh make you like Tsidqiyyahu and like Ah’ab, whom the king of Babel roasted in fire, 23since they acted with villainy in Israel and both committed adultery with the wives of their neighbours and spoke a word in my name that was false, which I hadn’t ordered them’. I am the one who knows and who testifies (Yahweh’s declaration).

## 29:24 Get a Grip of That Madman

24And regarding Shemayahu the Nehelemite you’re to say: 25’Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, has said this: “Since you’re the one who has sent documents in your name to the entire people in Jerusalem, to Tsephanyah ben Ma‘aseyah the priest, and to all the priests, saying, 26’Yahweh has made you priest instead of Yehoyada the priest, so that there might be appointees in Yahweh’s house regarding anyone who’s mad and is prophesying, and you’re to put him into the stocks and into the neck iron: 27so now, why have you not reprimanded Jeremiah from Anatot who’s prophesying to you? 28Because on account of this he’s sent to us in Babel, saying, “It will be a long time. Build houses and live [there], plant gardens and eat their fruit”’”’.

29Tsephanyah the priest read this document out in the hearing of Jeremiah the prophet, 30and Yahweh’s word came to Jeremiah: 31’Send to the entire exile community, saying “Yahweh has said this regarding Shema’yah the Nehelemite: ‘Since Shema’yah has prophesied to you and I myself hadn’t sent him, and he’s got you to trust in falsehood, 32therefore Yahweh has said this: “Here am I; I’m going to attend to Shemayah the Nehelemite and to his offspring. He won’t have anyone living among this people and he won’t see the good things that I’m going to do for this people (Yahweh’s declaration), because he’s spoken of defiance against Yahweh”’”’.

30 The word that came to Jeremiah from Yahweh: 2’Yahweh, Israel’s God, has said this: “Write down for yourself all the words that I’ve spoken to you in a document. 3Because there, days are coming (Yahweh’s declaration) when I shall restore the fortunes of my people Israel and Judah”, Yahweh has said’.

## 30:4 Is a Man Giving Birth?

4So these are the words that Yahweh spoke concerning Israel and Judah. 5Because Yahweh had said this:

We’ve heard the sound of trembling,

dread, and lack of well-being.

6Please ask and see if a male is giving birth—

why have I seen every man

With his hands on his stomach like someone giving birth

and why have all faces turned to paleness?

7Hey, because that day is big,

so that there has been none like it.

It will be a time of pressure for Jacob,

but from it he will find deliverance.

8On that day (a declaration of Yahweh Armies):

I shall break his yoke from on your neck

and tear off your straps.

They won’t serve foreigners any more with it,

9but they will serve Yahweh their God,

And David their king,

whom I shall set up over them.

10So you, don’t be afraid, my servant Jacob (Yahweh’s declaration),

don’t shatter, Israel.

Because here am I; I’m going to deliver you from far away,

and your offspring from the country of their captivity.

Jacob will again be calm,

at peace with no one making him tremble.

11Because I am with you (Yahweh’s declaration) to deliver you,

because I shall make an end among all the nations

where I’ve scattered you,

Yet of you I won’t make an end,

though I discipline you in exercising authority

and don’t treat you as free of guilt.

12Because Yahweh has said this:

Your break is grave [Jerusalem],

your wound sickening.

13There’s no one giving a judgment about treatment;

there’s no healing, growing back, for you.

14All your allies have put you out of mind,

they don’t inquire of you.

Because I struck you down with an enemy’s blow,

the discipline of someone violent,

On account of the magnitude of your waywardness;

your wrongdoings were numerous.

15Why do you cry out because of your break,

that your injury is grave?

It was on account of the magnitude of your waywardness,

your wrongdoings were numerous,

that I did these things to you.

## 30:16 Compassion Has the Last Word

16Therefore all the people who are consuming you will be consumed,

and all your adversaries (all of them) will go into captivity.

Your despoilers will become spoil,

and all who plundered you I’ll give as plunder.

17Because I shall make restoration grow up for you

and I shall heal you of your wounds (Yahweh’s declaration).

Because they’ve called you ‘Outcast’,

‘It’s Zion; there’s no one inquiring about it’.

18Yahweh has said this:

Here am I, I’m going to restore the fortunes of Jacob’s tents,

and on his dwellings I shall have compassion.

A town will be built on its tell;

a citadel will sit on its authorized place.

19Thanksgiving will go out from them,

and the sound of people having fun.

I shall make them many and they won’t become few;

I shall make them honourable and they won’t become small.

20Its children will be as of old,

its assembly will stand established before me,

and I shall attend to all its oppressors.

21Its august one will come from within it

and its ruler will go out from within it.

I shall draw it near and it will come up to me,

because who is the one

who would have pledged his own mind to come up to me (Yahweh’s declaration)?

22So you will be a people for me

and I shall be God for you.

23There is Yahweh’s hurricane,

wrath has gone out!

A storm is raging,

on the head of the faithless it whirls!

24Yahweh’s angry blazing won’t turn back until he’s acted,

until he’s implemented the strategies in his mind;

at the end of the time you’ll understand it.

31 At that time (Yahweh’s declaration):

I shall be God for all Israel’s kin-groups

and they’ll be a people for me.

## 31:2 Mourning Becomes Celebration

2Yahweh said this:

The people found grace in the wilderness,

those who survived the sword.

As Israel went to find its rest,

3‘From afar Yahweh appeared to me’.

With permanent love I loved you;

therefore I’ve drawn you out with commitment.

4I shall build you up again so that you are built up,

Miss Israel.

You will again deck yourself with your tambourine

and go out in the dance of people having fun.

5You will again plant vineyards

on Shomron’s mountains;

planters will have planted and will begin to have the use of them.

6Because there will be a day

when lookouts call out on Ephrayim’s highland,

‘Set off so we may go up to Zion,

to Yahweh our God’.

7Because Yahweh has said this:

Resound with rejoicing for Jacob,

bellow at the nations’ crossroads.

Let them hear, exult, and say,

‘Yahweh, deliver your people,

the remainder of Israel!’

8Here am I; I’m going to bring them

from the northern country.

I shall collect them from the farthest reaches of the earth,

among them blind and lame,

Pregnant and giving birth, together;

a great congregation will come back here.

9With crying they’ll come,

and with prayers for grace I’ll bring them along.

I shall lead them to streams of water

by a straight way on which they won’t collapse.

Because I’ve been a father to Israel,

and Ephrayim is my firstborn.

10Listen to Yahweh’s word, you nations,

tell of it on shores far away:

The one who scattered Israel will collect it,

and keep it like a shepherd his flock.

11Because Yahweh is redeeming Jacob,

restoring it from a hand that’s too strong for it.

12They will come and resound on Zion’s height

and shine because of Yahweh’s good things,

Over grain and over new wine and over fresh oil,

over new-born of flock and cattle.

Their entire being will become like a watered garden;

they won’t sorrow ever again.

13Then a girl will rejoice with dancing,

young men and old together.

I shall turn their mourning into celebration,

comfort them and let them rejoice after their grief.

14I shall saturate the priests’ appetite with fat,

and my people will be full of my good things (Yahweh’s declaration).

## 31:15 Rachel Comforted

15Yahweh has said this:

A voice makes itself heard in Ramah,

lamentation, bitter crying.

Rachel is crying over her children;

she’s refused to find comfort over her children,

because they’re not there.

16Yahweh has said this:

Restrain your voice from crying

and your eyes from tears.

Because there will be a reward for your work (Yahweh’s declaration);

they will come back from the enemy’s country.

17There is hope for your future (Yahweh’s declaration);

your children will come back to their territory.

18I’ve heard, I’ve heard Ephrayim lamenting:

‘You’ve disciplined me and I’ve undergone discipline

like a calf that hadn’t been trained.

Have me back and I’ll turn back,

because you are Yahweh my God.

19Because after I turned back I repented;

after I came to acknowledge it I struck my thigh.

I was shamed, yes disgraced,

because I bore the insult of my youth’.

20Ephrayim is a dear son to me,

or a child in whom I took pleasure, isn’t he.

Because every time I speak against him,

I’m so mindful of him again.

That’s why my insides moan for him,

I have deep compassion for him (Yahweh’s declaration).

## 31:21 Sour Grapes

21Set up markers for yourself,

put up signposts for yourself.

Give your mind to the causeway,

the way you went.

Come back, Miss Israel,

come back to these towns of yours.

22How long will you waver,

daughter who’s turned back?

Because Yahweh has created something new in the country:

a woman surrounds a man.

23Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, has said this:

They will again say this thing

in the country of Judah and in its towns,

when I restore their fortunes:

‘May Yahweh bless you,

faithful abode, sacred mountain’.

24Judah and all its towns together will dwell in it as farmers,

and people will go about with the flock.

25Because I’m saturating the weary person

and filling everyone who languishes.

26Upon this I woke up and looked,

and my sleep had been nice for me.

27“There, days are coming (Yahweh’s declaration) when I shall sow Israel’s house and Judah’s household with human seed and animal seed. 28As I was watchful over them to uproot, to demolish, to tear down, to obliterate, and to deal badly, so I’ll be watchful over them to build and to plant (Yahweh’s declaration).

29In those days they will no longer say, ‘The parents ate sour grapes but the children’s teeth feel rough’. 30Rather, each person will die for his waywardness. Everyone who eats sours grapes, his teeth will feel rough.

## 31:31 The Power of Being Forgiven

31There, days are coming (Yahweh’s declaration) when I shall solemnize with Israel’s household and with Judah’s household a new pact, 32not like the pact that I solemnized with your ancestors on the day I took strong hold of them by the hand to get them out of the country of Egypt, my pact which they contravened, though I was master over them (Yahweh’s declaration). 33Because this is the pact that I shall solemnize with Israel’s household after those days (Yahweh’s declaration). I’m putting my instruction inside them and I shall write it on their mind; and I’ll be God for them and they’ll be a people for me. 34They will no longer teach each person his neighbour and each his brother, saying ‘Acknowledge Yahweh’, because all of them will acknowledge me from the least of them to the biggest of them (Yahweh’s declaration), because I shall pardon their waywardness and their wrongdoing I shall not keep in mind anymore’.

35Yahweh has said this

(the one who gives the sun as light by day,

the laws of the moon and stars as light by night,

Who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—

Yahweh Armies is his name):

36If these laws move away from before me (Yahweh’s declaration),

Israel’s offspring may also cease

from being a nation for all time.

37Yahweh has said this:

If the heavens above may be measured

and earth’s foundations below be explored,

Also I may reject the entire offspring of Israel

for what they’ve done (Yahweh’s declaration).

38There, days are coming (Yahweh’s declaration) when the town will be built up for Yahweh from the Hanan’el Tower to the Corner Gate, 39and the measuring line will go out again straight to Gareb Hill and turn to Go’ah. 40The entire vale (corpses and ashes) and all the open country as far as Wadi Qidron and as far as the Horses Gate on the east will be sacred for Yahweh. It won’t be uprooted or torn down again ever.

## 32:1 On Putting Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

32 The word that came to Jeremiah from Yahweh in the tenth year of Tsidqiyyahu king of Judah (it was the eighteenth year of Nebukadre’tstsar). 2The king of Babel’s force were then besieging Jerusalem, while Jeremiah the prophet was confined in the prison courtyard at the king of Judah’s house, 3where Tsidqiyyahu king of Judah had confined him, saying ‘Why are you prophesying, “Yahweh has said this: ‘Here am I; I’m going to give this town into the hand of the king of Babel, and he’ll capture it. 4Tsidqiyyahu king of Judah won’t escape from the hand of the Kasdites because he’ll definitely be given into the hand of the king of Babel (his mouth will speak to his mouth, his eyes will see his eyes). 5He’ll make Tsidqiyyahu go to Babel, and he’ll be there until I attend to him (Yahweh’s declaration). When you do battle with the Kasdites, you won’t succeed’”’.

6Jeremiah said, ‘Yahweh’s word came to me: 7”Here, Hanam’el ben Shallum your uncle is going to come to you, saying, ‘Acquire for yourself my field which is in Anatot, because the ruling about restoration belongs to you, so as to acquire it’”.

8So Hanam’el my uncle’s son came to me in accordance with Yahweh’s word, to the prison courtyard, and said to me, “Please acquire my field which is in Anatot in the region of Benjamin, because the ruling about possession belongs to you and the restoration belongs to you; acquire it for yourself”. So I knew that it was Yahweh’s word.9I acquired the field from Hanam’el my uncle’s son, which is in Anatot, and I weighed out the silver to him, seventeen sheqels of silver. 10I wrote in a document, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the silver on scales. 11I took the acquisition document, the sealed one (the order and the laws) and the open one, 12and gave the acquisition document to Baruk ben Nerayyah son of Mahseyah before the eyes of Hanam’el my cousin and of the witnesses inscribed in the acquisition document and of all the Judahites sitting in the prison courtyard.

## 32:13 Are You Asking Something Crazy of Me?

13I ordered Baruk before their eyes, 14”Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, has said this: ‘Take these documents, this acquisition document (both the sealed one and this open document) and put them in an earthen container so that they may stand for a long time’”. 15Because Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, has said this: “Houses, fields, and vineyards will again be acquired in this country”.

16I pleaded with Yahweh after giving the acquisition document to Baruk ben Nerayyah: 17”Oh, Lord Yahweh! There – you made the heavens and the earth by your great energy and your bent arm. Nothing is too extraordinary for you, 18one who acts with commitment to thousands but makes good for the waywardness of parents into the lap of their children after them: big strong man God (Yahweh is his name), 19big in counsel and mighty in deed, you whose eyes are open to all the ways of human beings to give to each person in accordance with his ways and in accordance with the fruit of his practices, 20who put down signs and portents in the country of Egypt to this day, and in Israel and among humanity, and made a name for yourself this very day. 21You got your people Israel out of the country of Egypt with signs and portents and with a strong hand and a bent arm and with great fearfulness. 22You gave them this country that you swore to their ancestors to give them, a country flowing with milk and syrup. 23They came and possessed it, but they didn’t listen to your voice or walk by your instruction.

All that you ordered them to do, they didn’t do. So you’ve made all this bad fortune happen to them. 24There – ramps have come to the town to capture it, and the town is being given into the hand of the Kasdites who are doing battle against it, in the face of sword, famine, and epidemic. What you said has happened. There you are, looking.

25And now you’ve said to me, Lord Yahweh, ‘Acquire the field for yourself with silver and get witnesses’, when this town is given into the hand of the Kasdites!”’

## 32:26 Is Anything Too Extraordinary for Yahweh?

26Yahweh’s word came to Jeremiah: 27’Here am I, Yahweh, the God of all flesh. Is anything too extraordinary for me?’ 28Therefore Yahweh has said this: ‘Here am I; I’m going to give this town into the hand of the Kasdites and into the hand of Nebukadre’tstsar king of Babel, and he will capture it. 29The Kasdites who are doing battle against this town will come and set this town on fire and burn it, with the houses where people burned incense on the roofs to the Master and poured drink offerings to other gods, so as to provoke me.

30Because the Israelites and the Judahites have been doing only what is bad in my eyes from their youth, because the Israelites have only been provoking me by the things that their hands made (Yahweh’s declaration). 31Because this town became a cause of my anger and a cause of my wrath to me from the day that they built it until this day, so that I must remove it from before me, 32on account of all the bad dealing of the Israelites and the Judahites which they dealt so as to provoke me, they, their kings, their officials, their priests, their prophets, Judah’s people, and Jerusalem’s inhabitants. 33They turned their back and not their face to me; when I taught them, starting early and teaching, there were none of them listening so as to accept discipline.

34They put their abominations in the house over which my name has been called out, to defile it, 35and they built up the shrines of the Master in the Ben-hinnom Ravine to make their sons and their daughters pass through the fire to the Shameful King, which I didn’t order them (it didn’t come into my mind) to do this offensive thing, so as to cause Judah to do wrong’.

## 32:36 Land Will Be Acquired Again

36But now therefore Yahweh, Israel’s God, says this concerning this town of which you’re saying, ‘It’s given into the hand of the king of Babel by sword, by famine, and by epidemic’: 37’Here am I; I’m going to collect them from all the countries where I’ve driven them in my anger and wrath and great fury, and bring them back to this place and let them live with confidence. 38They’ll be a people for me and I’ll be God for them. 39I’ll give them a single mind and a single way, to live in awe of me all the days, so that things will be good for them and for their children after them.

40I shall solemnize for them a permanent pact that I won’t turn back from them, and I shall do good to them. I shall put awe for me in their mind so that they don’t turn away from me. 41I shall have delight toward them, in doing good to them. I shall plant them in this country in truth, with all my mind and soul’.

42Because Yahweh has said this: ‘As I have brought to this people all this great bad fortune, so I’m going to bring on them all the good things that I’m speaking about. 43A field will be acquired in this country of which you’re saying, “It’s a desolation, without human being or animal; it’s given into the hand of the Kasdites”. 44People will acquire fields for silver and write it in a document and seal it and get witnesses, in Benjamin’s region, in Jerusalem’s environs, in Judah’s towns, in the towns in the highland, in the towns in the foothills, and in the towns in the Negeb. Because I shall restore their fortunes (Yahweh’s declaration)’.

## 33:1 Expect Great Things

33 Yahweh’s word came to Jeremiah a second time, while he was still detained in the prison courtyard: 2’Yahweh has said this (Yahweh is going to do it, he’s going to form it, he is going to make sure of it – Yahweh is his name): 3”Call to me and I shall answer, and tell you great things, secret things that you haven’t known”.

4Because Yahweh, Israel’s God, has said this about the houses in this town and about the houses of Judah’s kings that were torn down in connection with the ramps and the sword: 5“People are coming to do battle with the Kasdites – and to fill them with the corpses of the people that I will have struck down in my anger and my wrath, in that I’ve hidden my face from this town because of all their bad dealing.

6Here am I, I’m going to make recovery and healing grow up for it. I shall heal and reveal to them abundance of well-being and truth. 7I shall restore Judah’s fortunes and Israel’s fortunes and build them up as before. 8I shall purify them from all their waywardness with which they did wrong to me, and I shall pardon all their wayward acts with which they did wrong to me and rebelled against me. 9For me it will mean a name to celebrate, and praise and splendour, for all the nations of the earth that hear of all the good things that I’m going to do with them, and they will be in awe and will shiver because of all the good things and all the well-being that I’m going to do for it’.

10Yahweh has said this: ‘A voice will make itself heard in this place of which you’re saying, ‘It’s desolate, without human being, without animal, in Judah’s towns and in Jerusalem’s devastated courtyards, without human being, without animal’, 11the voice of joy and of celebration, the voice of groom and of bride, the voice of people saying, ‘Confess Yahweh Armies, because Yahweh is good, because his commitment lasts permanently’, bringing a thank-offering to Yahweh’s house, because I shall restore the country’s fortunes as before (Yahweh has said)’.

## 33:12 Expect Great Things

12Yahweh Armies has said this: ‘In this place, desolate, without human being or animal, and in all its towns, there will again be an abode for shepherds resting a flock. 13In the mountain towns, in the lowland towns, in the Negeb towns, in Benjamin’s country, in Jerusalem’s environs, and in Judah’s towns, sheep will again pass under the hands of the one counting (Yahweh has said). 14There, days are coming (Yahweh’s declaration) when I shall act on the good word that I spoke concerning Israel’s household and Judah’s household.

15In those days and at that time I shall grow for David a faithful branch, and he will implement authority and faithfulness in the country. 16In those days Judah will find deliverance, and Jerusalem will dwell with confidence, and this is what it will be called: ‘Yahweh is our faithfulness’’. 17Because Yahweh has said this: ‘There will not be cut off from David someone sitting on the throne of Israel’s household. 18And from the priests, the Levites, there will not be cut off someone before me offering up the whole offering and burning the grain offering and performing the sacrifice, for all time’.

19Yahweh’s word came to Jeremiah: 20’Yahweh has said this: “If you people can contravene my pact about the day and my pact about the night so that there’s no day and night at their time, 21also my pact with David my servant may be contravened so that there’s no son for him reigning on his throne, and with the Levites, the priests, ministering to me. 22As the heavens’ army cannot be counted and the sea’s sand cannot be measured, so I shall multiply the offspring of David my servant and the Levites who minister to me”’.

23Yahweh’s word came to Jeremiah: 24’You’ve seen what this people have spoken haven’t you, “The two kin-groups that Yahweh chose – he’s rejected them”? They’ve despised my people so that they are no longer a nation before them’. 25Yahweh has said this: ‘If I haven’t laid down my pact about day and night, the laws about the heavens and the earth, 26also the offspring of Jacob and the offspring of David my servant may be rejected so as not to take from its offspring rulers for the offspring of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Because I shall restore their fortunes and have compassion on them’.

## 34:1 A Covenant for Freedom

34 The word that came to Jeremiah from Yahweh, when Nebukadre’tstsar king of Babel, and his entire force, and all the kingdoms of the earth ruled by his hand and all the peoples, were battling against Jerusalem and against all its towns:

2’Yahweh, Israel’s God, has said this: “Go and say to Tsidqiyyahu king of Judah: ‘Yahweh has said this: “Here am I, I’m going to give this town into the hand of the king of Babel, and he will burn it in fire. 3You yourself won’t escape from his hand, because you’ll definitely be seized and be given into his hand. Your eyes will see the eyes of the king of Babel. His mouth will speak to your mouth. You will come to Babel”. 4Yet listen to Yahweh’s word, Tsidqiyyahu king of Judah. Yahweh has said this about you: “You will not die by the sword. 5You will die with things being well. In accordance with the burning [of incense] for your ancestors, the earlier kings who were before you, so people will burn it for you. ‘Oh, lord’, they will lament for you, because I myself have spoken the word (Yahweh’s declaration)”’”’. 6Jeremiah the prophet spoke all these words in Jerusalem to Tsidqiyyahu king of Judah 7while the king of Babel’s force were battling against Jerusalem and against all Judah’s towns that were left, with Lakish and Azeqah, because these remained among Judah’s towns as fortified towns.

8The word that came to Jeremiah from Yahweh after King Tsidqiyyahu solemnized a pact with the entire people that was in Jerusalem to call to them for a release, 9for each one to send off his servant and each one his maidservant, the Hebrew man and the Hebrew woman, as free persons, so that they wouldn’t serve them, an individual Judahite his brother. 10All the officials and the entire people that came into the pact obeyed by each one sending off his servant and each one his maidservant as free persons, so that they wouldn’t serve them anymore.

## 34:10 The People Who Had Prayed a Dangerous Prayer

10bSo they obeyed and sent them off, 11but afterward they turned back and got back the servants and the maidservants whom they had sent off as free persons, and subjugated them as servants and maidservants.

12Yahweh’s word came to Jeremiah from Yahweh: 13’Yahweh, Israel’s God, has said this: “I myself solemnized a pact with your ancestors on the day I got them out of the country of Egypt, out of a household of servants, saying, 14’At the end of seven years you’re to send off, each one, his Hebrew brother who has sold himself to you and served you for six years; you’re to send him off as a free man from being with you’. Your ancestors didn’t listen to me; they didn’t bend their ear. 15Just now you yourselves turned back and did what was right in my eyes by calling for a release, each one to his neighbour, and you solemnized a pact before me in the house over which my name has been called out. 16But you’ve turned back and profaned my name; you’ve got back each one his servant and each one his maidservant whom you sent off as free persons to live their life, and you’ve subjugated them as servants and as maidservants to you”.

17Therefore Yahweh has said this: “You haven’t listened to me by calling for a release, each one to his brother, each to his neighbour. Here am I, I’m going to call for a release to you (Yahweh’s declaration) – to sword, to epidemic, and to famine. I’m going to make you a horror to all earth’s kingdoms. 18I’m going to make the people who are transgressing my pact, who haven’t acted on the words in the pact that they solemnized before me, into the calf that they cut into two and passed between its parts: 19Judah’s officials and Jerusalem’s officials, the courtiers, the priests, and the entire people of the country who passed between the parts of the calf.

## 34:20 The Tempting

20So I shall give them into the hand of their enemies, into the hand of those who seek their life. Their corpse will be food for the birds of the heavens and for the animals of the earth. 21Tsidqiyyahu king of Judah and his officials I shall give into the hand of their enemies, into the hand of those who seek their life, into the hand of the king of Babel’s force who are pulling up from you. 22Here am I, I’m going to give an order (Yahweh’s declaration) and I shall bring them back to this town. They will do battle against it and capture it and burn it with fire, and Judah’s towns I shall make a desolation without inhabitant”’.

35 The word that came to Jeremiah from Yahweh in the days of Yehoyaqim ben Yoshiyyahu king of Judah: 2’Go to the Rekabites’ house and speak with them, and bring them to Yahweh’s house to one of the halls and get them to drink wine’.

3So I got Ya’azanyah ben Yirmeyahu son of Habatstsinyah, his brothers, all his sons, and the entire household of the Rekabites 4and brought them to Yahweh’s house to the hall of the sons of Hanan ben Yigdalyahu, the supernatural man, which was near the officials’ hall, which was above the hall of Ma‘aseyahu ben Shallum, the guard of the threshold. 5I put in front of the members of the Rekabites’ household bowls full of wine and cups, and said to them, ‘Drink wine’. 6They said, ‘We won’t drink wine, because Yonadab ben Rekab our ancestor ordered us, “You’re not to drink wine, you or your descendants permanently.7You’re not to build a house, you’re not to sow seed, you’re not to plant a vineyard. They won’t be for you. Rather, you’re to live in tents all your days, so you may live for many days on the face of the land where you’re residing”’.

## 35:8 Witnessing by Your Obedience to Your Special Vocation

8We’ve obeyed the voice of Yehonadab ben Rekab our ancestor regarding all he ordered us, not to drink wine all our days, we, our wives, our sons, and our daughters, 9and not to build houses for us to live in; and we don’t have vineyard or field or seed. 10We’ve lived in tents and obeyed, and acted in accordance with all that Yonadab our ancestor ordered us. 11But when Nebukadre’tstsar king of Babel went up against the country we said, “Come on, we’ll come into Jerusalem in the face of the Kasdite force and in face of the Aramean force”. So we’ve lived in Jerusalem’.

12Yahweh’s word came to Jeremiah: 13’Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, has said this: “Go and say to Judah’s people and to Jerusalem’s inhabitants: ‘Won’t you accept discipline by listening to my words (Yahweh’s declaration)? 14It has been implemented, the words of Yehonadab ben Rekab which he ordered his descendants, not to drink wine. They haven’t drunk up until this day because they’ve obeyed their ancestor’s order. But I myself have spoken to you, starting early and speaking, but you haven’t obeyed me.15I’ve sent to you all my servants the prophets, starting early and sending them, saying “Will you turn back, each one, from his bad way and make your deeds good, and not follow other gods so as to serve them, and you will live on the land that I gave to you and to your ancestors”, but you haven’t bent your ear, you haven’t obeyed me. 16Because the descendants of Yehonadab ben Rekab have implemented the order of their ancestor which he gave them, but this people – they haven’t obeyed me’”’.

17Therefore Yahweh, God of Armies, Israel’s God, has said this: ‘Here am I, I’m going to bring to Judah and to all Jerusalem’s inhabitants all the bad fortune of which I spoke against them, since I spoke to them and they haven’t listened, I called to them and they haven’t answered’. 18But to the household of the Rekabites Jeremiah said, ‘Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, has said this: “Since you obeyed the order of Yehonadab your ancestor and kept all his orders and acted in accordance with all that he ordered you, 19therefore Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, has said this: ‘There shall not be cut off for Yonadab ben Rekab someone standing before me for all time’”’.

## 36:1 The Scroll

36 In the fourth year of Yehoyaqim ben Yoshiyyahu king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from Yahweh: 2’Get yourself a document scroll and write in it all the words that I’ve spoken to you about Israel, about Judah, and about all the nations from the day I spoke to you (from the days of Yoshiyyahu) until this day. 3Perhaps Judah’s household will listen to all the bad things that I’m intending to do to them, so they may turn back each one from his bad way and I may pardon their waywardness and their wrongdoing’.

4So Jeremiah called Baruk ben Neriyyah, and Baruk wrote from Jeremiah’s mouth all Yahweh’s words that he’d spoken to him, on a document scroll. 5Jeremiah ordered Baruk, ‘I’m under constraint; I can’t come to Yahweh’s house. 6You’re to come and read out in the scroll that you’ve written from my mouth, the words from Yahweh, in the ears of the people at Yahweh’s house on a fast day, and you’re also to read them in the ears of all Judah who come from their towns. 7Perhaps their prayer for grace will fall before Yahweh and they’ll turn back each one from his bad way, because Yahweh’s anger and wrath are great, of which he’s spoken concerning this people’.

8Baruk ben Neriyyah acted in accordance with all that Jeremiah the prophet ordered him, by reading out in the scroll Yahweh’s words at Yahweh’s house. 9In the fifth year of Yehoyaqim ben Yoshiyyahu king of Judah, in the ninth month, they called for a fast before Yahweh, the entire people in Jerusalem and the entire people coming from Judah’s towns into Jerusalem. 10Baruk read in the scroll Jeremiah’s words at Yahweh’s house in the hall of Gemaryahu ben Shaphan the secretary, in the upper courtyard at the entrance of the new gateway of Yahweh’s house, in the ears of the entire people.

## 36:11 The Bold Miscalculation

11Mikayehu ben Gemaryahu son of Shaphan listened to all Yahweh’s words from the scroll, 12and went down to the king’s house to the secretary’s hall. There, all the officials were sitting there: Elishama the secretary, Delayahu ben Shema’yahu, Elnatan ben Akbor, Gemaryahu ben Shaphan, Tsidqiyyahu ben Hananyahu, and all the officials. 13Mikayehu told them all the words that he’d heard when Baruk read out in the document in the people’s ears.

14All the officials sent Yehudi ben Netanyahu son of Shelemyahu son of Kushi to Baruk, saying, ‘The scroll in which you read out in the people’s ears – will you get it in your hand and get going’. So Baruk ben Nirayyahu got the scroll in his hand and came to them. 15They said to him, ‘Sit down, please, and read it out in our ears’. Baruk read it out in their ears. 16When they heard all the words, they were fearful, each toward his neighbour. They said to Baruk, ‘We must definitely tell the king all these words’. 17They asked Baruk, ‘Please tell us how you wrote all these words from his mouth’. 18Baruk said to them, ‘From his mouth he called out to me all these words and I was writing them in the document in ink’. 19The officials said to Baruk, ‘Go hide, you and Jeremiah. No one is to know where you are’. 20They came to the king in the courtyard; the scroll they deposited in Elishama the secretary’s hall, but they told in the king’s ears all the words.

21The king sent Yehudi to get the scroll, and he got it from Elishama the secretary’s hall. Yehudi read it out in the king’s ears and in the ears of all the officials standing in attendance on the king. 22The king was sitting in the winter house (in the ninth month) with the firepot before him, burning. 23As Yehudi read out three or four columns, he would cut it with a secretary’s knife and throw it into the fire that was in the firepot until the entire scroll was finished in the fire that was in the firepot.

## 36:24 Yet More Words

24So they weren’t fearful and they didn’t tear their clothes, the king and all his servants who heard all these words, 25even though Elnatan, Delayyahu, and Gemaryahu entreated the king not to burn the scroll; he didn’t listen to them. 26The king ordered Yerahme’el the king’s son, Serayahu ben Azri’el, and Shelemyahu ben Abde’el, to get Baruk the secretary and Jeremiah the prophet, but Yahweh hid them.

27Yahweh’s word came to Jeremiah after the king burned the scroll with the words that Baruk wrote from Jeremiah’s mouth: 28’Get yourself yet another scroll, and write on it all the earlier words that were on the earlier scroll that Yehoyaqim king of Judah burned. 29About Yehoyaqim king of Judah you’re to say, “Yahweh has said this: ‘You—you burned this scroll, saying, “Why have you written on it, ‘The king of Babel will definitely come and devastate this country and eliminate from it human beings and animals’?” 30Therefore Yahweh has said this about Yehoyaqim king of Judah: ‘He will not have someone sitting on David’s throne, and his corpse will be thrown out to the heat by day and to the cold by night. 31I shall attend to their waywardness for him, for his offspring, and for his servants, and bring on them, on Jerusalem’s inhabitants, and on Judah’s people all the bad fortune of which I spoke in connection with them, but they didn’t listen’”’.

32So Jeremiah got another scroll and gave it to Baruk ben Neriyyahu the secretary, and he wrote on it from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words on the document that Yehoyaqim king of Judah burned in the fire. There were also added to them many words like them.

## 37:1 The King Who Vacillates

1King Tsidqiyyahu ben Yoshiyyahu became king in place of Konyahu ben Yehoyaqim; Nebukadre’tstsar king of Babel made him king in the country of Judah. 2He didn’t listen, he or his servants or the people of the country, to Yahweh’s words which he spoke by means of Jeremiah the prophet.

3But King Tsidqiyyahu sent Yehukal ben Shelemyah and Tsephanyahu ben Ma‘aseyah the priest to Jeremiah the prophet to say, ‘Will you plead on our behalf with Yahweh our God?’ (4when Jeremiah was coming in and going out among the people and they hadn’t put him into a place of confinement, 5and when Pharaoh’s force had come out from Egypt, and the Kasdites who were besieging Jerusalem had heard the report about them and had pulled up from Jerusalem).

6Yahweh’s word came to Jeremiah the prophet: 7’Yahweh, Israel’s God, has said this: “This is what you people should say to the king of Judah who’s sending you to me to inquire of me. ‘There, Pharaoh’s force that are coming out to you to help you will go back to their country, to Egypt. 8The Kasdites will come back and will do battle against this town, capture it, and burn it in fire”.

9Yahweh has said this: “Don’t deceive yourselves by saying, ‘The Kasdites will certainly go from against us’, because they won’t go. 10If you struck down the entire force of the Kasdites who are doing battle with you, and people who were thrust through remained among them, each in his tent, they’d get up and burn this town in fire”’.

## 37:11 Until the Bread Runs Out

11When the Kasdite force pulled up from Jerusalem in the face of Pharaoh’s force, 12Jeremiah went out from Jerusalem to go to the region of Benjamin to divide a share there among the people. 13When he was at the Benjamin Gate, a master over the appointment was there; his name was Yir’iyyah ben Shelemyah son of Hananyah. He seized Jeremiah the prophet, saying, ‘You’re going over to the Kasdites’. 14Jeremiah said, ‘It’s a falsehood. I’m not going over to the Kasdites’, but he didn’t listen to him. Yir’iyyah seized Jeremiah and brought him to the officials. 15The officials were furious at Jeremiah, struck him down, and put him in the prison house, the house of Yehonatan the secretary, because they had made it into the jail house.

16When Jeremiah had come to the cistern house and to the cells, and Jeremiah had lived there for many days, 17King Tsidqiyyahu sent and got him, and the king asked him in his house in secret, ‘Is there a word from Yahweh?’ Jeremiah said, ‘There is’, and said, ‘You’ll be given into the hand of the king of Babel’.

18And Jeremiah said to King Tsidqiyyahu, ‘What have I done wrong to you, to your servants, and to this people, that you’ve put me into the jail house? 19And where are your prophets who prophesied to you, “The king of Babel won’t come against you or against this country?” 20So now listen please, my lord king; may my plea for grace please fall to you. Don’t send me back to the house of Yehonatan the secretary, so I don’t die there’. 21King Tsidqiyyahu gave an order and they placed Jeremiah in the prison courtyard, and gave him a loaf of bread per day from the bakers’ street until all the bread came to an end from the town. So Jeremiah lived in the prison courtyard.

## 38:1 The King Can’t Prevail

1Shephatyah ben Mattan, Gedalyahu ben Pashhur, Yukal ben Shelemyahu, and Pashhur ben Malkiyyah heard the words that Jeremiah was speaking to the entire people: 2’Yahweh has said this: “The person who lives in this town will die by sword, by famine, or by epidemic, but the one who goes out to the Kasdites will live. His life will be his as a trophy. He’ll live”. 3Yahweh has said this: “This town will certainly be given into the hand of the king of Babel’s force and he’ll capture it”’.

4The officials said to the king, ‘This man should please be put to death, because by this means he’s slackening the hands of the men of battle who remain in this town, and the hands of the entire people, by speaking to them in accordance with these words, because this man isn’t seeking the well-being of this people, but something bad’. 5King Tsidqiyyahu said, ‘There, he’s in your hand, because the king can’t prevail against you in a thing’. 6So they got Jeremiah and threw him into the cistern of Malkiyyahu the king’s son, which was in the prison courtyard. They put Jeremiah in with ropes. There was no water in the cistern, but only mud. So Jeremiah sank into the mud.

7Ebed-melek the Sudanese, a courtier who was in the king’s household, heard that they’d put Jeremiah in the cistern. The king was sitting at the Benjamin Gate, 8so Ebed-melek went out from the king’s house and spoke to the king: 9’My lord king, these men have dealt badly in all they’ve done to Jeremiah the prophet, whom they’ve thrown into the pit. He’s dead in this place from hunger, because there’s no more bread in the town’. 10So the king ordered Ebed-melek the Sudanese, ‘Get thirty people from here with you and pull Jeremiah the prophet up from the cistern before he dies’.

## 38:11 The Rescue

11Ebed-melek got the men with him and came to the king’s house to below the treasury. He got from there old rags and old clothes and sent them to Jeremiah in the pit by the ropes. 12Ebed-melek the Sudanese said to Jeremiah, ‘Put the old rags and clothes under your armpits, please, under the ropes’. Jeremiah did so. 13They drew Jeremiah up by the ropes and got him up from the cistern. So Jeremiah lived in the prison courtyard.

14King Tsidqiyyahu sent and got Jeremiah the prophet to him at the third entrance in Yahweh’s house. The king said to Jeremiah, ‘I’m going to ask you something; don’t hide anything from me’. 15Jeremiah said to Tsidqiyyahu, ‘When I tell you, won’t you definitely put me to death? And when I counsel you, you won’t listen to me’. 16King Tsidqiyyahu swore to Jeremiah in secret, ‘As Yahweh lives, who made this life for us, if I put you to death or if I give you into the hand of these people who are seeking your life…’

17So Jeremiah said to Tsidqiyyahu, ‘Yahweh, God of Armies, Israel’s God, has said this: “If you do go out to the king of Babel’s officers, you yourself will live, and this town won’t be burned with fire. You and your household will live. 18But if you don’t go out to the king of Babel’s officers, this town will be given into the hand of the Kasdites. They will burn it with fire and you won’t escape from their hand’. 19King Tsidqiyyahu said to Jeremiah, ‘I’m afraid of the Judahites who’ve submitted to the Kasdites, in case they give me over into their hand and they deal abusively with me’.

## 38:20 Don’t Tell Anyone

20Jeremiah said, ‘They won’t give you over. Please listen to Yahweh’s voice, to what I’m speaking to you, so he may do good things for you and you yourself may live. 21But if you refuse to go out, this is the word that Yahweh has shown me. 22There – all the women who remain in the king of Judah’s household are going to be taken out to the officers of the king of Babel, and there, they’re going to say,

The people who were your friends

have incited you and prevailed over you.

Your feet are stuck in the mire;

they’ve turned away back.

23They’re going to take out all your women and children to the Kasdites, and you won’t escape from their hand, because you’ll be seized by the king of Babel’s hand, and you will burn this town in fire’.

24Tsidqiyyahu said to Jeremiah, ‘No one is to know of these words, and you won’t die. 25But when the officials hear that I’ve spoken with you and they come to you and say to you, “Tell us, please, what you spoke to the king. Don’t hide it from us and we won’t put you to death. And what did the king speak to you?” 26you’re to say to them, “I was letting my plea for grace fall before the king, not to send me back to the house of Yehonatan to die there”’.

27All the officials came to Jeremiah and asked him, and he told them in accordance with all these words that the king had ordered him. So they left off from speaking with him, because the thing hadn’t been audible.

28Jeremiah lived in the prison courtyard until the day when Jerusalem was captured.

## 38:28 The Grimmest Scene in the Old Testament?

28bWhen Jerusalem was captured.

39 In the ninth year of Tsidqiyyahu king of Judah, in the tenth month, Nebukadre’tstsar king of Babel and his entire force came to Jerusalem and besieged it. 2In the eleventh year of Tsidqiyyahu, in the fourth month, on the ninth of the month, the town was broken open. 3All the officers of the king of Babel came and sat in the Middle Gate – Nergal Sar-etser, Samgar-nebu, Sar-sekim the head courtier, Nergal Sar-etser the head official, and all the remainder of the king of Babel’s officers.

4When Tsidqiyyahu king of Judah and all the men of battle saw them, they fled. They went out by night from the town by the king’s garden road, through the gateway between the double wall. He went out on the steppe road. 5The Kasdite force pursued after them and overtook Tsidqiyyahu in the Jericho steppes. They captured him and took him up to Nebukadre’tstsar king of Babel at Riblah in the country of Hamat, and he announced rulings with him. 6The king of Babel slaughtered Tsidqiyyahu’s sons at Riblah before his eyes, and the king of Babel slaughtered all the important people in Judah. 7He blinded Tsidqiyyahu’s eyes and shackled him in copper chains to bring him to Babel.

8The king’s house and the people’s housing the Kasdites burned in fire, and Jerusalem’s walls they demolished. 9The rest of the people who remained in the town and the people who had submitted to him and the rest of the people who remained, Nebuzar-adan the head of the guards took into exile to Babel. 10Some of the people who were poor, who had nothing, Nebuzar’adan the head of the guards left remaining in the country of Judah, and gave them vineyards and fields on that day.

## 39:11 What Will Happen to Jeremiah?

11Nebukadre’tstsar king of Babel gave order regarding Jeremiah by means of Nebuzar’adan the head of the guards: 12’Get him and keep your eyes on him and don’t do anything bad to him. Rather, as he speaks to you, so do with him’. 13Then sent Nebuzar’adan the head of the guards, Nebushazban the head courtier, Nergal Sar-etser the head officer, and all the heads of the king of Babel – 14they sent and got Jeremiah from the prison courtyard and gave him over to Gedalyahu ben Ahiqam son of Shaphan to let him go out to a house. So he lived among the people.

15A word from Yahweh had come to Jeremiah while he was confined in the prison courtyard: 16’Go and say to Ebed-melek the Sudanese: “Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, has said this: ‘Here am I, I’m going to bring about my words regarding this town for bad fortune and not for good. They will come about before you on that day. 17But I shall rescue you on that day (Yahweh’s declaration) and you will not be given into the hand of the people that you’re afraid of. 18Because I shall definitely save you. You will not fall by the sword. Your life will be yours as a trophy, because you’ve relied on me (Yahweh’s declaration)’”’.

40 The word that came to Jeremiah from Yahweh after Nebuzar’adan the head of the guards sent him off from The Height, where he’d taken him (he was shackled in chains) among the exile community from Jerusalem and Judah, who were being exiled to Babel. 2The head of the guards took Jeremiah and said to him, ‘It was Yahweh your God who spoke of this bad fortune for this place, 3and he’s brought it about. Yahweh has done as he spoke, because you people did wrong to Yahweh and didn’t listen to his voice. So this thing has happened to you.

## 40:4 What Will Happen to Jeremiah?

4But now, here: I’m releasing you yourself today from the chains that are on your hand. If it’s good in your eyes to come with me to Babel, come, and I’ll have my eye on you. But if it’s bad in your eyes to come with me to Babel, leave off. Look, all the country is before you. Regarding what is good and what is right in your eyes to go, go there’. 5Still he wouldn’t go back. ‘Or go back to Gedalyah ben Ahiqam son of Shaphan whom the king of Babel has appointed over Judah’s towns and live with him among the people. Or go anywhere that’s right in your eyes to go’. The head of the guards gave him provisions and goods and sent him off. 6So Jeremiah came to Gedalyah ben Ahiqam at The Watchtower and lived with him among the people who remained in the country.

7All the officers in the forces that were in the open country, they and their men, heard that the king of Babel had appointed Gedalyahu ben Ahiqam over the country and that he’d appointed with him the men, the women, the children, and those of the poor people of the country who hadn’t been exiled to Babel. 8They came to Gedalyah at The Watchtower – Yishma’el ben Netanyahu, Yohanan and Yonatan the sons of Qare’ah, Serayah ben Tanhumet, the sons of Ephay the Netophatite, and Yezanyahu the son of the Ma‘akatite, they and their men. 9Gedalyahu ben Ahiqam son of Shaphan let it be heard by them and by their men, ‘Don’t be afraid of serving the Kasdites. Go back into the country and serve the king of Babel and things will be good for you. 10I, here am I, I’m going to live in The Watchtower to serve before the Kasdites who come to us. You, gather up wine, summer fruit, and oil, put them in your containers, and live in the towns that you’ll have seized’.

## 40:11 The Fugitives Return

11All the Judahites who were in Mo’ab, among the Ammonites, in Edom, and those who were in all the countries also heard that the king of Babel had granted a remainder group to Judah and that he’d appointed over them Gedalyahu ben Ahiqam son of Shaphan, 12and all the Judahites came back from all the places where they had been driven. They came to the country of Judah to Gedalyahu at The Watchtower and gathered up wine and summer fruit, very much.

13Yohanan ben Qareah and all the officers in the forces that were in the open country came to Gedalyahu at The Watchtower 14and said to him, ‘Do you actually know that Ba‘alis king of the Ammonites has sent Yishma’el ben Netanyah to strike down your life?’ But Gedalyahu ben Ahiqam didn’t believe them. 15Yohanan ben Qareah said to Gedalyahu in secret at The Watchtower, ‘I shall go, please, and strike down Yishma’el ben Netanyah, and no one will know. Why should he strike down your life and scatter all Judah who’ve collected to you, and the remainder of Judah perish?’ 16But Gedalyahu ben Ahiqam said to Yohanan ben Qareah, ‘Don’t do this thing, because you’re speaking falsehood about Yishma’el’.

41 But in the seventh month Yishma’el ben Netanyah son of Elishama, of the royal line, and the king’s commanders and ten men with him, came to Gedalyahu ben Ahiqam at The Watchtower. They ate bread there together at The Watchtower, 2and Yishma’el ben Netanyah and the ten men who were with him got up and struck down Gedalyahu ben Ahiqam son of Shaphan with the sword and put him to death, the man whom the king of Babel had appointed over the country. 3And all the Judahites who were with him (with Gedalyahu at The Watchtower) and the Kasdites who were present there, the men of battle, Yishma’el struck down.

## 41:4 The Luckless Penitents

4On the second day after they put Gedalyahu to death, when no one knew, 5some people came from Shekem, Shiloh, and Shomron, eighty people, shaved bare, clothes torn, bodies gashed, grain offering and incense in their hand to bring to Yahweh’s house. 6Yishma’el ben Netanyah went out from The Watchtower to meet them, crying as he went. When he reached them, he said to them, ‘Come to Gedalyahu ben Ahiqam’.

7When they came inside the town Yishma’el ben Netanyah slaughtered them, into a cistern, he and the men who were with him. 8But ten people were present among them who said to Yishma’el, ‘Don’t put us to death, because we have stores in the open country, grain, barley, oil, and syrup’. So he held back and didn’t put them to death among their brothers.

9The cistern where Yishma’el threw all the corpses of the people whom he struck down by the side of Gedalyahu, it was the one that King Asa made on account of Ba‘asha king of Israel; Yishma’el ben Netanyah filled it with people who had been run through.

10Yishma’el took captive all the remainder of the company that was at The Watchtower, the king’s daughters and all the people who had remained at The Watchtower over whom Nebuzar’adan the head of the guards had appointed Gedalyahu ben Ahiqam. Yishma’el ben Netanyah took them captive and went to cross over to the Ammonites. 11But Yohanan ben Qareah and all the officers in the forces that were with him heard all the bad things that Yishma’el ben Netanyah had done, 12and they got all the people and went to do battle with Yishma’el ben Netanyah. They found him by the great pool that’s at Gib’on.

13When all the company that was with Yishma’el saw Yohanan ben Qareah and all the officers in the forces that were with him, they rejoiced. 14All the company that Yishma’el had taken captive from The Watchtower turned round and went back and went toYohanan ben Qareah.

## 41:15 Turning to God?

15But Yishma’el ben Netanyah, with eight men, escaped from Yohanan and went to the Ammonites. 16Yohanan ben Qareah and all the officers in the forces that were with him took all the remainder of the company that he brought back from being with Yishma’el ben Netanyah from The Watchtower, after he struck down Gedalyah ben Ahiqam (men, men of battle, women, children, and courtiers, whom he had brought back from Gib’on). 17They went and lived at Kimham Khan which is near Bet Lehem, going so as to come to Egypt 18on account of the Kasdites, because they were afraid of them because Yishma’el ben Netanyah had struck down Gedalyahu ben Ahiqam whom the king of Babel had appointed over the country.

42 All the officers in the forces, Yohanan ben Qareah, Yezanyah ben Hosha‘yah, and the entire company, big and small, came up 2and said to Jeremiah the prophet, ‘May our prayer for grace please fall before you; plead on our behalf with Yahweh your God on behalf of all this remainder, because we remain a few out of many, as your eyes see us. 3May Yahweh your God tell us the way by which we should go and what we should do’.

4Jeremiah the prophet said to them, ‘I’ve listened. Here am I, I’m going to plead with Yahweh your God in accordance with your words. Everything that Yahweh will answer you, I shall tell you. I won’t withhold anything from you’. 5They themselves said to Jeremiah, ‘May Yahweh be a true and truthful witness against us, if we don’t act in accordance with everything that Yahweh your God sends you for us. 6Whether good or bad, we’ll listen to the voice of Yahweh our God to whom we’re sending you, for the sake of what will be good for us when we listen to the voice of Yahweh our God’.

## 42:7 Stay Don’t Go

7At the end of ten days Yahweh’s word came to Jeremiah. 8He called to Yohanan ben Qareah, to all the officers in the forces that were with him, and to the entire company, to big and small, 9and said to them: ‘Yahweh, Israel’s God, to whom you sent me to let your prayer for grace fall before him, has said this: 10”If you again live in this country, I will build you up and not tear you down, I will plant you and not uproot, because I regret the bad things that I did to you. 11Don’t be afraid of the king of Babel, of whom you are afraid; don’t be afraid of him (Yahweh’s declaration) because I am with you to deliver you and to rescue you from his hand. 12I shall give you compassion, and he will have compassion toward you and take you back to your land”.

13But if you’re going to say, “We won’t live in this country” (so as not to listen to Yahweh your God’s voice), 14saying, “No, rather we’ll come to the country of Egypt, where we won’t see battle or hear the sound of the horn or be hungry for bread, and live there”: 15now therefore listen to Yahweh’s word, you remainder of Judah. Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, has said this: “If you do set your faces to come to Egypt, and you come to reside there, 16the sword that you’re afraid of will overtake you there in the country of Egypt and the famine that you fear will stick close to you there in Egypt, and you’ll die there. 17All the people who set their faces to come to Egypt to reside there will die by sword, by famine, or by epidemic. There won’t be anyone surviving or escaping in the face of the bad fate that I’m going to bring upon you”.

## 42:18 An Ambassador in Chains

18Because Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, has said this: “As my anger and my wrath poured out on Jerusalem’s inhabitants, so my wrath will pour out on you when you come to Egypt. You’ll become a vow, a devastation, a slight, and a reviling, and you won’t again see this place”. 19Yahweh has spoken against you, remainder of Judah. Don’t come to Egypt. Acknowledge clearly that I’ve testified against you this day. 20Because you were deceitful in your entire beings when you yourselves sent me to Yahweh your God, saying “Plead on our behalf to Yahweh our God, and in accordance with all that Yahweh our God says, so tell us and we will act”. 21I’ve told you this day, but you haven’t listened to the voice of Yahweh your God, even regarding anything with which he sent me to you. 22So now you must really acknowledge that you’ll die by sword, by famine, or by epidemic in the place where you want to come to reside”’.

43 When Jeremiah finished speaking to the entire people all the words of Yahweh their God with which Yahweh their God had sent him to them, all these words, 2Azaryah ben Hosha‘yah, Yohanan ben Qareah, and all the assertive people were saying to Jeremiah, ‘You’re speaking falsehood. Yahweh our God hasn’t sent you to say, “You’re not to come to Egypt to reside there”. 3Because Baruk ben Neriyyah is inciting you against us in order to give us into the hand of the Kasdites to put us to death or take us into exile in Babel’.

4So Yohanan ben Qareah, all the officers in the forces, and the entire people didn’t listen to Yahweh’s voice so as to stay in the country of Judah. 5Yohanan ben Qareah and all the officers in the forces took the entire remainder of Judah that had come back to reside in the country of Judah from all the nations where they had been driven – 6men, women, children, the king’s daughters, and every person whom Nebuzar’adan the head of the guards had set down with Gedalyahu ben Ahiqam son of Shaphan, and Jeremiah the prophet and Baruk ben Neriyyahu. 7They came to Egypt because they didn’t listen to Yahweh’s voice.

## 43:7b No Escape from Nebukadre’tstsar

7bThey came as far as Tahpanhes, 8and Yahweh’s word came to Jeremiah at Tahpanhes: 9’Take some big stones in your hand and bury them in clay on the pavement that’s at the entrance to Pharaoh’s house at Tahpanhes, before the eyes of the Judahites. 10You’re to say to them, “Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, has said this: ‘Here am I, I’m going to send and get Nebukadre’tstsar king of Babel my servant, and I shall set his throne above these stones (that I’ve buried) and he will spread his canopy over them. 11He will come and strike down the country of Egypt: the people destined for death, to death, the people destined for captivity, to captivity, the people destined for the sword, to the sword. 12I shall set fire to the houses of the gods of Egypt and he will burn them and take them captive. He’ll delouse the country of Egypt as a shepherd delouses his coat, and he’ll go out from there with things being well. 13He’ll break up the columns in Sun House which is in the country of Egypt, and he’ll burn the houses of Egypt’s gods with fire”’.

44 The word that came to Jeremiah regarding all the Judahites who were living in the country of Egypt, living in Migdol, in Tahpanhes, in Memphis, and in the country of Patros. 2’Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, has said this: “You’ve seen all the bad fortune that I’ve brought on Jerusalem and on all Judah’s towns. There they are, a waste this day, with no one living in them, 3in the face of the bad dealing that they did, so as to provoke me by going to burn incense to serve other gods that they hadn’t acknowledged – they or you or your ancestors. 4I sent to you all my servants the prophets, starting early and sending them, to say, ‘Please don’t do this offensive thing, to which I am hostile’. 5But they didn’t listen, they didn’t bend their ear, so as to turn back from their bad dealing, so as not to burn incense to other gods. 6So my wrath and my anger poured out and burned against Judah’s towns and against Jerusalem’s streets, and they’ve become a waste, a desolation, this very day”.

## 44:7 Things Can’t Get Worse Can They?

7So now, Yahweh, God of Armies, Israel’s God, has said this: “Why are you going to do something that’s so bad for yourselves, by cutting off for you man and woman, child and infant, from within Judah, so as not to leave a remainder for you, 8so as to provoke me by the practices of your hands, by burning incense to other gods in the country of Egypt to which you’re coming to reside there, in order to cut them off for you and in order to become a slighting and a reviling among all the nations on earth? 9Have you put out of mind the bad dealings of your ancestors, the bad dealings of Judah’s kings, the bad dealings of its wives, your own bad dealings, and the bad dealings of your wives, which they did in the country of Judah and in Jerusalem’s streets? 10They were not crushed until this day, they didn’t live in awe, they didn’t walk by my instruction and by my laws that I put before you and before your ancestors”.

11Therefore Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, has said this. “Here am I, I’m going to set my face against you for bad fortune and to cut off all Judah. 12I shall take the remainder of Judah who have set their face to come to the country of Egypt to reside there, and they will all come to an end in the country of Egypt. They will fall by the sword and come to an end by famine. Big and small, by sword and by famine they will die. They will become a vow, a devastation, a slighting, and a reviling. 13I shall attend to the people living in the country of Egypt as I attended to Jerusalem, by sword, by famine, and by epidemic. 14There will be no escapee or survivor of the remainder of Judah who are coming to reside there in the country of Egypt, or to go back to the country of Judah when they are lifting up their longing to go back to live there, because they won’t go back (except escapees)”’.

## 44:15 No, No Turning to God

15All the men who knew that their wives burned incense to other gods, and all the wives standing by, a big congregation, and the entire company who were living in the country of Egypt at Patros, answered Jeremiah, 16’The word that you’ve spoken to us in Yahweh’s name – we aren’t listening to you. 17Rather, we’ll definitely act on every word that’s gone out of our mouth, burning incense to the Queen of Heaven and pouring libations to her, as we and our ancestors, our kings and our officials, did in Judah’s towns and in Jerusalem’s streets, and had our fill of bread and were finding things good, and saw no bad fortune. 18But from when we left off burning incense to the Queen of Heaven and pouring libations to her, we’ve lacked everything and we’ve come to an end by sword and by famine. 19And when we were burning incense to the Queen of Heaven and pouring libations to her, was it without our husbands that we made cakes to image her and poured libations to her?’

20Jeremiah said to the entire company, to the men, to the women, and to the entire company who were giving him an answer: 21’The incense you burned in Judah’s towns and in Jerusalem’s streets, you and your ancestors, your kings, your officials, and the people of the country – hasn’t Yahweh been mindful of them and brought them to mind? 22Yahweh could no longer bear it, in the face of the bad nature of your practices, in the face of the offensive acts that you committed, so that the country became a waste and a devastation and a slighting, so that there’s no inhabitant, this very day. 23In the face of the way you burned incense and in that you did wrong to Yahweh and didn’t listen to Yahweh’s voice and didn’t walk by his instruction, his laws, and his affirmations, that’s why this bad fate has happened to you this very day’.

24Jeremiah said to the entire company and to all the women, ‘Listen to Yahweh’s word, all of Judah in the country of Egypt. 25Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, has said this: “You and your wives – you’ve spoken by your mouth and with your hands you’ve fulfilled it, saying ‘We’ll definitely act on our vows that we made, to burn incense to the Queen of Heaven and pour libations to her’.

## 44:25 A Promise for Baruk

25bYou may indeed implement your pledges. You may indeed act upon your pledges”. 26Therefore listen to Yahweh’s word, all Judah who live in the country of Egypt. “Here am I: I am swearing by my great name (Yahweh has said), if my name will any more be called out in the mouth of anyone from Judah, saying ‘As the Lord Yahweh lives’, in all the country of Egypt.

27Here am I: I’m going to watch over them for bad things not for good things. They will come to an end, every individual from Judah who’s in the country of Egypt, by sword and by famine, until they’re finished off. 28The people who escape the sword will go back from the country of Egypt to the country of Judah few in number, and all the remainder of Judah who are coming to the country of Egypt to reside there will acknowledge whose word will be implemented, mine or theirs.

29This will be the sign for you (Yahweh’s declaration) that I’m going to attend to you in this place, so that you may acknowledge that my words against you for bad fortune will indeed be implemented. 30Yahweh has said this: ‘Here am I; I’m going to give Pharaoh Hophra king of Egypt into the hand of his enemies and into the hand of the people who are seeking his life, as I gave Tsidqiyyahu king of Judah into the hand of Nebukadre’tstsar king of Babel his enemy and one seeking his life’”’.

45 The word that Jeremiah the prophet spoke to Baruk ben Neriyyah when he wrote these words in a document from Jeremiah’s mouth in the fourth year of Yehoyaqim ben Yoshiyyahu king of Judah: 2’Yahweh , Israel’s God, has said this to you, Baruk: 3”You said, ‘Oh, me, please, because Yahweh has added sorrow to my pain. I’m weary with my groaning. I haven’t found a settled place’”. 4You’re to say to him, “Yahweh has said this: ‘Here, what I built, I’m tearing down; what I planted, I’m uprooting (i.e., the entire country). 5You, do you seek big things for yourself? Don’t seek them, because here am I, I’m going to bring bad fortune on all flesh (Yahweh’s declaration), but I shall give you your life as a trophy in all the places where you go’”’.

## 46:1 Pharaoh Full of Talk

46 Things that came as Yahweh’s word to Jeremiah the prophet about the nations.

2Regarding Egypt.

About the force of Pharaoh Neko king of Egypt, which was at the River Euphrates at Karkemish, which Nebukadre’tstsar king of Babel, struck down in the fourth year of Yehoyaqim ben Yoshiyyahu king of Judah:

3Get ready hand-shield and body-shield;

go up to battle!

4Harness the horses;

get up, cavalry!

Take your position with your helmets,

polish lances, put on armour!

5Why have I seen – they’re shattered,

they’re turning back!

Their strong men are struck down, they’ve fled, fled,

they haven’t turned round, terror is all round (Yahweh’s declaration).

6The swift is not to flee,

the strong man is not to escape.

To the north, by the side of the River Euphrates,

they’ve collapsed and fallen.

7Who is this rises like the Nile,

like streams whose water surges?

8It’s Egypt that rises like the Nile

and like streams whose water surge.

It said, ‘I’ll rise, I’ll cover the earth,

I’ll obliterate a town and the people who live in it’.

9Rise, horses, rage, chariotry,

strong men are to go out,

Ethiopia and Libya seizing shields,

Ludites seizing and directing bows.

10That day belongs to the Lord Yahweh Armies,

a day of redress, for taking redress from his adversaries.

The sword will consume, be full,

will soak in their bloodshed.

Because the Lord Yahweh Armies has a sacrifice

in the northern country by the River Euphrates.

11Go up to Gil’ad and get balm,

young Miss Egypt.

To empty results you’re multiplying healings –

there’s no growing back for you.

12Nations have heard your slighting;

the earth is full of your scream.

Because strong man has collapsed on strong man;

the two of them have fallen down together.

## 46:13 Pharaoh Helpless

13The word that Yahweh spoke to Jeremiah the prophet regarding the coming of Nebukadre’tstsar king of Babel to strike down the country of Egypt:

14Tell it in Egypt, make it heard in Migdal,

make it heard in Memphis and in Tahpanhes.

Say, ‘Take your position, prepare yourself,

because the sword is consuming all round you’.

15Why has your champion been swept away?

—he didn’t stand, because Yahweh thrust him down.

16He’s made many people collapse,

yes, each one has fallen into his neighbour.

They said, ‘Set to,

let’s turn back to our people,

To the country of our birth,

from before the oppressor’s sword’.

17There they called Pharaoh king of Egypt,

‘A din who has let the appointed time pass’.

18As I live (a declaration of the king,

Yahweh Armies is his name):

Like Tabor among the mountains,

and like Carmel at the sea, one will come.

19Make for yourself things for exile,

you who sit as Miss Egypt.

Because Memphis will become a desolation,

burned, without inhabitant.

20Egypt is a beautiful, beautiful heifer;

a wasp from the north is coming, coming.

21Her mercenaries within her, too,

are like well-fed bullocks.

Yet they’re turning round, too,

they’re fleeing together, they’re not taking a stand.

Because their day of disaster has come upon them,

the time when they’re attended to.

22Her sound will be like a snake when it goes,

with a force they will go.

With axes they’re coming to her,

like fellers of trees.

23They’re cutting down her forest (Yahweh’s declaration)

when it cannot be explored,

Because they’re more than locusts;

there’s no numbering of them.

24Miss Egypt is being shamed,

given into the hand of the northern people.

## 46:25 But of You I Won’t Make an End

25Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, has said:

Here am I, attending to Amon of Thebes and to Pharaoh, to Egypt, to its gods, to its kings – to Pharaoh and to the people who rely on him. 26I shall give them into the hand of the people who seek their life, into the hand of Nebukadre’tstsar king of Babel and into the hand of his servants. But afterward it will dwell as in former days (Yahweh’s declaration).

27But you, don’t be afraid, my servant Jacob;

don’t shatter, Israel.

Because here am I, I’m going to deliver you from far away,

and your offspring from the country of their captivity.

Jacob will again be calm,

at peace with no one making him tremble.

28So you, don’t be afraid, my servant Jacob (Yahweh’s declaration),

because I’m with you.

Because I shall make an end among all the nations

where I’ve driven you,

But of you I won’t make an end,

though I discipline you in exercising authority,

and don’t treat you as free of guilt.

47 Something that came as Yahweh’s word to Jeremiah the prophet regarding the Philistines, before Pharaoh struck down Azzah.

2Yahweh has said this:

There, water is rising from the north,

and it will become a overwhelming wadi.

They’ll overwhelm the country and what fills it,

the town and the people who live in it.

People will cry out,

all the country’s inhabitants will howl,

3At the sound of the pounding of his sturdy steeds’ hooves,

at the noise of his chariotry, the clatter of its wheels.

Fathers are not turning their faces to children

because of the slackening of their hands,

4Because of the day that’s coming

for the destroying of all the Philistines,

For cutting off every helper who survives

for Tsor and Tsidon.

Because Yahweh is going to destroy the Philistines,

the remainder of Kaphtor’s shore.

5The shaved head is coming to Azzah,

Ashqelon is being terminated.

You remainder of their vale,

how long will you gash yourself?

6Hey sword of Yahweh,

for how long will you not be calm?—

Gather up into your sheath,

rest, be still.

7How can you be calm

when Yahweh is ordering it?

For Ashqelon and for the seacoast

he has set its appointment.

## 48:1 Mo’ab Broken

48 Regarding Mo’ab.

Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, has said this:

Hey for Nebo, that it’s destroyed,

Qiryatayim is shamed, captured.

The stronghold is shamed and it has shattered.

2Mo’ab’s praise is no more.

In Heshbon they intended something bad against her:

‘Come, let’s cut her down from being a nation!’

Madmenah, you’ll be still, too;

the sword will follow you.

3The sound of an outcry from Horonayim,

destruction and great breaking!

4Mo’ab is broken,

its little ones have let the outcry be heard.

5Because the ascent to Luhit –

with crying one ascends, with crying.

Because on the Horonayim descent

people have heard the crying distresses about the breaking.

6Flee, save your life,

be like Aro’er in the wilderness!

7Because on account of your reliance on what you’ve made,

and on your treasures, you too will be captured.

Kemosh will go out into exile,

his priests and his officials together.

8The destroyer will come to every town,

no town will escape.

The vale will perish,

the flatland will be desolate, because Yahweh has said.

9Give wings to Mo’ab,

because it’s to fly, go out.

Its towns will be for desolation,

with no inhabitant in them.

10Cursed is the one who does Yahweh’s work deceitfully;

cursed is the one who holds back his sword from blood.

11Mo’ab has been at peace from its youth;

it’s been still on its lees.

It hasn’t been poured from bowl to bowl;

it hasn’t gone into exile.

Therefore its taste has stayed in it,

its bouquet hasn’t changed.

12Therefore there – days are coming (Yahweh’s declaration)

when I’ll send off decanters to it.

They’ll decant it and empty its bowls

and smash its jugs.

13Mo’ab will be shamed because of Kemosh

as Israel’s household was shamed

because of Bet El, the object of their reliance.

14How can you say, ‘We are strong men,

forceful men for the battle’?

15Mo’ab is destroyed, people have gone up to its towns,

the choicest of its young men have gone down to the slaughter

(The declaration of the king,

Yahweh Armies is his name).

## 48:16 A Long Quiet Disturbed

16Mo’ab’s disaster is near to coming,

its bad fate is hurrying quickly.

17Condole with it, all you who are round it,

all you who acknowledge its name.

Say, ‘How has the vigorous club broken,

the splendid mace!’

18Come down from honour, sit on the thirsty ground,

you who sit as Miss Dibon.

Because Mo’ab’s destroyer has come up against you;

he’s devastated your fortifications.

19Stand by the road and look out,

you who live in Aro’er.

Ask the man who flees and the woman who escapes,

say ‘What’s happened?’

20Mo’ab is shamed, because it has shattered –

howl and cry out;

Tell at the Arnon

that Mo’ab is destroyed.

21A ruling has come for the flatland region,

for Holon, for Yahtsah,

On Mepha‘at, 22on Dibon, on Nebo,

on Bet Diblatayim, 23on Qiryatayim,

On Bet Gamul, on Bet Me‘on,

24on Qeriyyot, on Botsrah,

On all the towns in the country of Mo’ab,

far and near.

25Mo’ab’s horn is cut off,

its arm broken (Yahweh’s declaration).

26Get it drunk, because it’s made itself big against Yahweh;

Mo’ab will wallow in its vomit.

It will be an object of fun, too:

27wasn’t Israel an object of fun to you?

Was it found among robbers,

that when you speak of it you shake your head?

28Abandon the towns, dwell in the cliff,

inhabitants of Mo’ab,

Be like a pigeon that nests

in the sides of the mouth of a chasm.

29We’ve heard of Mo’ab’s majesty

(it’s very majestic),

its height and its majesty and its exaltation,

and the loftiness of its mind.

30I myself know (Yahweh’s declaration) its fury;

its empty talk is not upright, they haven’t acted uprightly.

31Therefore I will howl for Mo’ab,

I will cry out regarding Mo’ab, all of it,

concerning the people of Qir-heres I will murmur.

32With more crying than for Ya‘zer I’ll cry for you,

vine of Sibnah.

Your tendrils crossed the sea,

to the sea of Ya‘zer they reached.

On your summer fruit and on your grapes

a destroyer has fallen.

33Rejoicing and celebration gather up from the farmland

and from the country of Mo’ab.

I’ve made wine cease from the presses;

no one treads with a shout;

the shout is no shout.

## 48:34 My Heart Moans for Moab

34From the outcry of Heshbon as far as El‘alah,

as far as Yahats, they’re giving their voice,

From Tso’ar as far as Horonayim, Eglat Shelishiyyah,

because the water of Nimrim, too, will become a great desolation.

35I shall stop for Mo’ab (Yahweh’s declaration) anyone ascending to the shrine,

anyone burning incense to its gods.

36Therefore my heart for Mo’ab

moans like a flute.

My heart for the people of Qir-heres

moans like a flute.

Therefore the profit it made –

they’ve perished, 37because every head is shaved,

every beard cut off.

On all hands there are gashes,

on hips there’s sack.

38On Mo’ab’s roofs and in its squares,

all of it, is lamentation,

Because I’ve broken Mo’ab

like a jar no one wants (Yahweh’s declaration).

39How it has shattered – wail;

how Mo’ab has turned its back in shame.

Mo’ab will be an object of fun,

something to shatter all the people round it.

40Because Yahweh has said this:

There, one swoops like an eagle

and spreads his wings toward Mo’ab!

41Qeriyyot has been captured,

the strongholds have been seized.

The mind of Mo’ab’s strong men will be

like the mind of a woman in labour on that day.

42Mo’ab has been destroyed from being a people

because it made itself big against Yahweh.

43A terror and a pit and a trap

are against you who live in Mo’ab (Yahweh’s declaration).

44The one who flees from the face of the terror

will fall into the pit.

The one who climbs out of the pit

will be captured by the trap.

Because I’ll bring to it, to Mo’ab,

the year of my attending to it (Yahweh’s declaration).

45In Heshbon’s shade

people who are fleeing stop, being out of energy.

Because fire has gone out from Heshbon,

a flame from within Sihon.

It’s consumed Mo’ab’s forehead,

the skull of Sha’on’s people.

46Oh, alas for you, Mo’ab,

the people of Kemosh have perished.

Because your sons have been taken into captivity,

your daughters into captivity.

47But I shall restore Mo’ab’s fortunes

at the end of the time (Yahweh’s declaration).

As far as here is the ruling about Mo’ab.

## 49:1 The Wisdom That Fails

49 Regarding the Ammonites.

Yahweh has said this:

‘Does Israel have no sons,

or no one entering into possession?

Why has Malkam dispossessed Gad

and its people lived in its towns?

2Therefore – there, days are coming (Yahweh’s declaration)

when I shall make the battle alarm heard

for Rabbah of the Ammonites.

It will become a desolate tell;

its daughter-townships will be set on fire.

Israel will dispossess

the people who dispossessed it (Yahweh has said).

3Howl, Heshbon,

because Ai is destroyed!

Cry out, daughter-townships of Rabbah,

wrap on sack, lament.

Run to and fro in the enclosures,

because Malkam is to go into exile,

his priests and his officials together with him.

4Why do you boast of your vales? –

your vale is flowing away,

Miss-who-turns-back, you who rely on your treasures,

‘Who will come against me?’

5Here am I, I’m going to bring a terror against you

(a declaration of the Lord Yahweh Armies) from all those round you.

You’ll be driven off, each one straight ahead;

there’ll be no one collecting the fugitive.

6But afterward I shall restore

the fortunes of the Ammonites (Yahweh’s declaration)’.

7Regarding Edom.

Yahweh Armies has said this:

Is there no longer smartness in Teman,

has counsel perished from the discerning,

has their smartness gone stale?

8Flee, turn round, lie low,

inhabitants of Dedan.

Because I’m going to bring Esau’s disaster upon him,

the time when I attend to him.

9If grape-pickers came to you,

would they not let gleanings remain?

If robbers [came] by night

they’d devastate what they needed.

10But it’s I who’ve stripped Esau,

bared his hiding place.

He can’t conceal himself; his offspring is destroyed,

his brothers and his neighbours, and there is no one.

11Abandon your orphans, I’ll keep them alive;

your widows may rely on me.

## 49:12 Strong Men Emasculated

12Because Yahweh has said this: ‘The people for whom there has been no ruling that they should drink the glass: if they’ll certainly drink it, are you one to go totally free of guilt? You won’t go free of guilt, because you will certainly drink it. 13Because by myself I have sworn (Yahweh’s declaration) that Botsrah will be for desolation, for reviling, for wasting, for slighting, and all its towns will be for total waste permanently’.

14I have heard a report from Yahweh,

and an envoy is sent among the nations.

Collect together and come to it,

set to for battle!

15Because there – I’m going to make you small among the nations,

despised among people.

16Your dreadfulness has deceived you,

the assertiveness of your mind.

You who dwell in the clefts of the cliff,

you who seize the height of the hill,

If you make your nest high like an eagle,

I will get you down from there (Yahweh’s declaration).

17Edom will become a desolation,

everyone who passes by it will be desolate

And will whistle at all its wounds,

18as at the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighbours (Yahweh has said).

No one will live there,

no human being will reside there.

44There, it will be as when a lion comes up

from the Jordan jungle into an enduring abode,

Because in a moment I shall run him out of it,

and whoever is chosen for it I shall appoint.

Because who is like me, who can make me testify,

who is the shepherd who can stand before me?

45Therefore listen to Yahweh’s counsel

which he’s devised for Edom,

His intentions which he’s formulated

for the inhabitants of Teman.

If the flock’s boys don’t drag them away,

if the abode isn’t desolate at them….

21At the sound of their fall the earth shakes,

the outcry makes its sound heard at the Sea of Reeds.

22There, like an eagle he goes up and swoops,

spreads his wings against Botsrah.

The mind of Edom’s strong men will be

like the mind of a woman in labour on that day.

## 49:23 The Promise of a Future

23Regarding Dammeseq [Damascus].

Hamat and Arpah are shamed,

because they’ve heard a report of something bad.

They toss like the sea with anxiety;

it cannot be calm.

24Dammeseq is weak,

She’s turned her face to flee.

Panic has taken strong hold of her,

pressure and contractions have grasped her like a woman giving birth.

25How has the praiseworthy town not been abandoned,

the town I celebrated?

26Therefore its young men will fall in its squares

and all its men of battle will become still on that day (a declaration of Yahweh Armies).

27I shall set fire to the wall of Dammeseq;

it will consume the citadels of Ben-hadad.

28Regarding Qedar and the kingdoms of Hatsor, which Nebukadre’tstsar king of Babel struck down.

Yahweh has said this:

Set to, go up to Qedar,

destroy the Qedemites!

29They will take their tents and their flocks,

their tent cloths and all their things.

They’ll carry off their camels for themselves;

they’ll call out against them, ‘Terror is all round’.

30Flit, go way away, lie low,

inhabitants of Hatsor (Yahweh’s declaration).

Because Nebukadre’tstsar king of Babel

has devised counsel against you,

has formulated an intention against you.

31Set to, go up, to a nation at peace,

living in confidence (Yahweh’s declaration).

It has no gateways and no bars;

they dwell alone.

32Their camels will become plunder,

their horde of livestock, spoil.

I shall scatter to every wind the people shaved at the forehead,

from all sides I shall bring about their disaster (Yahweh’s declaration).

33Hatsor will become an abode for jackals,

a desolation permanently.

No one will live there;

no human being will reside there.

## 49:34 An Unexpected Vulnerability

34What came as Yahweh’s word to Jeremiah the prophet regarding Elam at the beginning of the reign of Tsidqiyyah king of Judah.

35Yahweh Armies has said this:

Here am I, I’m about to break Elam’s bow,

the first principle of their strength.

36I shall bring to Elam four winds

from the four corners of the heavens.

I shall scatter them to these four winds;

the nation won’t exist

where Elam’s fugitives don’t come.

37I shall shatter Elam before its enemies,

and before the people who seek their life.

I shall bring bad fortune on them,

my angry blazing (Yahweh’s declaration).

I shall send the sword off after them

until I’ve finished them off.

38I shall put my throne in Elam

and obliterate king and officials from there (Yahweh’s declaration).

39But at the end of the time

I shall restore Elam’s fortunes (Yahweh’s declaration)’.

50 The word that Yahweh spoke regarding Babel, regarding the country of the Kasdites, by means of Jeremiah the prophet:

2Tell among the nations, make it heard;

lift a banner, make it heard.

Don’t hide it, say, ‘Babel is captured,

Bel is shamed, Merodak has shattered’.

Its idols are shamed,

its fetishes have shattered.

3Because a northern nation has gone up against it,

it will make its country a desolation.

There will be no one living in it;

both human being and animal—they have flitted, gone.

4In those days and at that time (Yahweh’s declaration):

The Israelites will come,

they and the Judahites together.

They’ll go, and cry as they go,

and seek Yahweh their God.

5They’ll ask the way to Zion,

and their faces will be toward there.

‘Come, join yourselves to Yahweh

by a permanent pact that won’t be put out of mind’.

6My people were a flock that were lost;

their shepherds had led them astray.

On the mountains they turned them back,

from mountain to hill they went.

They put their resting-place out of mind;

7all the people who found them consumed them.

Their adversaries said, ‘We won’t incur liability,

on account of the fact that they did wrong to Yahweh,

the faithful abode, their ancestors’ hope, Yahweh’.

## 50:8 Flit from Within Babel

8Flit from within Babel,

get out of the country of the Kasdites,

be like the he-goats before the flock.

9Because here, I’m going to arouse,

and get to go up, against Babel

A congregation of great nations

from a northern country.

When they line up against it,

from there it will be captured.

Its arrows like those of an insightful strong man

won’t turn back empty.

10The Kasdites will become spoil;

all its despoilers will be full (Yahweh’s declaration),

11Because you rejoice, because you exult,

plunderers of my domain,

Because you jump like a heifer with grain,

you bellow like sturdy ones.

12Your mother is very shamed,

the one who gave birth to you is confounded.

There is the end of the nations:

wilderness, dry land, and steppe.

13Because of Yahweh’s fury it won’t be inhabited,

it will become a desolation, all of it.

Everyone who passes by Babel will be desolate

and will whistle at all its wounds.

14Line up against Babel round about,

all you who direct a bow.

Shoot at it, don’t hold back with an arrow,

because it’s done wrong to Yahweh.

15Shout against it round about, it’s giving its hand,

its towers are falling,

Its walls are being torn down,

because that is Yahweh’s redress.

Take redress upon it;

as it has done, do to it.

16Cut off sower from Babel,

and seizer of sickle at harvest time.

Before the oppressor’s sword

they’ll turn, each one, to his people,

they’ll flee, each one to his country.

## 50:17 The Superpower that Thought It Was Safe

17Israel is scattered sheep

that lions have driven away.

As first the king of Ashshur consumed him,

then as last Nebukadre’tstsar king of Babel crushed his bones.

18Therefore Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, has said this:

Here am I, I’m going to attend

to the king of Babel and to his country

as I attended to the king of Ashshur.

19And I shall take Israel back to its abode,

and it will pasture in the Carmel and the Bashan.

In the highland of Ephrayim and Gil’ad

its appetite will eat its fill.

20In those days and at that time (Yahweh’s declaration):

Israel’s waywardness will be looked for, and there’ll be none;

Judah’s wrongdoings – and they won’t be found,

because I shall pardon the people I let remain.

21Against the country of Double Rebellion,

go up against her, and to the inhabitants of Attention.

Put to the sword and devote the last of them (Yahweh’s declaration),

do in accordance with all that I’ve ordered you.

22The sound of battle in the country,

a great breaking!

23How the hammer of the entire earth

has severed and broken!

How Babel has become

a desolation among the nations!

24I trapped you and yes, you were captured, Babel,

and you didn’t know it.

You were found and also caught,

because you challenged Yahweh.

25Yahweh opened his storehouse

and got out the instruments of his condemnation,

Because that’s the work

of the Lord Yahweh Armies

in the country of the Kasdites.

26Come to it from afar, open its granaries,

pile it up like heaps,

devote it, there must be no remainder of it.

27Put to the sword all its bullocks,

they must go down for slaughter.

Oh, alas for them, because their day is coming,

the time when they’re attended to.

28The sound of fugitives and escapees

from the country of Babel,

To tell in Zion

of the redress of Yahweh our God,

redress for his palace!

## 50:29 Death and Life Interweave

29Make it heard to the archers against Babel,

all those who direct a bow!

Camp against it round about,

there must not be people who escape.

Make good to it for its action,

do to it in accordance with all that it did,

Because it asserted itself against Yahweh,

Israel’s sacred one.

30Therefore its young men will fall in the squares,

and all its men of battle will become still

on that day (Yahweh’s declaration).

31Here am I regarding you, assertive one (a declaration of the Lord, Yahweh Armies).

because your day is coming,

the time when I attend to you.

32The assertive one will collapse and fall,

and there will be no one raising him up.

I shall set fire to his towns

and it will consume all round him.

33Yahweh Armies has said this:

The Israelites and the Judahites

are oppressed together.

All their captors have taken strong hold of them

and refused to send them off.

34Their restorer is strong,

Yahweh Armies is his name.

He will argue their case strongly

in order that he may quieten the country

and shake up Babel’s inhabitants.

35A sword against the Kasdites (Yahweh’s declaration),

for Babel’s inhabitants, its officials, and its experts!

36A sword for the diviners so they become fools,

a sword for its strong men so they shatter!

37A sword to its horses and for its chariotry,

and for all the foreign group that’s within it,

so they become women!

A sword to its storehouses, so they’re plundered,

38a drought to its water, so it dries up!

Because it’s a country of images,

and through their dreadful objects they’ll go mad.

39Therefore wildcats will live with jackals,

and ostriches will live in it.

It won’t be lived in again permanently,

it won’t dwell for generation after generation.

40Like God’s overthrow

of Sedom, Amorrah, and their neighbours (Yahweh’s declaration),

No one will live there,

no human being will reside in it.

## 50:41 Hands Go Limp

41There, a people is coming from the north;

a big nation and many kings

are aroused from earth’s farthest reaches.

42They take strong hold of bow and spear;

they’re violent and they don’t show compassion.

Their sound is like the sea that rumbles;

they ride on horses,

As someone lined up for battle,

against you, Miss Babel.

43The king of Babel has heard the report of them,

his hands have become slack.

Pressure has taken strong hold of him,

labour like a woman giving birth.

44There, it will be as when a lion goes up

from the Jordan jungle into an enduring abode,

Because in a moment I shall run him out of it,

and whoever is chosen for it I shall appoint.

Because who is like me, who can make me testify,

who is the shepherd who can stand before me?

45Therefore listen to Yahweh’s plan

which he’s devised for Babel,

His intentions which he’s formulated

for the country of the Kasdites.

If the flock’s boys don’t drag them away,

if the abode isn’t desolate at them….

46At the sound of the seizing of Babel the earth shakes,

the outcry makes itself heard among the nations.

51 Yahweh has said this:

Here am I, I’m rousing against Babel

and for the inhabitants of The-mind-of-one-who-rises-against-me a devastating wind.

2I shall send strangers off to Babel

so they’ll winnow it and strip its country,

Because they’re against it all round,

on the day of bad fortune.

3The one who directs his bow isn’t to direct it

and isn’t to stand in his armour.

Don’t spare its young men;

‘devote’ its entire army.

4People are to fall run through in the country of the Kasdites,

thrust through in its streets.

## 51:5 Don’t Get Caught

5Because Israel and Judah were not widowed

by its God, Yahweh Armies.

Rather their country was full of liability

Because of Israel’s sacred one.

6Flee from inside Babel;

each of you, save his life.

Don’t be still because of its waywardness,

because this is the time of redress for Yahweh;

he’s making good with his dealings to it.

7Babel was a gold chalice in Yahweh’s hand,

making the entire earth drunk.

From its wine nations drank;

therefore nations go mad.

8Suddenly Babel has fallen and broken;

howl over it.

Get balm for its injuries,

perhaps it may heal.

9’We’re healing Babel but it hasn’t healed;

abandon it, let’s go each to his country’.

Because the ruling for it has reached to the heavens,

lifted to the skies.

10Yahweh has brought out faithfulness for us;

come, let’s recount in Zion

the action of Yahweh our God.

11Polish the arrows, fill the quivers,

Yahweh has aroused the spirit of Media’s kings.

Because his strategy against Babel

is to devastate it.

Because it’s Yahweh’s redress,

redress for his palace.

12To Babel’s walls lift up a banner, make a strong watch,

set up watchmen, prepare ambushes.

Because Yahweh is both scheming and acting on

what he spoke regarding Babel’s inhabitants.

13You who dwell by much water, abundant in storehouses,

your end has come, the time for your cutting off.

14Yahweh Armies has sworn by his life:

I’m filling you with people like a locust swarm;

they’ll chant a shout over you.

15One who made the earth by his energy,

established the world by his smartness,

by his understanding stretched out the heavens:

16At his giving voice

there was a rumble of the water in the heavens.

He brought up clouds from the end of the earth;

made lightning for the rain,

brought out wind from his storehouses.

17Every human being proves dense, without knowledge;

every goldsmith is put to shame by the image,

Because his figure is a falsehood,

and there’s no breath in them.

16They’re hollow, a work for mockery;

at the time when they’re attended to, they’ll perish.

19Not like these is Jacob’s share,

because he’s the one who formed everything.

And it is the clan that is his domain;

Yahweh Armies is his name.

## 51:20 You Were My Club

20You were my club,

my battle instruments.

I clubbed nations with you,

I devastated kingdoms with you.

21I clubbed horse and its rider with you,

I clubbed chariot and its rider with you.

22I clubbed man and woman with you,

I clubbed elder and youth with you.

I clubbed young man and girl with you,

23I clubbed shepherd and his flock with you.

I clubbed ploughman and his pair with you,

I clubbed governors and overseers with you.

24But I shall make good to Babel

and to all Kasdim’s inhabitants

For all their bad dealing,

which they did in Zion before your eyes (Yahweh’s declaration).

25Here am I in relation to you,

mountain of the devastator (Yahweh’s declaration),

Destroyer of the entire earth;

I’m stretching out my hand against you.

I shall roll you from the cliffs

and make you a burnt mountain.

26They won’t get from you

a corner stone or foundation stone,

because you’ll be a total desolation permanently (Yahweh’s declaration).

27Lift up a banner in the earth,

sound a horn among the nations.

Make nations sacred against it,

make it heard to kingdoms against it,

Ararat, Minni, Ashkenaz.

Appoint a marshal against it,

bring up horses like swarming locust.

28Make nations sacred against it,

the kings of Media,

Its governors, all its overseers,

every country it rules.

29The earth is shaking and writhing

because Yahweh’s intentions are implemented against Babel

To make the country of Babel

a desolation without inhabitant.

30Babel’s strong men are holding back from doing battle;

they’re sitting in the fortresses.

Their strength has failed,

they’ve turned into women.

People have set fire to its dwellings,

its gateway bars have broken.

31Runner runs to meet runner,

messenger to meet messenger,

To tell the king of Babel

that his town has been captured at one end.

32The fords have been seized,

people have set the marshes on fire,

the men of battle are fearful.

## 51:33 Yahweh Takes on Bel

33Because Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God, has said this:

Miss Babel is like a threshing-floor at the time of its treading:

yet a little while

and the time of its harvest will come.

34’He consumed me, crushed me,

did Nebukadre’tstsar king of Babel,

put me down an empty dish.

He swallowed me like a dragon,

filled his belly with my tasty things, threw me up.

35The violence done to me and my body be on Babel!’

says the inhabitant of Zion.

‘My blood be on Kasdim’s inhabitants!’

says Jerusalem.

36Therefore Yahweh says this:

Here am I, arguing your case.

I’ll exact redress for you.

I’ll wither its sea and dry up its spring.

37Babel will become heaps of rubble,

The abode of jackals, a desolation,

something to whistle at, with no inhabitant.

38Together, like cougars they roar,

they’ve growled like the whelps of lions.

39When they’ve been made hot I’ll set out their drink banquet,

and get them drunk in order that they may exult,

And sleep an everlasting sleep

and not wake up (Yahweh’s declaration).

40I’ll take them down like lambs to slaughter,

like rams along with goats.

41How Sheshak has been captured,

the praise of the entire earth has been seized!

How Babel has become

a desolation among the nations!

42The sea has gone up over Babel;

it’s covered by the rumble of its waves.

43Its towns have become a desolation,

its country desert and steppe,

A country where no one lives in them,

where a human being doesn’t pass through them.

44I shall attend to Bel in Babel

and make what he’s swallowed come out of his mouth.

Nations will no more flood to him;

even Babel’s wall is falling

## 51:45 An Everlasting Sleep

45Get out from inside it, my people;

each of you save his life

from Yahweh’s angry blaze.

46Beware that your mind doesn’t become soft or you become afraid

at the report that makes itself heard in the country.

A report will come during the year

and afterward a report may come during the next year,

Violence in the country,

ruler against ruler.

47Therefore, now, days are coming

when I shall attend to Babel’s images.

Its entire country will be shamed;

all its people who are run through will fall within it.

48The heavens and the earth and all that’s in them

will resound over Babel,

because from the north the destroyers will come to it (Yahweh’s declaration).

49Yes, Babel, for the falling of those of Israel who have been run through;

yes, for Babel all in the earth who have been run through have fallen.

50Survivors of the sword, go,

don’t stand there.

Be mindful of Yahweh from afar;

Jerusalem is to come up into your mind.

51’We were shamed, because we heard reviling,

disgrace covered our faces.

Because strangers came

into the sacred places in Yahweh’s house’.

52Therefore, there, days are coming (Yahweh’s declaration)

when I shall attend to its images

and in the entire country the person who has been run through will groan.

53When Babel goes up to the heavens,

when it fortifies its strong height,

destroyers will come to it from me (Yahweh’s declaration).

54The sound of a cry from Babel,

a great breaking from the country of the Kasdites!

55Because Yahweh is destroying Babel,

eliminating the loud voice from it.

Their waves are rumbling like much water;

the din of their voice gives out.

56Because there is coming against it

a destroyer, against Babel.

Its strong men will be captured;

their bows will shatter.

Because Yahweh is a God of dealings;

he really makes good.

57I shall make its officials and its experts drunk,

its governors and overseers and strong men.

They will sleep an everlasting sleep

and not wake up (a declaration of the King, whose name is Yahweh Armies)’.

## 51:58 In the Interests of the Living

58Yahweh Armies has said this:

Babel’s wall, broad, will be totally levelled,

its high gateways burned with fire.

Peoples will have toiled for emptiness,

nations will have got weary for fire’.

59The word that Jeremiah the prophet ordered to Serayah ben Neriyyah son of Mahseyah when he went with Tsidqiyyahu king of Judah to Babel in the fourth year of his reign; Serayah was accommodation officer. 60Jeremiah wrote down all the bad fortune that would come to Babel on a document, all these words that are written concerning Babel.

61Jeremiah said to Serayah, ‘When you come to Babel, you’re to see that you read out all these words. 62And you’re to say, “Yahweh, you yourself have spoken concerning this place that you’ll cut it off, so that there won’t be anyone living in it, human being or animal, because it’s to be a great desolation permanently”.

63When you’ve finished reading out this document, you’re to tie a stone to it and throw it into the middle of the Euphrates. 64You’re to say, “In this way Babel will sink and not rise up because of the bad fortune that I’m going to bring on it. They’ll have got weary”’.

As far as here it is the words of Jeremiah.

## 52:1 The Horrifying Coda

52 Tsidqiyyahu was twenty-one years of age when he began to reign and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Hamutal bat Yirmeyahu, from Libnah. 2He did what was bad in Yahweh’s eyes in accordance with all that Yehoyaqim had done, 3because of the fact that Yahweh’s anger was against Jerusalem and against Judah until he threw them out of his presence.

Tsidqiyyahu rebelled against the king of Babel, 4and in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth of the month, Nebukadne’tstsar king of Babel came against Jerusalem, he and his entire force. They camped against it and built blockades all round. 5The town came under siege until the eleventh year of King Tsidqiyyahu. 6In the fourth month on the ninth of the month the famine had become overwhelming in the town and there was no bread for the people of the country. 7The town broke open, and all the men of battle fled; they got out of the town in the night by way of the gateway between the double wall which was by the king’s garden, while the Kasdites were all round the town.

They went by the steppe road, 8but the Kasdite force pursued after the king. They overtook Tsidqiyyahu in the Jericho steppes when his entire force had scattered from him. 9They captured the king and took him up to the king of Babel at Riblah in the region of Hamat, and he announced rulings with him. 10The king of Babel slaughtered Tsidqiyyahu’s sons before his eyes, and also slaughtered all the Judahite officials at Riblah. 11Tsidqiyyahu’s eyes he gouged out, and he bound him with copper chains. The king of Babel brought him to Babel and put him in the guard house until the day of his death.

## 52:12 Jeremiah Horribly Vindicated

12In the fifth month, on the tenth of the month (i.e., the nineteenth year of King Nebukadne’tstsar king of Babel) Nebuzar’adan the chief of the guards stood before the king of Babel in Jerusalem 13and burned Yahweh’s house, the king’s house, and all the houses in Jerusalem. Every house of a big person he burned in fire. 14All the walls round Jerusalem, the entire Kasdite force that was with the chief of the guards demolished. 15Some of the poorest elements of the people, and the rest of the people who remained in the town, and the people who had submitted (who had submitted to the king of Babel), and the rest of the horde, Nebuzar’adan the chief of the guards took into exile, 16but some of the poorest elements in the country the chief of the guards let remain as vinedressers and farm workers.

17The copper pillars that belonged to Yahweh’s house, and the stands and the copper sea that was in Yahweh’s house, the Kasdites broke up. They carried all their copper to Babel. 18The buckets, the shovels, the snuffers, the ladles, the sprinklers, and all the copper articles with which they ministered, they took. 19The basins, the pans, the sprinklers, the pots, the candelabra, the ladles, the bowls, whatever was of gold and whatever was of silver, the chief of the guards took. 20The two pillars, the one sea, and the twelve copper cattle that were under the stands, which Solomon made for Yahweh’s house—there was no weighing the copper in all these articles. 21The pillars: the height of one pillar was nine metres; a line of six metres would go round it, and its thickness was four fingers, hollow, 22with a copper capital on it; the height of the capital was one and a half metres, with a net with pomegranates on the capital all round, all of it copper; like these was the second pillar with pomegranates. 23There were ninety-six pomegranates toward the wind: all the pomegranates were a hundred above the net all round.

## 52:24 Is it the End or Is There Hope?

24The chief of the guards took Serayah the head priest, Tsephanyah the number two priest, and the three keepers of the threshold, 25and from the town he took a courtier who was appointee over the men of battle, and seven people from the heads who were before the king, who were found in the town, the secretary of the army officer who mustered the people of the country, and sixty individuals from the people of the country who were found inside the town. 26Nebuzar’adan the chief of the guards took them and made them go to the king of Babel at Riblah. 27The king of Babel struck them down and put them to death at Riblah, in the region of Hamat.

So Judah went into exile from upon its land.

* 28This is the company that Nebukadre’tstsar exiled in the seventh year: 3,023 Judahites
* 29in Nebukadre’tstsar’s eighteenth year: 832 people from Jerusalem
* 30in Nebukadre’tstsar’s twenty-third year, Nebuzar’adan the head of the guards exiled 745 Judahites.

All the people were 4,600.

31 But in the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Yehoyakin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-fifth of the month, Ewil Merodak king of Babel, in the year he began to reign, lifted up the head of Yehoyakin king of Judah and got him out of the jail house. 32He spoke of good things with him, gave him his seat above the seat of the kings who were with him in Babel 33and changed his prison clothes. He ate a meal before him regularly for all the days of his life, 34and his provision was given him as a regular provision from the king of Babel, a day’s allocation on its day, until the day of his death, for all the days of his life.

# Ezekiel

Ezekiel was a member of the priestly clan in Israel, but before he was old enough to be a priest he was taken off into exile in Babylon with other priestly families in 597BC. In Babylon he was given a vision of Yahweh and was summoned to be a prophet there to the exiles. The beginning of his prophetic work thus coincided with the last years of Jeremiah’s prophetic work. Like Jeremiah, his messages brought much critique of the Jerusalem community and many warnings about disaster coming to it, but also brought promises of a more positive future the other side of the trouble. But whereas Jeremiah delivered the warning and the promises in Jerusalem itself, Ezekiel delivered his warnings and promises in Babylon. The reason was that the future of Jerusalem was of decisive importance to people who had been taken off from there into exile. They were inclined to think that they would soon be going back home. Yahweh needs to get them to see that they will not soon be going home, because the conduct of priests, prophets, other leaders, and ordinary people back home is such (perhaps worse than that of the people in exile) that Yahweh has to bring more chastisement upon them. On the other hand, when the axe has fallen, it will be possible for restoration to happen.

The book of Ezekiel divides neatly in accordance with this profile.

* In chapters 1—3 Ezekiel gives us an account of the vision Yahweh gave him that commissioned him as a lookout-prophet. It is a great vision of Yahweh himself, whose appearing in Babylon indicated that he had not abandoned the people who had been taken off into exile.
* In chapters 4—24 Ezekiel relates a series of visions of what is going on in Jerusalem. He portrays the goings on in Jerusalem as vividly as if he were actually there. No doubt his envisioning was facilitated by the knowledge of things in Jerusalem that he would have had gained before he was taken into exile. He portrays the pagan practices that characterized the worship in the Jerusalem temple and the oppressive practices that characterized the life of the city, and he acts out the fall of the city and the exile of its inhabitants. His rhetoric and his acting out are exotic, picturesque, horrifying, and not for the squeamish. Everything is subordinate to breaking through the consciousness of his audience.
* In chapters 25—32 Ezekiel begins the transition to the hopeful half of the book. Chapter 24 has referred to the beginning of the city’s final siege, whose success (from the Babylonians’ perspective) will open up the way to a more hopeful message. The transition lies in prophecies about Judah’s neighbours who were often its adversaries, (Ammon, Moab, Edom, and Philistia), about the great regional trading nation, Tyre, and about the nation that Judah often relied on as an ally, Egypt.
* Chapters 33—48 constitute Yahweh’s direct promises about Judah’s future. They begin with a renewed summons to Ezekiel to act as a watchman-prophet and with the arrival in Babylon of the news that Jerusalem has fallen. Yahweh now commissions Ezekiel to promise Israel’s renewal. The promises constitute a series of declarations that Yahweh will take up and be faithful to his longstanding commitments. The people will be properly shepherded, by Yahweh and by a new David. Incursions from a people such as Edom will be stopped and the land that such peoples occupied will be Israel’s again. The exiles will be brought back, cleansed, and given a new spirit. The nation that feels reduced to dry bones will be brought back to life. The divided people will become one. Renewed threats from strange northern peoples will lead to their elimination. A remarkable new temple will be built and Yahweh will once again dwell there. The country itself will be physically transformed and reallocated. A river will flow from the temple to bring fruitfulness to hostile parts of the country. The city will be renamed “Yahweh-is-there.” This last section of the book makes clear that we should not be literalistic in interpreting Ezekiel, and this consideration undermines any suggestion that Ezekiel is referring to Middle Eastern events in our own time or that he is indicating that we should expect or plan for the rebuilding of the Jerusalem temple. But neither should we underestimate the wonder of what Yahweh promises.

## 1:1 God Appears in Babylon

1 In the thirtieth year, in the fourth, on the fifth of the month, when I was among the exile community by the River Kebar, the heavens opened and I saw a great appearance of God. 2On the fifth of the month (it was the fifth year of King Yoyakin’s exile), 3Yahweh’s word cam e to Ezekiel [Yehezqe’l] ben Buzi, the priest, in the country of the Kasdites by the River Kebar. Yahweh’s hand came on him there.

4’I saw: there, a hurricane wind came from the north, a great cloud, with fire consuming itself, with its brightness all round, with a very gleam of electrum from inside it, from inside the fire, 5and from inside it the form of four creatures. This was their appearance. They had human form, 6but they had four faces each and four wings each. 7Their feet: a straight foot, but the sole of their feet was like the sole of a calf’s foot, and they were sparkling like the gleam of burnished copper. 8Human hands were under their wings on their four quarters.

Their faces and their wings belonging to the four of them: 9their wings touched each other. They wouldn’t turn as they went; they’d go, each in the direction of its face. 10The form of their faces: a human face, but the four of them had a lion’s face on the right, and the four of them had an ox’s face on the left, and the four of them had an eagle’s face. 11So their faces. Their wings were stretching upward, two belonging to each touching each, and two covering its body. 12They’d go each in the direction of its face; to wherever the wind was to go, they’d go. They wouldn’t turn as they went.

13So the form of the creatures. Their appearance was very coals of fire burning, the very appearance of torches. It was going about between the creatures. The fire had a brightness, and from the fire lightning was coming out. 14The creatures were running and coming back, the very appearance of lightning flashes.

## 1:15 The Creatures Powering the Chariot

15I looked at the creatures. There, one wheel on the earth beside the creatures with its four faces. 16The wheels’ appearance and their construction: the very gleam of topaz. The form of each of the four of them: their appearance and their construction were like a wheel inside a wheel. 17When they went, they’d go in the direction of their four quarters; they wouldn’t turn as they went. 18Their rims were high and awe-inspiring. Their rims were full of eyes all round, belonging to the four of them. 19When the creatures went, the wheels would go, beside them. When the creatures lifted above the earth, the wheels lifted. 20Wherever the wind was to go, they’d go there, with the wind going. The wheels would lift alongside them, because the creature’s spirit was in the wheels. 21When they went, they’d go; when they stopped, they’d stop; when they lifted from on the earth, the wheels would lift alongside them, because the creature’s spirit was in the wheels.

22A form was above the creature’s heads, a platform, the very gleam of crystal, awe-inspiring, spread out over their heads, above. 23Under the platform their wings were straight toward each other. Each had two covering their bodies on one side, and each had two covering on the other side. 24I heard the sound of their wings, the very sound of much water, the very sound of Shadday, when they went, the sound of a tumult, the very sound of an army. When they stopped, they’d relax their wings.

25There was a sound above the platform that was over their head (when they stopped, they’d relax their wings). 26Above the platform that was over their head was the very appearance of sapphire, the form of a throne, and above the form of the throne a form that was a very human appearance on it, above.

## 1:27 A Rebellious Household

27I saw the very gleam of electrum, the very appearance of fire within it all round, from the appearance of his hips upwards and from the appearance of his hips downwards I saw the very appearance of fire. His brightness was all round. 28The very appearance of the bow that comes in the cloud on a rainy day, such was the appearance of the brightness all round. That was the appearance of the form of Yahweh’s splendour.

I saw it and fell on my face, and I heard a voice speaking. 2 He said to me, ‘Young man, stand on your feet, so I may speak with you’. 2A wind came into me as he spoke to me. It stood me on my feet and I listened to him speaking to me.

3He said to me, ‘Young man, I’m sending you to the Israelites, nations that rebel, who’ve rebelled against me. They and their ancestors have defied me right up to this day. 4The descendants are tough-faced and strong-minded. I’m sending you to them, and you’re to say to them, “The Lord Yahweh has said this”.

5Whether they listen or refuse (because they’re a rebellious household), they will acknowledge that a prophet’s been among them. 6So you, young man, don’t be afraid of them and don’t be afraid of their words, when thistles and thorns are with you and you’re living with scorpions. Don’t be afraid of their words, don’t shatter because of them, because they’re a rebellious household. 7You’re to speak my words to them whether they listen, or whether they refuse because they’re rebellious. 8You, young man, listen to what I’m speaking to you. Don’t become rebellious like the rebellious household. Open your mouth and eat what I’m going to give you’.

9I saw: there, a hand put out to me, and there, in it a document scroll. 10He spread it out before me. It was written on front and back surfaces. Laments, muttering, and groaning were written on it.

## 3:1 Strong-headed and Tough-minded

3 He said to me, ‘Young man, eat what you find. Eat this scroll, and go speak to Israel’s household’. 2I opened my mouth and he got me to eat this scroll. 3He said to me, ‘Young man, get your stomach to eat, fill your insides with this scroll that I’m giving you’. I ate, and in my mouth it became like syrup for sweetness.

4He said to me, ‘Young man, go, come to Israel’s household and speak with my words to them. 5Because not to a people unfathomable of speech and difficult of language – you’re sent to Israel’s household, 6not to many peoples unfathomable of speech and difficult of language whose words you can’t listen to. If I didn’t send you to them….

Those people would listen to you. 7But Israel’s household won’t be willing to listen to you, because they’re not willing to listen to me, because Israel’s entire household are strong-headed and tough-minded. 8There, I’m making your face strong over against their face and your head tough over against their head. 9Like a mineral harder than flint I’m making your head. You will not be afraid of them, you will not shatter before them, because they’re a rebellious household’.

10Then he said to me, ‘Young man, receive into your mind all my words that I speak to you. Listen with your ears 11and go, come to the exile community, to the members of your people, and speak to them. Say to them, “The Lord Yahweh has said this”, whether they listen or refuse’.

12Then a wind lifted me, and I heard behind me a great quaking sound: ‘Yahweh’s splendour be blessed from his place’, 13and the sound of the creatures’ wings beating against each other and the sound of the wheels alongside them: a great quaking sound. 14When a wind lifted me and took me, I went, bitter and in wrath of my spirit, with Yahweh’s hand strong on me.

## 3:15 I Shall Look for His Blood from Your Hand

15I came to the exile community at Tel Abib living by the River Kebar. I lived where they were living, lived there desolate for seven days, 16and at the end of the seven days Yahweh’s word came to me: 17’Young man, I’m making you a lookout for Israel’s household. You’re to listen to the word from my mouth and warn them from me.

18When I say about the faithless person, “You will definitely die”, and you don’t warn him and don’t speak to warn the faithless person from his faithless way, to keep him alive: he, the faithless person will die for his waywardness, but I shall look for his blood from your hand. 19But you – when you warn the faithless person and he doesn’t turn back from his faithlessness, from his faithless way: he will die for his waywardness, but you will have saved your life.

20And when a faithful person turns back from his faithfulness and does what is evil and I put an obstacle before him, he will die, because you didn’t warn him. For his wrongdoing he will die, and his faithful acts that he has done won’t be born in mind, but I shall look for his blood from your hand. 21But you, when you warn him (the faithful person) that the faithful person shouldn’t do wrong, and he doesn’t do wrong, he will definitely live because he let himself be warned, and you yourself will have saved your life’.

22Yahweh’s hand came on me there and he said to me, ‘Set off, go out to the valley, and I shall speak with you there’. 23So I set off and went out to the valley, and there – Yahweh’s splendour was standing there, like the splendour that I saw at the River Kebar. I fell on my face, 24but a wind came into me and stood me up on my feet.

## 3:24b Acting Out a Siege

He spoke with me and said to me, ‘Come, shut yourself inside your house. 25You, young man, there – they’re putting ropes on you and tying you up with them. You’re not to go out among them. 26I shall make your tongue stick to your palate and you’ll be dumb. To them, you won’t be someone who reproves, because they’re a rebellious household. 27But when I speak with you, I shall open your mouth and you will say to them, “The Lord Yahweh has said this”. The one who listens may listen and the one who refuses may refuse, because they’re a rebellious household.

4 You, young man, get yourself a brick, put it before you, and engrave a town on it: Jerusalem. 2Prepare a siege against it. Build a tower against it. Heap up a ramp against it. Make a camp against it. Set up battering rams against it all round. 3And you, get yourself an iron plate and place it as an iron wall between you and the town, and set your face toward it. It will be under siege; you’re to lay siege against it. It will be a sign for Israel’s household.

4You yourself, lie on your left side and on it put the waywardness of Israel’s household. The number of the days that you lie on it, you will carry their waywardness. 5I myself am giving you the years of their waywardness, in number 390 days; you will carry the waywardness of Israel’s household. 6You will finish these, then lie on your right side, a second time, and carry the waywardness of Judah’s household. Forty days, a day for each year, I’m giving you.

## 4:7 Defiled Bread

7And toward Jerusalem’s siege you’re to set your face and your bared arm, and prophesy against it. 8There, I’m putting ropes on you, and you aren’t to turn from side to side until you’ve finished your days of siege. 9You’re to get yourself wheat, barley, beans, lentils, millet, and spelt, put them into a jar, and make them into bread for yourself. For the number of days that you’re lying on your side, 390 days, you’re to eat it.

10The food that you eat, by weight, twenty sheqels a day, you’re to eat at the regular times, 11and water by measure you’re to drink, a sixth of a gallon you’re to drink at the regular times. 12You’re to eat it as a barley cake. Cook it on human excrement in their sight’. 13Yahweh said, ‘In this way the Israelites will eat their bread, defiled, among the nations where I’m driving them’.

14I said, ‘Oh, Lord Yahweh, here, my person hasn’t been defiled. I haven’t eaten anything found dead or torn by an animal, from my youth until now. Impure meat hasn’t come into my mouth’. 15So he said to me, ‘See, I’m going to give you cattle dung instead of human excrement. You can make your bread on that’. 16But he said to me, ‘Young man, here am I, I’m going to break the bread supply in Jerusalem. They will eat bread by weight in anxiety, and drink water by measure in desolation, 17so that they run out of bread and water and are desolate in relation to one another, and waste away because of their waywardness’.

## 5:1 Among the Nations

5 ‘You, young man, get yourself a sharp sword. You’re to get it for yourself as a barber’s razor and pass it over your head and over your beard. Get yourself weighing scales and divide them [the hairs]. 2You’re to burn a third in fire inside the town when the days of the siege are fulfilled. Take a third and strike down all round it with the sword. And scatter a third to the wind; I shall draw a sword after them. 3But you’re to get from there a few and bind them into the folds of your clothes. 4Get some of them again and throw them into the middle of the fire. Burn them in the fire. From this a fire will go out against the entire household of Israel’.

5The Lord Yahweh said this: ‘This Jerusalem I put among the nations, with countries round it. 6But it rebelled against my rulings with more faithlessness than the nations, and against my laws more than the countries round it. Because people rejected my rulings, and my laws – they didn’t walk by them’.

7Therefore the Lord Yahweh said this: ‘Since you’ve been more turbulent than the nations that are round you – you haven’t walked by my laws, you haven’t acted on my rulings, and you haven’t acted in accordance with the rulings of the nations that are round you’; 8therefore the Lord Yahweh said this: ‘Here am I over against you, yes, I myself. I shall act on rulings among you before the eyes of the nations. 9I shall do in you what I haven’t done and the like of which I won’t do again, on account of all your offensive practices.

10Therefore within you parents will eat children and children will eat their parents. I shall execute acts of authority against you and scatter your remainder to every wind. 11Therefore as I live (the Lord Yahweh’s declaration) if I don’t, because you defiled my sanctuary with all your abominations and all your offensive practices – yes, I myself will shave you, my eye won’t spare you, and I myself won’t pity you. 12A third of you will die in an epidemic or be finished off through famine within you. A third will fall by the sword all round you. And a third I shall scatter to every wind, and draw a sword after them.

## 5:13 About Intolerance

13So my anger will finish itself up and I shall set down my wrath on them. I shall find relief, and they will acknowledge that I, Yahweh, have spoken in my passion, when I’ve finished up my wrath against them. 14I shall make you a waste and an object of reviling among the nations that are round you, in the sight of everyone passing by. 15It will be a basis for reviling and ridicule, for discipline and desolation, to the nations that are round you, when I execute acts of authority against you in anger, in wrath, and in wrathful reproofs. I, Yahweh, have spoken.

16When I send off the bad arrows of famine on the people who were due for devastating, which I shall send off to devastate you, I shall add to the famine upon you and break the bread supply for you. 17I shall send off against you famine and bad creatures, and they will bereave you; epidemic and bloodshed will pass through you, and I shall bring the sword against you. I, Yahweh, have spoken’.

6 Yahweh’s word came to me: 2’Young man, set your face toward Israel’s mountains and prophesy toward them. 3You’re to say, “Israel’s mountains, listen to the Lord Yahweh’s word. The Lord Yahweh said this to the mountains and to the hills, to the canyons and to the ravines: ‘Here am I, I’m going to bring a sword against you, and I shall obliterate your shrines. 4Your altars will become desolate, your incense stands broken. I shall make those of you who are run through fall before their lumps. 5I shall put the Israelites’ corpses before their lumps and scatter your bones round your altars 6in all your settlements. The towns will be laid waste and the shrines desolate, in order that your altars may be laid waste and may make restitution, your lumps break and cease, your incense stands be cut down and what you’ve made be wiped out, 7and the person who is run through may fall among you. And you will acknowledge that I am Yahweh.

## 6:8 I Shall Let Some Be Left

8But I shall let some be left. When you have people who have escaped the sword among the nations, when you’re scattered among the countries, 9those of you who escape will be mindful of me among the nations where they’ve been taken captive, that I’ve been broken with their whorish mind that turned away from me and with their eyes whoring after their lumps. They’ll feel a loathing toward their own selves concerning the bad things that they’ve done, regarding all their offensive practices. 10And they will acknowledge that I am Yahweh. Not for nothing did I speak about bringing all this bad fortune to them’.

11The Lord Yahweh said this: ‘Clap with the palm of your hand, stamp with your foot. Say, “Aagh!” about all the offensive bad practices of Israel’s household, who will fall by sword, by famine, and by epidemic. 12The person who’s far away will die by the epidemic, the one who’s near will fall by the sword, and the one who remains and is preserved will die by the famine. I shall finish up my wrath on them. 13And you will acknowledge that I am Yahweh when those of them who are run through are among their lumps round their altars toward every high hill, on all the tops of the mountains, under every verdant tree and under every leafy oak, the site where they presented a pleasing fragrance to all their lumps. 14I shall stretch out my hand against them and make the country desolation and devastation, from the wilderness to Diblah, in all their settlements. And they will acknowledge that I am Yahweh”.

## 7:1 The Club Has Blossomed

7 Yahweh’s word came to me: 2’You, young man – the Lord Yahweh has said this to Israel’s land: “An end! The end is coming upon the four corners of the country. 3The end is now upon you. I shall send off my anger against you, and I shall exercise authority over you in accordance with your ways. I shall put all your offensive practices upon you. 4My eye won’t spare you, I shall not have pity, because I shall put upon you your ways and your offensive practices that are within you. And you will acknowledge that I am Yahweh”’.

5The Lord Yahweh said this: ‘A singular bad event! A bad event – there, it’s coming. 6An end is coming! It’s coming! The end is rousing itself against you! There, it’s coming! 7The doom is coming upon you, you who inhabit the country. The time is coming. The day is near, tumult not cheering on the mountains. 8Now it’s near.

I shall pour out my wrath on you and finish up my anger against you. I shall exercise authority over you in accordance with your ways, and put all your offensive practices upon you. 9My eye will not spare, I shall not have pity. When in accordance with your ways I put them upon you, your offensive practices that are within you, you will acknowledge that I am Yahweh, the one who strikes down.

10There, the day! There, it’s coming. The doom is coming out. The club has blossomed, assertiveness has flourished, 11violence has arisen with a faithless club. Nothing comes from them, not from their horde, not from anything of theirs; there’s no distinction in them. 12The time is coming, the day is coming close. The buyer shouldn’t rejoice, the seller shouldn’t mourn, because wrath is upon its entire horde. 13Because the seller won’t turn back to what he sold, even though their life is still among the living, because the vision about the entire horde won’t turn back. Each in his waywardness – they won’t keep strong hold on their life.

## 7:14 They’ll Throw Their Silver into the Streets

14They’ve sounded the horn and made everything ready, but there’s no one going to the battle, because my wrath is against its entire horde. 15The sword is in the street, the epidemic and the famine in the house. The person who’s in the field will die by the sword, and the person who’s in the town – famine and epidemic will consume him.

16Those of them that escape – they’ll escape but be in the mountains like the pigeons in the ravines, all of them moaning, each in his waywardness. 17All the hands will go slack, water will go down all the knees. 18They’ll wrap on sack, and shuddering will cover them, with shame on all faces and shornness on all their heads.

19They’ll throw their silver into the streets; their gold will become taboo. Their silver and their gold won’t be able to rescue them on the day of Yahweh’s outburst, they won’t satisfy people’s desire or fill their stomachs, because their waywardness has become the cause of their collapse.

20Its jewelled splendour that he set in majesty, with it they made their offensive images, their abominations with it. Therefore I’m making it taboo for them. 21I shall give it into the hand of strangers as plunder, as spoil for the faithless of the earth, and they’ll treat it as ordinary. 22I shall turn away my face from them, and people will treat my treasured place as ordinary – intruders will come into it and treat it as ordinary.

## 7:23 Inflammatory Images

23Make a chain, because the country is full of bloody exercise of authority, the town is full of violence. 24I shall bring the nations that deal most badly and they will take possession of their houses. I shall put a stop to the majesty of the vigorous. Their sanctuaries will be made ordinary.

25Calamity is coming. People will seek well-being but there will be none. 26Disaster will come upon disaster, report will follow upon report. They will seek a vision from a prophet, but instruction will perish from priest and counsel from elders. 27The king will mourn, the ruler will put on desolation as clothing, the hands of the country’s people will tremble. According to their way I shall act with them, and bon the basis of their acts of authority I shall exercise authority over them. And they will acknowledge that I am Yahweh’.

8 In the sixth year, in the sixth, on the fifth of the month, I was sitting in my house and the Judahite elders were sitting before me, and the hand of the Lord Yahweh fell on me there. 2I looked, and there, a form with a fiery appearance. From the appearance of his hips and downward there was fire, and from his hips and upward, a gold appearance, the very gleam of electrum. 3He put out the form of a hand and took me by the hair of my head, and a wind lifted me between the earth and the heavens and brought me to Jerusalem with a great appearance of God, to the entrance of the gateway to the inner courtyard that faces north, where was the seat of the inflammatory image, which inflames. 4There, the splendour of Israel’s God was there, like the appearance that I saw in the valley.

5He said to me, ‘Young man, raise your eyes northward, please’. I raised my eyes in the northward direction, and there, north of the altar gateway, was this inflammatory image, at the entrance. 6He said to me, ‘Young man, do you see what they’re doing, great offensive things that Israel’s household are doing here, so that I shall go far from my sanctuary? You will see further great offensive things’.

## 8:7 Religion and Violence

7He brought me to the entrance of the courtyard. I looked, and there, a hole in the wall. 8He said to me, ‘Young man, break through the wall, please’. I broke through the wall, and there, a door. 9He said to me, ‘Come in, look at the offensive bad things that they’re doing here’. 10I came and looked, and there, every form of abominable reptile and animal and all the lumps of Israel’s household, carved on the wall all the way round. 11Seventy individuals of the elders of Israel’s household, with Ya’azanyahu ben Shaphan standing among them, were standing before them, each with his censer in his hand. The richness of the incense cloud was going up. 12He said to me, ‘Young man, have you seen what the elders of Israel’s household are doing in the dark, each in his image-covered rooms? Because they’re saying, “Yahweh isn’t looking at us. Yahweh’s abandoned the country”’.

13He said to me, ‘You will again see further great offensive things that they’re doing’. 14He brought me to the entrance of the gateway of Yahweh’s house that’s to the north. There, the women were sitting there, bewailing Tammuz. 15He said to me, ‘Young man, have you seen? You will again see further greater offensive things than these”. 16He brought me to the inner courtyard of Yahweh’s house. There, at the gateway of Yahweh’s palace, between the portico and the altar, some twenty-five men, their backs to Yahweh’s palace and their faces to the east, and they were bowing low to the east, to the sun.

17He said to me, ‘Young man, have you seen? Is it too slight for Judah’s household to do the offensive things that they’ve done here? Because they’ve filled the country with violence and again provoked me. There they are, putting the branch to their nose. 18Yes, I myself will act in wrath. My eye won’t spare and I shall not pity. They will call in my ears in a loud voice but I shall not listen to them’.

## 9:1 Who Are the People Who Groan and Moan?

9 He called in my ears in a loud voice, ‘Come near, you who have appointment over the town, each of you with his implement of devastation in his hand’. 2And there – six individuals coming by way of the upper gateway that faces north, each with his implement of demolition in his hand, and an individual among them dressed in linen, with a writing case at his hips. They came and stood beside the copper altar. 3Now the splendour of Israel’s God had gone up from on the sphinx on which it had been, to the house’s terrace. He called to the one dressed in linen, at whose hips was the writing case. 4Yahweh said to him, ‘Pass through the middle of the town, through the middle of Jerusalem, and put an X on the foreheads of the people who are groaning and who are moaning over the offensive things that are done in the middle of it’.

5To the others he said in my ears, ‘Pass through the town after him and strike down. Your eye must not spare. You must not pity. 6Elder, young man, girl, little one, women, you’re to kill outright. But any individual on whom is the X – don’t go up to them. Start from my sanctuary’. So they started with the men who were the elders who were before the house. 7He said to them, ‘Defile the house. Fill the courtyards with the people run through. Go out’. They went out and struck the town down.

8While they were striking down, I myself remained alone. I fell on my face and cried out and said, ‘Aagh! Lord Yahweh! Are you going to devastate all that remains of Israel by pouring out your wrath on Jerusalem?’ 9He said to me, ‘The waywardness of the household of Israel and Judah is very, very great. The country is full of bloodshed. The town is full of injustice. Because they’ve said, “Yahweh has abandoned the country. Yahweh isn’t looking”. 10I, too – my eye won’t spare and I won’t pity. I’m putting their own way on their head’. 11And there – the one clothed in linen, at whose hips was the writing case, was bringing back word: ‘I’ve acted in accordance with all that you ordered me’.

## 10:1 Take Fire

10 I looked, and there – on the platform that was over the head of the sphinxes was an actual sapphire stone; the appearance of the form of a throne appeared on it. 2He said to the man clothed in linen, ‘Come in between the whirling, underneath the sphinx, fill the hollow of your hands with burning coals from between the sphinxes, and scatter them over the town’. He came in before my eyes. 3The sphinxes were standing at the right of the house when the man came in, and the cloud was filling the inner courtyard.

4Yahweh’s splendour lifted from above the sphinx above the house’s terrace, the house filled with the cloud, and the courtyard was full of the brightness of Yahweh’s splendour. 5The sound of the sphinxes’ wings made itself heard as far as the outer courtyard, like the voice of God Shadday when he speaks. 6When he ordered the one dressed in linen, ‘Take fire from between the whirling, from between the sphinxes’, he came in and stood beside the wheel . 7The sphinx put out its hand from between the sphinxes to the fire that was between the sphinxes, took some up, and put it into the hollow of the hands of the one dressed in linen. He took it and went out. 8(The form of a human hand belonging to the sphinxes appeared under their wings.)

9I looked, and there – four wheels beside the sphinxes, one wheel beside one sphinx, another wheel beside another sphinx. The appearance of the wheels: the very gleam of beryl stone. 10Their appearance: the four of them had one form, as if one wheel were inside another wheel. 11When they went, they’d go in the direction of their four quarters. They wouldn’t turn as they went, because the place that the head faced, they’d follow it. They wouldn’t turn as they went.

## 10:12 Yahweh Leaves

12Their entire body—their backs, their hands, and their wings—and the wheels were full of eyes all round (the wheels belonging to the four of them; 13these wheels had been called ‘the whirling’ in my ears). 14Each had four faces. Face one was the sphinx’s face. Face two was a human face. The third was a lion’s face. The fourth was an eagle’s face.

15The sphinxes lifted; it was the creature that I’d seen by the River Kebar. 16When the sphinxes went, the wheels would go beside them. When the sphinxes raised their wings to lift from on the earth, the wheels wouldn’t turn from beside them, too. 17When they stopped, they’d stop, and when they lifted, they’d lift with them, because the creature’s spirit was in them.

18Yahweh’s splendour went out from above the house’s terrace and stood above the sphinxes. 19The sphinxes raised their wings and lifted from the earth before my eyes as they went out, with the wheels alongside them. It stood at the entrance of the east gateway of Yahweh’s house, with the splendour of Israel’s God over them, above. 20It was the creature that I saw below Israel’s God at the River Kebar. So I recognized that they were sphinxes. 21Each had four faces and each had four wings, with the form of human hands under their wings. 22The form of their faces – they were the faces that I saw by the River Kebar, their appearance and themselves. They’d each go in the direction of its face.

## 11:1 The Pot and the Meat

11 A wind lifted me and brought me to the east gateway of Yahweh’s house, which faces east. There, at the entrance of the gateway, were twenty-five men. I saw among them Ya’azanyah ben Azzur and Pelatyahu ben Benayahu, officials of the people. 2He said to me, ‘Young man, these are the men who think up trouble and formulate bad counsel in this town, 3who say, “The building of houses isn’t near. That’s the pot, and we’re the meat”. 4Therefore prophesy against them. Prophesy, young man’.

5Yahweh’s spirit fell on me, and he said to me, ‘Say, “Yahweh has said this: ‘This is what you’ve said, Israel’s household; I myself know what’s come up into your spirit. 6You’ve multiplied the people run through by you in this town. You’ve filled its streets with people run through’.

7Therefore the Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘The people run through by you whom you’ve put in the middle of it: they’re the meat. That’s the pot, but he’s making you go out from the middle of it. 8You’re afraid of a sword, but I shall bring a sword upon you (the Lord Yahweh’s declaration). 9I shall make you go out from the middle of it and give you into the hand of strangers. I shall execute acts of authority against you. 10By the sword you will fall. At Israel’s border I shall exercise authority over you, and you will acknowledge that I am Yahweh. 11It won’t be a pot for you nor will you be the meat in the middle of it. At Israel’s border I shall exercise authority over you, 12and you will acknowledge that I am Yahweh, whose laws you didn’t follow and whose rulings you didn’t act on, but acted in accordance with the rulings of the nations that are round you’”’.

13As I prophesied, Pelatyahu ben Benayahu died. I fell on my face and cried out in a loud voice, ‘Aagh, Lord Yahweh, you’re finishing off the remainder of Israel!’

## 11:14 A Small Sanctuary

14Yahweh’s word came to me: 15’Young man, your brothers, your brothers who are the people in your extended family, Israel’s entire household, all of it, are the people of whom Jerusalem’s inhabitants have said, “Get far away from Yahweh. It’s being given to us, the country, as a possession”. 16Therefore say, “The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Because I’ve made them go far away among the nations and because I’ve scattered them among the countries but become a small sanctuary for them in the countries where they’ve come’”, 17therefore say, “The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘I shall collect you from the peoples, gather you from the countries in which I scattered them, and I shall give you Israel’s land’. 18They will come there and remove all their abominations and their offensive practices from them, 19and I shall give them one mind. I shall put a new spirit within you. I shall remove the mind of stone from their flesh and give them a mind of flesh, 20so that they will follow my laws, and keep my rulings and act on them. They will be a people for me and I shall be God for them. 21But the people whose mind is walking after the mind of their abominations and their offensive practices, I’m going to put their way on their own head (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh)”’.

22The sphinxes lifted up their wings, with the wheels alongside them and the splendour of Israel’s God over them, above. 23Yahweh’s splendour went up from over the middle of the town and stood over the mountain that’s on the east of the town, 24while a wind lifted me up and brought me to Kasdim to the exile community, by the appearance from God’s spirit, and the appearance that I’d seen went up from over me. 25I spoke to the exile community all Yahweh’s words that he’d shown me.

## 12:1 Dramatizing Exile

12 Yahweh’s word came to me: 2’Young man, you’re living in the middle of a rebellious household, who have eyes for seeing but don’t see, ears for hearing but don’t hear, because they’re a rebellious household. 3You, young man, prepare things for exile for yourself and go into exile by day before their eyes. Go into exile from your place to another place before their eyes. Perhaps they will see that they’re a rebellious household.

4You’re to take your things out like things for exile by day, before their eyes, and you yourself are to go out in the evening, before their eyes, like people going out into exile. 5Before their eyes, break through the wall for yourself and take them out through it. 6Before their eyes, you’re to lift them onto your shoulder. You’re to take it out in the dark. You’re to cover your face and not look at the land, because I’m making you a sign for Israel’s household’.

7I did just as I was ordered. I took my things out by day, like things for exile, and in the evening I broke through the wall for myself with my hand. In the dark I took them out. I lifted them on my shoulder before their eyes.

8Yahweh’s word came to me in the morning: 9’Young man, Israel’s household (a rebellious household) said to you, “What are you doing?”, didn’t they. 10Say to them, “The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘This pronouncement: the ruler in Jerusalem and all Israel’s household that are among them’”. 11Say, ‘I’m a sign for you. As I’ve done, so it will be done to them. They will go into exile, into captivity. 12The ruler who’s among them will lift them onto his shoulder in the dark. He’ll go out through the wall. They’ll break through in order to take them out through it. He’ll cover his face, because he won’t look at the land with his eye’. 13But I shall spread my net over him, and he’ll be caught in my trap. I shall bring him to Babel, to the country of the Kasdites, but he won’t see it, and he’ll die there. 14Everyone who’s round him, his support staff and all his legions, I shall scatter to every wind, and draw a sword after them.

## 12:15 God Won’t Let Things Drag On

15They will acknowledge that I am Yahweh when I scatter them among the nations and disperse them among the countries. 16But I shall let a few of the people be left from sword, from famine, and from epidemic, in order that they may recount all their offensive practices among the nations where they come. And they will acknowledge that I am Yahweh”’.

17Yahweh’s word came to me: 18’Young man, you’re to eat your food with trembling and drink your water with shuddering and with anxiety, 19and say to the country’s people, “The Lord Yahweh has said this concerning Jerusalem’s inhabitants in the land of Israel: ‘They will eat their bread with anxiety and drink their water in desolation, in order that their country may be desolate of what fills it because of the violence of all the people who live in it. 20The inhabited towns will be wasted and the country will become a desolation. And you will acknowledge that I am Yahweh’”’.

21Yahweh’s word came to me: 22’Young man, what’s this saying that you have in the land of Israel, “Days grow long and every vision perishes”? Therefore say to them, “The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘I shall make this saying stop. They won’t say it anymore in Israel’”. Rather, speak to them: “The days are drawing near, and the thing in every vision”. 24Because there won’t anymore be empty vision or deceptive divination within Israel’s household. 25Because I Yahweh shall speak the word that I speak and it will be done. It won’t drag on anymore. Because in your days, rebellious household, I shall speak a word and do it (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh)’.

26Yahweh’s word came to me: 27’Young man, there, Israel’s household are saying, “The vision that he sees is for many days and he prophesies for far off times”. 28Therefore say to them: “The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘None of the words that I speak will drag on anymore. The word that I speak will be acted on (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh)”’.

## 13:1 About Building a Wall

13 Yahweh’s word came to me: 2’Young man, prophesy against Israel’s prophets, who are prophesying. Say to the prophets of their own mind, “Listen to Yahweh’s word. 3The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Hey, against the villainous prophets who follow their own spirit and have seen nothing. 4Your prophets have been like jackals among wastes, Israel. 5You didn’t go up into the breaks and build up the barrier round Israel’s household so it would stand in the battle on Yahweh’s day. 6They saw emptiness and lying divination, those who say “Yahweh’s declaration” when Yahweh hadn’t sent them, and people expected the implementing of the word. 7It was an empty vision that you saw and lying divination that you uttered, wasn’t it, saying “Yahweh’s declaration” when I myself hadn’t spoken’”.

8Therefore the Lord Yahweh has said this: “Because you spoke emptiness and saw lies, here am I toward you (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh): 9my hand will be against the prophets who see emptiness and who divine lies. They won’t be in my people’s council. They won’t be recorded in the record of Israel’s household. They won’t come into Israel’s land. And you will acknowledge that I am the Lord Yahweh.

10Because, yes because they’ve misled my people, saying ‘Things will be well’, when things won’t be well, and ‘He’s building a divider’, and there—they’re coating it with paint: 11say to the people coating it with paint, ‘It will fall. Pouring rain is coming and I shall send hailstones that will fall, and a hurricane wind will break it up. 12There, the wall is falling. It will be said to you, won’t it, “Where’s the coating that you put on?”’”

13Therefore the Lord Yahweh has said this: “I shall make a hurricane wind break out in my wrath, and pouring rain will come in my anger and hailstones in my wrath, to a finish. 14I shall tear down the wall that you’ve coated with paint, bring it close to the earth, and its foundation will become visible. When it falls, you will come to a finish within it. And you will acknowledge that I am Yahweh.

## 13:15 Trapping People’s Lives Like Birds

15I shall finish up my wrath on the wall and on the people who coat it with paint, and I shall say to you, ‘There’s no wall and there are no painters of it, 16Israel’s prophets who prophesy about Jerusalem and see a vision of things being well for it when things aren’t going to be well (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh)’”.

17And you, young man, set your face against your people’s daughters, who prophesy out of their own mind. Prophesy against them. 18You shall say, “The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Hey, to the women who sew straps on any wrists and make veils for the head of someone of any height, to trap their lives. Should you trap my people’s lives but keep yourselves alive for yourselves? 19You’ve treated me as ordinary to my people, for handfuls of barley and for crumbs of bread, so as to put to death people who shouldn’t die and to keep alive people who shouldn’t live, with your lying to my people who listen to lying’”.

20Therefore the Lord Yahweh has said this: “Here am I, against your straps, where you’re [like people] hunting the lives of flying creatures. I shall tear them off from your arms and send off [free] the lives that you’re hunting, [like] the lives of flying creatures. 21I shall tear off your veils and rescue my people from your hand. They will no longer be an object for hunting in your hand. And you will acknowledge that I am Yahweh.

22Because of your saddening the heart of the faithful person with falsehood when I myself hadn’t hurt him, and for your strengthening the hands of the faithless person so that he wouldn’t turn back from his bad way so as to stay alive, 23therefore you won’t see emptiness and you won’t practise divination anymore. I shall rescue my people from your hand. And you will acknowledge that I am Yahweh.”’

## 14:1 Shall I Really Let Myself Be Inquired of by Them?

14 People from among Israel’s elders came to me and sat before me, 2and Yahweh’s word came to me: 3’Young man, these people have taken up their lumps into their mind and set their waywardness as an obstacle in front of their faces. Shall I really let myself be inquired of by them? 4Therefore speak to them: “The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Any individual from Israel’s household who takes up his lumps into his mind and places his waywardness as an obstacle in front of his face, and comes to the prophet, I make an answer to him through it (through the great number of his lumps), 5in order to lay hold of Israel’s household through its mind, because they’ve become estranged from me through their lumps, all of them’”.

6Therefore say to Israel’s household, “The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Turn back, turn yourselves back from your lumps, turn back your faces from your offensive practices. 7Because any individual from Israel’s household or from the aliens residing in Israel who becomes estranged from following me and takes up his lumps into his mind and sets his waywardness as an obstacle in front of his face, and comes to the prophet to inquire of him with me—I Yahweh will make an answer to him by myself. 8I shall set my face against that individual and make him a sign and a saying. I shall cut him off from among my people. And you will acknowledge that I am Yahweh’”.

9When a prophet is enticed and speaks a word, I Yahweh will have enticed that prophet, and I shall stretch out my hand against him and annihilate him from among my people Israel. 10They will carry their waywardness. The inquirer’s waywardness and the prophet’s waywardness will be the same, 11in order that Israel’s household may not wander again from following me and may not defile itself again with all its rebellions. They will be a people for me and I shall be God for them (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh)’.

## 14:12 Noah, Dan’el, and Job

12Yahweh’s word came to me: 13’Young man, when a country does wrong to me by committing a trespass, and I stretch out my hand against it, and I break its bread supply and send famine against it and cut off from it human beings and animals, 14were these three people within it, Noah, Dan’el, and Job, by their faithfulness they would save their own lives (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh). 15If I let bad creatures pass through the country, and they leave it childless and it becomes a desolation without anyone passing through in face of the creatures, 16were these three people within it, as I live (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh), neither sons nor daughters would they save. They’d save themselves alone. The country would become a desolation.

17Or I might bring a sword against that country and say, “A sword is to pass through the country, and I shall cut off from it human beings and animals”; 18were these three people within it, as I live (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh) they wouldn’t save sons or daughters, but would save themselves alone.

19Or I might send off an epidemic to that country and pour out my wrath on it in bloodshed, cutting off from it human beings and animals; 20were Noah, Dan’el, and Job within it, as I live (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh) they wouldn’t save a son or a daughter. These people would save themselves alone by their faithfulness.

21Because the Lord Yahweh has said this: “How much more when I’ve sent off my four bad judgments—sword, famine, bad creature, and epidemic—to Jerusalem, to cut off from it human beings and animals.

22But there – an escape group is being left in it, people who are being taken out, sons and daughters. There they are, coming out to you. You will see their way and their deeds, and be comforted about the bad fate that I shall have brought upon Jerusalem, all that I’ve brought upon it. 23They will comfort you because you will see their way and their deeds and you will acknowledge that it was not without reason that I did all that I did against it (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh)’.

## 15:1 The Useless Vine Wood

15 Yahweh’s word came to me: 2’Young man, how will the vine’s wood be better than the wood of any branch that’s among the trees of the forest? 3Will wood be taken from it to make anything? Will they take a peg from it to hang an object on? 4There, it’s put in the fire to be consumed. If the fire consumes the two ends of it and the middle of it is burned, is it useful for anything? 5There, when it was whole, it couldn’t be made into anything. How much less when the fire consumes it, and it burns, can it be made into anything.

6Therefore the Lord Yahweh says this: “As the wood of the vine among the trees of the forest that I gave to the fire for consuming, so I’m giving Jerusalem’s inhabitants. 7I’m setting my face against them. They got out from the fire, but the fire will consume them. And you will acknowledge that I am Yahweh when I set my face against them. 8I shall make the country a desolation because they committed trespass (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh)”’.

16 Yahweh’s word came to me: 2’Young man, get Jerusalem to acknowledge its offensive practices. 3You’re to say, “The Lord Yahweh has said this to Jerusalem: ‘Your origin and your birth were from the Canaanites’ country—your father an Amorite and your mother a Hittite. 4Your birth: on the day you were born, no one cut your cord and you weren’t washed in water for cleansing. You weren’t rubbed with salt at all and you weren’t wrapped up at all. 5No eye cared about you so as to do one of these things for you to express compassion for you. You were thrown onto the face of the open country in loathing for you on the day you were born. 6But I passed by you and looked at you kicking about in your bloodiness and I said to you in your bloodiness, “Live”. Yes, I said to you in your bloodiness, “Live”.

## 16:7 You’re Just a Whore

7I made you big like a plant in the open country, and you grew big.You grew up and came to full loveliness; your breasts formed, your hair flourished, but you were naked, bare. 8I passed by you and saw you – there, your time was time for love. I spread my robe over you and covered your nakedness. I took an oath to you and came into a pact with you (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh) and you became mine.

9I washed you in water and sluiced off the blood from on you and poured oil over you. 10I clothed you with embroidery and gave you leather footwear. I wrapped you round in fine linen and covered you in silk. 11I adorned you with jewellery and put bracelets on your hands and a necklace on your neck. 12I put a ring on your nose, earrings on your ears, and a splendid crown on your head. 13So you adorned yourself with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen, silk, and embroidery, your food was choice flour, syrup, and oil, and you became more and more beautiful, and attained a royal position. 14Your fame went out among the nations for your beauty, because it was complete through the splendour that I put on you (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh).

15But you relied on your beauty and whored on the basis of your fame. You poured your whorings on every passer-by. It could become his. 16You took some of your clothes and made yourself colourful shrines, and whored at them (not things to come, and they will not be). 17You took your splendid things of gold and of silver that I gave you and made yourself male images and whored with them. 18You took your embroidered clothes and covered them and offered my oil and incense before them.

## 16:19 Yes, Just a Whore

19My food that I gave you, fine flour, oil, and syrup that I let you eat, you gave before them as a pleasing fragrance, and so it became (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh). 20You took your sons and your daughters to whom you gave birth for me and sacrificed them to them to eat: were your whorings trivial? 21You slaughtered my children and gave them to them by making them pass through [fire].

22With all your offensive practices and your whorings, you weren’t mindful of your young days when you were naked and bare, kicking about in your bloodiness. 23After all your bad dealing (hey, hey, to you: a declaration of the Lord Yahweh) 24you built yourself an enclosure and made yourself a platform in every square. 25At the top of every street you built your platform and made your beauty something offensive. You spread your legs to every passerby and multiplied your whorings. 26You whored with the Egyptians, your neighbours with their big members. You multiplied your whoring to provoke me. 27So there, I’m stretching out my hand to you and cutting your maintenance. I’m giving you over to the will of people who are hostile to you, the Philistine women, who are ashamed of your deliberately wicked way.

28You whored with the Ashshurites because you weren’t full. You whored with them, but you were still not full. 29You multiplied your whoring with the trader country, Kasdim, but you were still not full with this. 30How feeble was your mind (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh) when you did all these things, the action of a whorish, powerful woman.

## 16:31 But a Strange Kind of Whore

31When you built your enclosure at the top of every street and made your platform in every square, you were not like a whore in scorning a “gift”, 32you adulterous wife who accepts strangers instead of her husband. 33To all whores men give a fee, but you—you’ve given fees to all your lovers, and paid them to come to you from all round for your whorings. 34With you it was the opposite from other women, in your whorings. Whoring wasn’t done by going after you but through your giving a “gift”. A “gift” was not given to you. You were the opposite.

35Therefore listen to Yahweh’s word, whore. 36The Lord Yahweh has said this: “Since your copper poured out and your nakedness exposed itself in your whorings with your lovers and with all your offensive lumps, and in accordance with the bloodshed of your children whom you gave to them, 37therefore here am I, I’m going to collect all your lovers to whom you were sweet, each one whom you loved, as well as each one to whom you were hostile. I shall collect them against you from all round and expose your nakedness to them. They will see all your nakedness 38and I shall make for you the judgments appropriate for women who commit adultery or pour out blood.

I shall make you an object of the blood of wrath and passion. 39I shall give you into their hand and they will tear down your enclosure and break down your platforms. They will strip you of your clothes, take your splendid things, and leave you naked and bare. 40They will bring up a congregation against you, pelt you with stones, and cut you down with their swords. 41They will burn your houses with fire and execute acts of authority against you before the eyes of many women. I shall make your whoring stop. You will no more give ‘gifts’, either. 42I shall set down my wrath with you and turn away my passion from you, and be calm and not vexed any more.

## 16:43 Jerusalem, Her Mother, and Her Sisters

43Since you weren’t mindful of your young days and you infuriated me with all these things, I myself shall also – yes, I shall put your way on your own head (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh). You acted on your deliberate wickedness with your offensive practices, didn’t you.

44There, everyone who quotes sayings will quote this saying with regard to you: ‘Like mother, like daughter’. 45You’re your mother’s daughter, renouncing her husband and her children. You’re the sister of your sisters, who renounced their husbands and their children. Your mother was a Hittite, your father an Amorite. 46Your big sister was Shomron [Samaria], she and her daughters who were living to the north of you. Your little sister who was living to the south of you was Sedom [Sodom] and her daughters. 47You walked in their ways and acted by their offensive practices, didn’t you. In a very short while you became more devastating than them in all your ways. 48As I live (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh), if Sedom your sister, she and her daughters, had acted as you and your daughters acted….

49There, this was the waywardness of Sedom your sister: she and her daughters had majesty, plenty of bread, and calm peacefulness, but they didn’t take the hand of the humble and needy. 50They were lofty and they did something offensive before me. So I removed them, as you have seen.

51Shomron—she didn’t commit half your wrongdoings; you’ve multiplied your wrongdoings more than her. You made your sisters seem faithful with all your offensive deeds that you did. 52You, too, carry your shame, you who’ve pleaded for your sisters with your wrongdoings with which you’ve acted more offensively than them. They’re more faithful than you. Yes, you—be shamed. Carry your disgrace in your making your sisters seem faithful.

## 16:53 But Whoring Will Not Be the End of the Story

53I shall restore their fortunes, the fortunes of Sedom and her daughters and the fortunes of Shomron and her daughters, and the fortunes of your captivity among them, 54in order that you may carry your disgrace and feel disgraced for all that you’ve done in enabling them to take comfort. 55Your sister Sedom and her daughters will go back to what they were before, Shomron and her daughters will go back to what they were before, and you and your daughters will go back to what you were before. 56Your sister Sedom was a topic of talk in your mouth in the day of your majesty, wasn’t she, 57before your bad dealing became open, at the very time of the reviling of the daughters of Aram and all the peoples round her, the daughters of the Philistines, who jeer at you from all round. 58Your scheming and your offensive deeds—you are going to carry them (Yahweh’s declaration)”’.

59Because the Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Yes, I shall act with you as you’ve acted, in that you’ve despised the vow, in contravening the pact. 60But I—I shall be mindful of my pact with you in your young days. I shall implement for you a permanent pact. 61You will be mindful of your ways and feel disgrace when you receive your sisters, the ones who are bigger than you and the ones who are younger than you. I shall give them to you as daughters, though not on the basis of your pact. 62I—I shall implement my pact with you. And you will acknowledge that I am Yahweh, 63in order that you may be mindful and feel shame. It won’t be for you to open your mouth again in the face of your disgrace, when I make expiation for you for all that you’ve done (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh)’”’.

## 17:1 A Tale of Two Eagles

17 Yahweh’s word came to me: 2’Young man, unveil a conundrum, tell Israel’s household a parable. 3Say, “The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘A big eagle, big-winged, long-feathered, full-plumaged, with colouring, came to the Lebanon and took the top of a cedar. 4He broke off the highest of its shoots, brought it to a merchant country, and put it in a traders’ town. 5He took some of the country’s seed and put it in a seed field; he placed it by plentiful water, a willow. 6It grew and became a spreading vine, low in height, its branches to turn to him, its roots being beneath it. So it became a vine, produced limbs, and sent out shoots.

7But there was another big eagle, big-winged, much-plumaged. There—this vine turned its roots toward it and sent out its branches to it for it to water it, away from the beds where it was sown, 8though it had been planted in a good field by plentiful water so as to produce boughs, bear fruit, and become an impressive vine’”.

9Say, “The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘It may flourish, but he will tear up its roots and strip off its fruit so that it withers, won’t he. All the leaves of its growth will wither (not by means of a big arm or by means of a large company) to carry it off by its roots. 10There, though planted, will it flourish? It will totally wither when the east wind touches it, won’t it. It will wither on the beds where it grew’”’.

11Yahweh’s word came to me: ‘Say to the rebellious household, please: “You acknowledge what these things are, don’t you”. Say: “There, the king of Babel came to Jerusalem, took its king and its officials, and brought them to him, to Babel. 13He took someone from the royal offspring and solemnized a pact with him and put him under a vow, but he took the leaders of the country 14so that it might be a lowly kingdom and not exalt itself, keeping his pact so as to stand.

## 17:15 A Tale of Two Trees

15But he rebelled against him by sending his envoys to Egypt so it would give him horses and a large company. Will he flourish? Will the one who does these things escape? Will he contravene a pact and escape? 16As I live (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh), if he doesn’t die in the place belonging to the king who made him king, whose vow he despised and whose pact he contravened, inside Babel….

17Pharaoh won’t act toward him with a big force, with a numerous congregation—with battle, with the heaping up of a ramp and with the building of a tower, to cut down many lives. 18He despised a vow by contravening a pact. There – he gave his hand, but he did all these things. He won’t escape. 19Therefore the Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘As I live, if I don’t put on his own head my vow that he despised and my pact that he contravened….

20I shall spread my net over him, and he’ll be caught in my trap. I shall bring him to Babel and enter into judgment with him there for the trespass that he committed against me. 21All the fugitives in all his legions will fall by the sword and the remainder will scatter to every wind. And you will acknowledge that I Yahweh have spoken’”’.

22Yahweh has said this: ‘And I myself shall take from the top of a tall cedar, and put from the highest of its shoots a tender one that I shall break off and myself plant on a lofty, tall mountain. 23On Israel’s high mountains I shall plant it. It will bear boughs and produce fruit, and become an august cedar. Every bird of every wing will dwell beneath it; in the shade of its branches they will dwell. 24All the trees of the field will acknowledge that I am Yahweh. I shall have brought low the exalted tree, exalted the lowly tree, withered the green tree, and made the withered tree flourish. I am Yahweh. I have spoken and I shall act’.

## 18:1 Father and Son

18 Yahweh’s word came to me. 2’What is it to you people using this saying on Israel’s land, “Parents eat sour grapes, but children’s teeth feel rough”? 3As I live (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh), if you have any more using of this saying in Israel….

4Here, all lives are mine. As the parent’s life, so the child’s life, they’re mine. The person who sins, he will die. 5When an individual is faithful and exercises authority with faithfulness:

* 6he hasn’t eaten on the mountains
* nor raised his eyes to the lumps of Israel’s household
* nor defiled his neighbour’s wife
* nor does he draw near a woman who’s taboo
* 7nor does he oppress an individual
* he gives back the pledge given him for a debt
* nor does he commit robbery
* he gives his bread to the hungry person
* he covers the naked with clothes
* 8he doesn’t give on the basis of earning interest nor take a profit
* he turns his hand back from what is evil
* he makes a truthful judgment between one individual and another:

9he walks by my laws and has kept my rulings by exercising truthfulness. He’s faithful. He will definitely live (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh).

10But he fathers a violent son, a shedder of blood, who does one or another of these things, 11when he himself did none of these things. Rather he

* has eaten on the mountains
* has defiled his neighbour’s wife
* has oppressed the humble and needy
* has committed robbery
* doesn’t return a pledge
* has raised his eyes to the lumps
* has done an offensive thing,
* 13has given on the basis of earning interest and taken a profit:

is he to live? He won’t live. One who has done any of these offensive things will definitely die. His bloodshed will be against him.

## 18:14 Do I Really Want the Death of a Faithless Person?

14But there, he fathers a son, and he sees all his father’s wrongdoings that he committed. He sees, and he doesn’t act in accordance with them:

* 15he hasn’t eaten on the mountains
* he hasn’t raised his eyes to the lumps of Israel’s household
* he hasn’t defiled his neighbour’s wife
* 16he hasn’t oppressed anyone
* he hasn’t exacted a pledge
* he hasn’t committed robbery
* he has given his bread to a hungry person,
* he has covered a naked person with clothes
* 17he has turned his hand back from the humble,
* he hasn’t taken interest or profit:

he has acted on my rulings; he has walked by my laws. He won’t die because of his father’s waywardness. He will definitely live. 18His father, because he practised fraud, committed robbery against his brother, and did what was not good among his people: there, he will definitely die for his waywardness.

19You say, “Why has the son not carried any of the father’s waywardness?” But the son has exercised authority with faithfulness, kept all my laws and done them. He will live. The person who does wrong, he will die. A son doesn’t carry any of the father’s waywardness and a father doesn’t carry any of the son’s waywardness. The faithfulness of the faithful person belongs to him and the faithlessness of the faithless person belongs to him. 21But the faithless person when he turns back from all his wrongdoings that he’s committed and keeps all my laws and exercises authority with faithfulness, he will definitely live. He won’t die. 22None of the rebellions that he’s committed will be kept in mind for him; through the faithfulness with which he’s acted, he will live. 23Do I really want the death of the faithless person (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh) and not his turning back from his ways so that he lives?

## 18:24 Produce Yourselves a New Mind and a New Spirit

24But when the faithful person turns back from his faithfulness and does what is evil in accordance with all the offensive things that the faithless person did, and does them, is he to live? None of his faithful acts that he’s done will be kept in mind because of the trespass that he’s committed and the wrongdoings that he’s done. Through them he will die.

25You say, “The Lord’s way isn’t just”. Listen please, Israel’s household. Is it my way that isn’t just? It’s your ways that aren’t just, isn’t it. 26When a faithful person turns back from his faithfulness and does what is evil and dies for them, he dies for the wrong that he’s done. 27And when a faithless person turns back from his faithlessness that he’s done and exercises authority with faithfulness, he keeps himself alive. 28He’s seen and turned back from all his rebellions that he’s done. He will definitely live. He won’t die.

29Israel’s household say, “The Lord’s way isn’t just”. Is it my ways that are not just, Israel’s household? It’s your ways that aren’t just, isn’t it. 30Therefore I shall exercise authority over you, Israel’s household, over each person in accordance with his ways (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh). So turn back, turn yourselves back from all your rebellions, and they won’t become a wayward obstacle to you. 31Throw away from you all your rebellions that you’ve committed. Produce yourselves a new mind and a new spirit. Why should you die, Israel’s household? 32Because I don’t want the death of the person who dies (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh). So turn back and live!’

## 19:1-14 A Dirge for a Nation’s Rulers

1“And you, take up a dirge for Israel’s rulers.

2What was your mother? –

a lioness among lions.

She bedded down among the great cougars,

reared her cubs.

3She brought up one of her cubs,

he became a cougar.

He learned to hunt prey,

he ate human beings.

4Nations heard about him,

he was caught in their pit.

They brought him with hooks

to the country of Egypt.

5She saw that she’d expected,

whereas her hope had perished.

She got another of her cubs,

made him a cougar.

6He went about among the lions;

he became a cougar.

He learned to hunt prey,

he ate human beings.

7He had sex with their widows,

wasted their towns.

The country and what filled it were desolate

at the sound of his roaring.

8But nations set against him

from provinces all round.

They spread their net over him;

he was caught in their pit.

9They put him in a cage with hooks,

brought him to the king of Babel.

They brought him into a great stronghold,

in order that his voice wouldn’t make itself heard

any more on Israel’s mountains.

10Your mother was a real vine (with your blood),

planted by water.

It became fruitful and green

because of the abundant water.

11It had vigorous boughs

fit for the clubs of rulers.

The stature of one grew high, among the clouds,

and it was visible by its height, by the number of its branches.

12But it was uprooted in wrath, thrown to the earth,

and the east wind withered its fruit.

They broke and withered;

its vigorous bough –fire consumed it.

13So now it’s planted in the wilderness,

in a dry, thirsty country.

14Fire came out from its bough,

consumed its branches with its fruit.

It didn’t have a vigorous bough ,

a club for ruling.

It’s a dirge. It became a dirge.

## 20:1 When You Can’t Inquire of God

20 In the seventh year, in the fifth, on the tenth of the month, some Israelite elders came to inquire of Yahweh, and sat before me. 2Yahweh’s word came to me: ‘Young man, speak to Israel’s elders: “The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Is it to inquire of me that you’re coming? As I live, if I shall let myself be inquired of by you (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh)…’”

4Will you exercise authority over them, will you exercise authority over them, young man? Get them to acknowledge their ancestors’ offensive practices. 5Say to them, “The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘On the day when I chose Israel, I raised my hand [to swear] to the offspring of Jacob’s household, and when I made myself known to them in the country of Egypt, I raised my hand to them, saying “I am Yahweh your God”. 6On that day I raised my hand to them to get them out of the country of Egypt to a country that I’d sought out for them, flowing with milk and syrup; it was the most splendid of all countries. 7I said to them, “Each person, throw away the abominations before your eyes. Don’t defile yourselves with Egypt’s lumps. I am Yahweh your God”. 8But they rebelled against me. They wouldn’t listen to me. Each person, they didn’t throw away the abominations before their eyes and abandon Egypt’s lumps.

I said I’d pour out my wrath on them, to finish up my anger against them within the country of Egypt. 9But I acted for the sake of my name, so that it might not be treated as ordinary in the eyes of the nations among whom they were, before whose eyes I’d caused myself to be acknowledged by them in getting them out of the country of Egypt.

## 20:10 They Treated the Sabbath as Ordinary

10So I got them out of the country of Egypt and brought them into the wilderness. 11I gave them my laws and made known to them my rulings, which a person may act on and live by. 12I also gave them my sabbaths, to become a sign between me and them, so that they might acknowledge that I am Yahweh, who makes them sacred. 13But Israel’s household rebelled against me in the wilderness. They didn’t walk by my laws. They rejected my rulings, which a person may act on and live by, and they quite treated my sabbaths as ordinary.

I said I’d pour my wrath on them in the wilderness, so as to finish them off. 14But I acted for the sake of my name so that it might not be treated as ordinary in the eyes of the nations before whose eyes I got them out. 15But I did also raise my hand to them in the wilderness not to bring them into the country that I’d given them, flowing with milk and syrup, the most splendid of all countries, 16because they’d rejected my rulings and not walked by my laws, and treated my sabbaths as ordinary, because their mind was following their lumps.

17But my eye had pity on them so as not to devastate them. I didn’t bring them to a finish in the wilderness. 18I said to their children in the wilderness, “Don’t follow your parents’ laws and don’t keep their rulings, and don’t defile yourselves with their lumps. 19I am Yahweh your God. Walk by my laws and keep my rulings and do them, 20and make my sabbaths sacred so that they’re a sign between me and you, so that you acknowledge that I am Yahweh your God”. 21But the children rebelled against me. They didn’t walk by my laws and they didn’t keep my rulings by acting on them, which an individual may act on and live by. They treated my sabbaths as ordinary.

I said I’d pour my wrath on them to finish up my anger against them in the wilderness. 22But I held back my hand and acted for the sake of my name so that it might not be treated as ordinary in the eyes of the nations before whose eyes I’d got them out.

## 20:23 The Shrine (Bamah): Come to What (Ba’ mah)?

23I did also raise my hand to them in the wilderness to scatter them through the nations and disperse them through the countries, 24because they didn’t act on my rulings but rejected my laws and treated my sabbaths as ordinary, and their parents’ lumps were before their eyes. 25I myself also gave them laws that weren’t good and rulings they couldn’t live by. 26I defiled them by their gifts when they made every firstborn of the womb pass through [fire], so that I might desolate them, in order that they might acknowledge that I am Yahweh’”.

27Therefore speak to Israel’s household, young man, and say to them, “The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Your ancestors further insulted me with this, by committing trespass against me. 28I brought them into the country that I’d raised my hand to give them. But they looked at every high hill and every leafy tree and slaughtered their sacrifices there, made the provocation of their offering there, produced their pleasing fragrance there, and poured their libations there. 29I said to them, “What [*mah*]is the shrine [*bamah*] that you’re coming to [*ba*]?” (and they’ve named it *bamah* until this day)’.

30Therefore say to Israel’s household: “The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Are you defiling yourselves in the manner of your ancestors and whoring after their abominations, 31and in presenting your gifts by making your children pass though fire defiling yourselves in connection with all your lumps, until this day? And shall I let myself be inquired of by you, Israel’s household? As I live (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh), if I let myself be inquired of by you….

32What comes up into your spirit will simply not happen, that you’re saying, “We’ll be like the nations, like the countries’ kin-groups, in ministering to wood and stone”. 33As I live (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh), if I don’t reign over you with a strong hand and with an arm stretched out and with wrath poured out….

## 20:34 Then I Will Accept You

34So I shall get you out from the peoples and collect you from the countries among whom you’re scattered, with a strong hand and with an arm stretched out and with wrath poured out. 35I shall bring you into the wilderness of the peoples and enter into judgment with you there face to face. 36As I entered into judgment with your ancestors in the wilderness of the country of Egypt, so I shall enter into judgment with you (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh). 37I shall get you to pass under a club and bring you into a pact bond. 38I shall purge out from you the people who rebel and revolt against me; while I shall get them out from the country where they’re residing, they will not come into the land of Israel. And you will acknowledge that I am Yahweh.

39You, Israel’s household: the Lord Yahweh has said this: “Each person, go, serve his lumps, and afterward, if you don’t listen to me. But you won’t treat my sacred name as ordinary any more with your gifts and your lumps. 40Because on my sacred mountain, on Israel’s high mountain (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh), there Israel’s entire household, all of it, will serve me in the country. There I shall accept them and there I shall ask after your donations and the finest of your offerings with all your sacred things. 41With your pleasing fragrance I shall accept you when I get you out from the peoples and collect you from the countries in which you’re scattered. I shall make myself sacred through you in the eyes of the peoples.

42You will acknowledge that I am Yahweh when I bring you into Israel’s land, into the country that I raised my hand to give your ancestors. 43You will be mindful there of your ways and all your deeds by which you defiled yourselves. You will be loathsome in your own sight for all your bad dealings that you’ve done. 44You will acknowledge that I am Yahweh when I deal with you for the sake of my name, not in accordance with your bad ways and your devastating deeds, Israel’s household (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh)”’”’.

## 20:45 Slaughter from South to North

45Yahweh’s word came to me: 46’Young man, set your face toward Teman, preach against Darom, prophesy against the open forest of the Southland. 47You’re to say to the Southland forest, “Listen to Yahweh’s word. The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Here am I, I’m going to light a fire in you. It will consume every green tree and every dry tree in you. The burning flame won’t go out. Every face from south to north will be scorched by it. 48All flesh will see that I, Yahweh, lit it; it won’t go out’”’. 49But I said, ‘Oh, Lord Yahweh, they’re saying of me, “Isn’t he a teller of parables?”’

21 Yahweh’s word came to me: 2’Young man, set your face against Jerusalem. Preach against the sanctuaries, prophesy against Israel’s land. 3You’re to say to Israel’s land, “Yahweh has said this: ‘Here am I toward you. I shall get my sword out of its sheath and cut off from you faithful and faithless person. 4Since I’m going to cut off from you faithful and faithless person, therefore my sword will come out from its sheath against all flesh from south to north, 5and all flesh will acknowledge that I, Yahweh, got my sword out of its sheath; it won’t go back again’”.

6So you, young man, sigh. With a breaking in your hips and with anguish you’re to groan before their eyes. 7When they say to you, “Why are you groaning?” you’re to say, “On account of the report, because it’s coming. Every heart will melt. All hands will go limp. Every spirit will faint. Water will go down all knees. There, it’s coming, it will happen (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh)”’.

8Yahweh’s word came to me: 9’Young man, prophesy: “The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Say, “A sword, a sword sharpened, yes, and polished, 10sharpened in order that it can bring slaughter, polished in order that it can be a lightning flash. Otherwise, could we celebrate the club of my son, which rejects every tree? 11Someone gave it for polishing and for grasping in the fist. The sword is sharpened and polished, for putting into the hand of a killer’”.

## 21:12 The Fork in the Road

12Cry and howl, young man, because it will happen among my people, among all Israel’s rulers. They’re going to be tossed to the sword, with my people. Therefore strike your thigh. 13Because there’s going to be a testing, and what if it scorns the club? Will it not happen? (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh).

14So you, young man, prophesy, clap palm against palm. The sword will come twice, a third time it will be the sword for people run through, a sword of someone run through, the great one who surrounds them, 15in order that the heart may melt and the fallings be many. At all their gateways I have set the sword’s slaughter. Aagh! It’s made to be a flash of lightning, sharpened for slaughter. 16Slash to the right, set yourself to the left, wherever your edges are appointed. 17I too will clap palm against palm and set down my wrath. I Yahweh have spoken’.

18Yahweh’s word came to me: 19’You, young man, set for yourself two roads for the king of Babel’s sword to come. They’ll go out from one country. Choose a place; choose it at the beginning of the road to the town. 20You’re to set a road for the sword to come to Rabbah of the Ammonites, and [one] to Judah against fortified Jerusalem. 21Because the king of Babel is standing at the split on the road, at the top of the two roads, to perform divination. He’s shaking arrows, he’s asking effigies, he’s looking at a liver.

22In his right hand was the divination for Jerusalem, for setting battering rams, for giving the word for murder, for lifting up the voice in the battle shout, for setting battering rams against the gateways, for heaping up a ramp, for building a tower. 23To them it will be like empty divination, in the eyes of the people who’ve been sworn with oaths. But he is one who causes waywardness to be kept in mind, so that they will be taken’.

## 21:24 The Sword Unsheathed and Sheathed

24Therefore the Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Since you’ve caused your waywardness to be kept in mind, as your rebellions reveal themselves, as your wrongdoings become visible, in all your doings – since you’ve caused it to be kept in mind, you will be taken in [his] fist.

25And you, Israel’s slain, faithless ruler, whose day has come at the time of final waywardness, 26the Lord Yahweh has said this: “Remove the mitre, lift off the crown. It won’t stay like this. Exalt the lowly, lower the exalted. 27Ruin, ruin, ruin, I shall make it (indeed, this hasn’t happened) until the one comes to whom authority belongs, and I shall give it to him”’”.

28And you, young man, prophesy: “The Lord Yahweh has said this about the Ammonites and about their reviling”. You’re to say, “Sword, sword, unsheathed for slaughter, polished for finishing off, so as to be a flash of lightning. 29Because of beholding something empty for you, because of divining lies for you, they will give you to the necks of the people run through, faithless people whose day has come at the time of final waywardness.

30Put it back into its sheath. In the place where you were created, in the country of your origin, I shall exercise authority over you. 31I shall pour out my condemnation upon you. With my furious fire I shall blow on you. I shall give you into the hand of brutal people, craftsmen in devastation. 32You will be for fire to consume. Your blood will be in the middle of the country. You won’t be remembered. Because I, Yahweh, have spoken”’.

## 22:1 Unfaithfulness to People and Unfaithfulness to God

22 Yahweh’s word came to me: 2’You, young man, will you exercise authority, will you exercise authority, over the bloodshed town, and get it to acknowledge all its offensive practices? 3You’re to say, “The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Town that sheds blood within it, so that its time is coming, and makes lumps for itself, so that it becomes defiled! 4Through your blood that you’ve shed, you’ve incurred liability, and through the lumps that you’ve made, you’re defiled. You’ve brought your days near; you’ve come to your years.

Therefore I’m making you an object of reviling for the nations, an object of scorn for all the countries. 5The ones near and the ones far away from you will scorn you, defiled of name, abounding in tumult.

6There, Israel’s rulers were in you, each one with his powerful arm, in order to shed blood:

* 7people have slighted father and mother in you.
* toward the alien they’ve acted with fraud within you
* orphan and widow they’ve oppressed in you
* 8you’ve despised my sacred things and treated my sabbaths as ordinary
* 9people who spread lies have been in you in order to shed blood
* in you they’ve eaten on the mountains
* they’ve acted on their scheming within you
* 10in you a man has exposed his father’s nakedness
* they’ve raped a woman defiled by taboo 11
* an individual has done something offensive with his neighbour’s wife
* another individual has defiled his daughter-in-law by scheming
* in you an individual has raped his sister, his father’s daughter
* 12in you they’ve taken a bribe so as to shed blood
* you’ve taken interest and profit
* you’ve looted your neighbours by fraud.

You’ve put me out of mind (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh). 13So here, I am clapping my palm about your loot that you’ve made and over your bloodshed that there’s been within you. 14Will your mind stand firm or your hands be strong for the days when I’m dealing with you? I Yahweh have spoken and I shall act. 15I shall scatter you among the nations and disperse you among the countries. I shall consume your defilement out of you. 16You will be treated as ordinary in yourself before the eyes of the nations. And you will acknowledge that I am Yahweh’”’.

## 22:17 Smelting and Slag

17Yahweh’s word came to me: 18’Young man, Israel’s household has become slag to me. All of them are copper, tin, iron, and lead inside a furnace. Silver has become slag’. 19Therefore the Lord Yahweh has said this: “Because all of you have become slag, therefore here am I, I’m going to collect you into the middle of Jerusalem. 20The collecting of silver, copper, iron, lead, and tin inside the furnace, for blowing fire on it to smelt it: so I shall collect in my anger and wrath, and lay you down, and smelt you. 21I shall collect you and blow on you with my furious fire and you will be smelted inside it. 22Like the smelting of silver inside a furnace, so you will be smelted inside it, and you will acknowledge that I, Yahweh, have poured out my wrath upon you”’.

23Yahweh’s word came to me: 24’Young man, say to it: “You’re a country that’s not been cleansed, and it’s not to be rained on in the day of condemnation:

* 25its conspiracy of prophets within it is like a roaring lion tearing prey, they’ve consumed human beings, taken riches and wealth, made many widows within it
* 26its priests have violated my instruction and treated my sacred things as ordinary, they haven’t distinguished between sacred and ordinary, they haven’t enabled people to know the difference between clean and defiled, they’ve closed their eyes to my Sabbaths, and I’m treated as ordinary among them
* 27its officials within it are like wolves tearing prey, shedding blood to destroy lives for the sake of gaining loot
* 28its prophets have coated them with paint, seeing emptiness and divining lies for them, saying, ‘The Lord Yahweh has said this’ when Yahweh hasn’t spoken
* 29the country’s people have practised fraud and committed robbery, they’ve oppressed the humble and needy, and they’ve defrauded the alien without the proper exercise of authority.

30I sought from them someone constructing the wall or standing in the breach before me on behalf of the country, so I might not devastate it, but I didn’t find anyone. 31So I’m pouring out my condemnation on them. In furious fire I’m finishing them off. I’m putting their way on their head (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh)”’.

## 23:1 A Pornographic Story Begins

23 Yahweh’s word came to me: 2’Young man, there were two women, the daughters of one mother. 3They whored in Egypt. They whored in their youth. Their breasts were pressed there. There men squeezed their girls’ nipples. 4Their names: the older one was Oholah, and her sister was Oholibah. They became mine, and they gave birth to sons and daughters. Their names: Oholah was Shomron and Oholibah was Jerusalem.

5Oholah whored when under me. She doted on her lovers, toward Ashshur, guardsmen 6clothed in blue, governors and overseers, all of them desirable young men, cavalry riding horses. 7She gave her whorings to them, all of them the choicest of the Ashshurites, and with each one on whom she doted, with all their lumps, she defiled herself. 8She didn’t abandon her whorings from Egypt, because men had slept with her in her youth, when they’d squeezed her girl’s nipples and poured out their whoring on her. 9Therefore I gave her into the hand of her lovers, into the hand of the Ashshurites on whom she’d doted. 10When they had exposed her nakedness, they took her sons and daughters and killed her with the sword. When they implemented rulings against her, she became well-known to women.

11Her sister Oholibah saw, but her doting was more devastating than hers, and her whorings than her sister’s whorings. 12She doted on Ashshurites, governors and overseers, guardsmen clothed in fullness , cavalry riding horses, all of them desirable young men.

13I saw that she defiled herself. The two of them had one way, 14but she increased her whorings. She saw men engraved on the wall, images of Kasdites engraved in vermilion, 15girded with a belt round their hips, flowing turbans on their heads, all of them with the appearance of officers, the form of Babelites, Kasdim the country of their birth.

## 23:16 The Two Sisters

16So she doted on them on their appearing before her eyes. She sent envoys to them to Kasdim, 17and the Babelites came to her to her love bed. They defiled her with their whoring. She defiled herself with them, then tore herself away from them. 18So she exposed her whorings and revealed her nakedness, and I tore myself away from her, as I’d torn myself away from her sister. 19She multiplied her whorings, being mindful of her young days when she whored in the country of Egypt. 20She doted on their concubinage, whose flesh was the flesh of donkeys, and their emission the emission of horses. 21You attended to the scheming of your youth, when men from Egypt squeezed your nipples for the sake of your young breasts’.

22Therefore, Oholibah, the Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Here am I, I’m going to arouse your lovers against you, the ones from whom you tore yourself away. I shall bring them against you from all round: 23the Babelites, all the Kasdites, Peqod, Shoa, Qoa, all the Ashshurites with them, desirable young men, governors and overseers all of them, officers and men of renown, riding horses all of them. 24They will come against you, armoury, chariot, and wheel, and with a congregation of peoples. They will set body-shield, hand-shield, and helmet against you all round. I shall put the exercise of authority before them and they will exercise authority over you with their acts of authority.

25So I shall set my passion against you, and they will deal with you in fury. They will remove your nose and your ears, and the last of you will fall by the sword. Those people will take your sons and your daughters, and the last of you will be consumed by fire. 26They will strip you of your clothes and take your majestic things. 27I shall make your scheming cease from you, and your whoring from the country of Egypt. You won’t lift up your eyes to them. You won’t be mindful of Egypt anymore’.

## 23:28 Drunkenness and Sorrow

28Because the Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Here am I, I’m going to give you into the hand of the people to whom you are hostile, into the hand of the people from whom you tore yourself away. 29They will act toward you with hostility and take all you’ve toiled for and abandon you naked and bare. The nakedness of your whorings will be visible, your scheming and your whorings. 30They will do these things to you because of your whoring after the nations, on account of the way you defiled yourself with your lumps. 31You’ve walked in the way of your sister, so I shall put her chalice into your hand’.

32The Lord Yahweh has said this:

‘You’re to drink your sister’s chalice,

deep and wide;

it will bring laughter and scorn.

It contains much;

33you will be full of drunkenness and sorrow,

A chalice of desolating and desolation,

your sister Shomron’s chalice.

34You will drink it and drain it,

and break it into shards

And tear your breasts,

because I have spoken (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh).

35Therefore the Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Since you’ve put me out of mind and thrown me behind your back, you yourself indeed—carry your scheming and your whoring’.

36Yahweh said to me, ‘Young man, will you exercise authority over Oholah and Oholibah. Tell them of their offensive practices. 37Because they’ve committed adultery and there’s blood on their hands. They’ve committed adultery with their lumps and also made their children, to whom they gave birth for me, pass through [the fire] as food for them. 38Further, they’ve done this to me: defiled my sanctuary and treated my sabbaths as ordinary. 39When they’d slaughtered their children for their lumps, they came into my sanctuary that day, to treat it as ordinary. There, that’s what they did within my house.

## 23:40 Worn Out by Adultery

40Furthermore you would send for men coming from afar, to whom an envoy was sent. There, they came, men for whom you bathed, painted your eyes, and donned jewellery. 41You sat on an elegant couch with a table spread before it, and you put my incense and my oil on it. 42The sound of a horde feeling at peace was in it, with men from the human mass brought in, drunkards from the wilderness. They put bracelets on the women’s hands and a majestic crown on their heads.

43I said of one worn out by adulteries, “Even now they can engage in whorings with her, and she herself”, 44and they’ve had sex with her. As men have sex with a whore, so they’ve had sex with Oholah and Oholibah, scheming women. 45But faithful men – they will exercise authority over them, a ruling for women who commit adultery and a ruling for women who’ve shed blood, because they’re women who commit adultery and with blood on their hands”’.

46Because the Lord Yahweh has said this: “Take up a congregation against them, give them over to terror and to plunder. 47The congregation is to pelt them with stones and cut them down with their swords. They’re to kill their sons and their daughters and burn their houses in fire. 48I shall put a stop to scheming from the country, and all the women will accept discipline and won’t act in accordance with your scheming. 49They’ll put your scheming upon you. You will carry the wrongdoings involved in your lumps. And you will acknowledge that I am the Lord Yahweh”.

## 24:1 The Cooking Pot

24 Yahweh’s word came to me in the ninth year, in the tenth month, on the tenth of the month: 2”Young man, write for yourself the date today, this very day. The king of Babel is leaning on Jerusalem on this very day. 3And tell a parable to the rebellious household: ‘The Lord Yahweh has said this:

Put the pot on, put it on,

and pour water into it, too.

4Gather its pieces into it,

every good piece.

Leg and shoulder,

the choicest of the bones, fill it.

5Get the choicest of the flock,

pile the bones under it, too.

Get it to boil;

its bones are to cook inside it, too.

6Therefore the Lord Yahweh has said this:

‘Oh, town of bloodshed,

pot in which there’s rust,

whose rust hasn’t gone out from it!

Piece by piece get it out

no lot has fallen on it.

7Because the blood she shed was inside her;

she put it on the face of a cliff.

She didn’t pour it on the earth

to cover over it with dirt.

8To arouse wrath

to take redress,

I put the blood she shed on the face of a cliff

so that it wouldn’t be covered.

9Therefore the Lord Yahweh has said this:

‘Oh, town of bloodshed,

I shall make the pile big, too.

10Get much wood, light the fire,

cook the meat through.

Mix the spices;

the bones must burn.

11Stand it on the coals empty,

in order that it may get hot and its copper burn,

So its defilement may smelt inside it,

its rust be consumed.

12It has wearied the trouble;

the abundance of its rust doesn’t come out from it,

the rust in the fire.

13Your scheming is your defilement, since I would have cleansed you, but you wouldn’t be clean from your defilement. You won’t be clean again until I’ve set down my wrath on you. 14I Yahweh have spoken. It’s coming about and I shall do it. I won’t hold back. I won’t spare. I won’t relent. In accordance with your ways and in accordance with your deeds they are exercising authority over you (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh)’.

## 24:15 The Bereavement

15Yahweh’s word came to me: 16’Young man, here am I, I’m going to take from you the desire of your eyes through an epidemic. But you’re not to mourn, you’re not to cry, your tears aren’t to come. 17Groan quietly. Don’t make mourning for the dead. Put on your hat. Put your boots on your feet. Don’t cover your lips. Don’t eat people’s food’.

18I spoke to the people in the morning, and my wife died in the evening. I did in the morning as I’d been ordered, 19and the people said to me, ‘Won’t you tell us what these things mean for us, that you’re acting so?’

20I said to them, ‘Yahweh’s word came to me: 21”Say to Israel’s household: ‘The Lord Yahweh has said this: “Here am I, I’m going to treat my sanctuary as ordinary, the pride of your vigour, the desire of your eyes, the object of your heart’s pity. Your sons and your daughters whom you abandoned will fall by the sword. 22You will do as I’ve done. You won’t cover your lips. You won’t eat people’s food. 23Your hat on your heads, your boots on your feet, you won’t mourn and you won’t cry. You will waste away because of your wayward acts and you will groan one to another. 24So Ezekiel is to be a sign for you. In accordance with all that he’s done, you will do, when it come about. And you will acknowledge that I am the Lord Yahweh”’”.

25You, young man, on the day I take from them their stronghold, their splendid object of celebration, the desire of their eyes, the longing of their heart, their sons and their daughters—26on that day someone who has escaped will come to let you hear it with your ears, won’t he. 27On that day your mouth will open to the one who has escaped, and you will speak and no longer be dumb. You will be a sign to them. And they will acknowledge that I am Yahweh’.

## 25:1 Redress is Mine: Ammon and Moab

25 Yahweh’s word came to me: 2’Young man, set your face against the Ammonites and prophesy against them. 3Say to the Ammonites, “Listen to the word of the Lord Yahweh. The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Because you said “Ah” about my sanctuary when it was treated as ordinary, and about Israel’s land when it became desolate, and about Judah’s household when they went into exile, 4therefore, here am I, I’m going to give you to the Qedemites as a possession. They will set up their encampments in you and put their dwellings in you. Those people will eat your fruit. Those people will drink your milk. 5I shall make Rabbah an abode for camels and the Ammonites a fold for sheep. And you will acknowledge that I am Yahweh”’”.

6Because the Lord Yahweh has said this: “Since you clapped your hand and stamped your foot and rejoiced with all your contempt in your soul about Israel’s land, 7therefore here am I, I’m going to stretch out my hand against you, and I shall give you as plunder to the nations. I shall cut you off from the peoples, obliterate you from the countries, annihilate you. And you will acknowledge that I am Yahweh”.

8The Lord Yahweh has said this: “Because Mo’ab and Seir said, ‘There – Judah’s household is like all the nations’, 9therefore here am I, I’m going to open up Mo’ab’s flank from the towns, from its towns on its extremity, the country’s splendour—Bet Yeshimot, Ba’al Me’on, and Qiryatayim—10to the Qedemites, along with the Ammonites. I shall give it as a possession, so that the Ammonites may not be remembered among the nations 11and I shall execute acts of authority against Mo’ab. And they will acknowledge that I am Yahweh”.

## 25:12 Redress Meets Redress: Edom and Philistia

12The Lord Yahweh said this: ‘Because of Edom’s action in exacting redress on Judah’s household and incurring liability when they took redress against them’, 13therefore the Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘I shall stretch out my hand against Edom and cut off from it human being and animal. I shall make it a waste from Teman to Dedan. They will fall by the sword. 14I shall inflict my redress on Edom by the hand of my people Israel. They will act against Edom in accordance with my anger and with my fury, and they will acknowledge my redress (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh)’.

15The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Because of the Philistines’ action in taking redress and because they’ve exacted redress with personal contempt in devastating with ancient enmity’, 16therefore the Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Here am I, I’m going to stretch out my hand against the Philistines and cut off the Keretites, and obliterate what remains of the seacoast. 17I shall execute great acts of redress against them with acts of wrathful reproof, and they will acknowledge that I am Yahweh when I impose my redress on them’.

## 26:1 Tyre: Just a Place for Spreading Nets

26 In the eleventh year on the first of the month, Yahweh’s word came to me: 2’Young man, Since Tsor [Tyre] has said about Jerusalem, “Ah, the people’s gateway has broken, it has turned round to me, I shall be full now it’s been laid waste”, 3therefore the Lord Yahweh has said this: “Here am I against you, Tsor; I shall make many nations go up against you, like the sea making its waves go up. 4They will devastate Tsor’s walls and tear down its towers. I shall scrape off its soil and make it into the face of a cliff. 5It will become a place for spreading nets in the middle of the sea: because I have spoken (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh). It will become plunder for the nations. 6Its daughter-townships that are in the open country will be killed by the sword. And they will acknowledge that I am Yahweh”.

7Because the Lord Yahweh has said this: “Here am I, I’m going to bring against Tsor from the north Nebukadne’tstsar king of Babel, king of kings, with horse, chariotry, cavalry, a congregation, a great company. 8Your daughter-townships in the open country he will kill with the sword. He will build a tower against you, heap up a ramp against you, and set a body-shield against you. 9He will set his opposing force against your walls and demolish your towers with his axes. 10From the profusion of his horses their dust will cover you. From the sound of the cavalry, wheel, and chariot, your wheels will shake, when he comes through your gateways like people coming into a breached town. 11With the hoofs of his horses he will trample all your streets. He will kill your people with the sword. Your strong columns will descend to earth. 12They will plunder your wealth and loot your merchandise. They will tear down your walls and demolish your desirable houses. Your stones, your wood, and your soil they will put in the middle of the water.

## 26:13 The Sound of Music Stops

13I shall put a stop to the uproar of your songs, and the sound of your guitars will make itself heard no more. 14 I shall make you into the face of a cliff. You will become a place for spreading nets. You won’t be built up any more. Because I, Yahweh, have spoken (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh)”.

15The Lord Yahweh has said to Tsor: “At the sound of your downfall, at the groan of the people run through, at the instigation of killing within you, will foreign shores not shake? 16All the sea’s rulers will descend from their thrones. They will remove their robes, strip off their embroidered clothes, and put on great trembling. They will sit on the ground and tremble at every moment and be desolate because of you.

17They will take up a dirge over you and say to you:

Oh! You’ve perished,

you who were peopled from the seas,

The renowned town,

one that was strong on the sea,

It and its inhabitants,

people that put their terror on all its inhabitants.

18Now the foreign shores tremble,

on the day of your downfall.

The foreign shores panic,

they that are by the sea, at your passing.”

19Because the Lord Yahweh has said this: “When I make you a wasted town, like towns that are not inhabited, when I take up the deep over you and the mighty water covers you, 20I shall make you descend with the people who descend to the Pit, to the people of old, and I shall make you live in the world deep below, like the wastes from of old, with those who descend to the Pit, in order that you won’t be inhabited. I shall make ‘Splendour in the country of the living’—21I shall make you a great horror. There will be nothing of you. You will be sought out, but you won’t be found again, ever (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh)”’.

## 27:1 Tyre, Perfect in Beauty?

27 Yahweh’s word came to me: 2’You, young man, take up a dirge over Tsor. 3You’re to say to Tsor, which lives at the entrance to the sea, trading with the peoples at many foreign shores: “The Lord Yahweh has said this:

Tsor, you said,

‘I am perfect in beauty’.

4Your borders were in the heart of the seas;

your builders perfected your beauty.

5With juniper from Senir

they built all your planks.

They got a cedar from Lebanon

to make a mast for you.

6With oaks from Bashan

they made your oars.

Your boarding they made of ivory inlaid in cypress

from the shores of Kittim.

7Linen with embroidery from Egypt became your spread,

to be an ensign for you.

Blue and purple from the shores of Elishah

became your covering.

8The inhabitants of Tsidon and Arvad

were your rowers.

Your experts, Tsor, were within you;

they were your sailors.

9The elders of Gebel and its experts were within you,

strengthening your cracks.

All the ships of the sea and their mariners

were in you to deal in your merchandise.

10Persia, Lydia, and Libya were in your force,

your men of battle.

They hung shield and helmet in you;

those men gave you your splendour.

11People from Arvad and Helek

were on your walls all round.

Gammadites were in your towers,

they hung their quivers on your walls all round;

those men perfected your beauty.

## 27:12 The Dealer

12Tarshish was your dealer because of the quantity of all your wealth; they gave your wares in exchange for silver, iron, tin, and lead. 13Greece, Tubal, and Meshek were your traders; they gave your merchandise in exchange for human life and things of copper. 14From Bet Togarmah they gave horses, cavalry, and mules in exchange for your wares. 15The Dedanites were your traders. Many foreign shores were dealers under your control. They brought back to you ivory tusks and ebony as your payment. 16Aram was your dealer because of the quantity of your products; they gave your wares in exchange for turquoise, purple, embroidery, fine linen, coral, and ruby.

17Judah and the country of Israel were your merchants; they gave your merchandise in exchange for wheat from Minnit and Pannag, syrup, oil, and balm. 18Dammeseq [Damascus] was your dealer because of the quantity of your products, because of the quantity of all your wealth, in wine of Helbon and white wool. 19Vedan and Greece gave yarn in exchange for your wares; there was wrought iron, cassia, and cane among your merchandise. 20Dedan was your trader in saddlecloths for riding. 21Arabia and all Qedar’s rulers were dealers under your control in lambs, rams, and goats, as your dealers in these.

22The traders of Sheba and Ra‘amah were your traders; they gave your wares in exchange for the finest of all spice and for all precious stone and gold. 23Haran, Kanneh, and Eden, the traders of Sheba, Ashshur, and Kilmad, were your traders. 24Those were your traders in fine things, in blue embroidered cloths, and in coloured rugs bound with cords and preserved with cedar, in your market. 25Tarshish ships were your ministers for your merchandise.

## 27:25 The Wreck of the Titanic

You were full and very heavy

in the heart of the seas.

26Into the mighty water

the rowers brought you.

The east wind broke you

in the heart of the seas.

27Your wealth and your wares, your merchandise,

your mariners and your sailors,

The men who strengthened your cracks,

and the people who handled your merchandise,

All your men of battle who were in you,

and in all your congregation that was within you,

Will fall in the heart of the seas

on the day of your downfall.

28At the sound of your sailors’ cry,

the shorelands will shake.

29All the oarsmen

will come down from their ships.

The mariners, all the sailors of the sea,

will stand on the earth.

30They will let their voice be heard concerning you,

and cry in distress.

They will take up dirt onto their head,

and cover themselves in ash.

31For you, they will shave their head,

and wrap on sack.

They will cry for you with bitterness of soul,

with bitter lament.

32For you they will take up a dirge as they groan,

and lament for you:

‘Who was like Tsor,

like the one silenced in the middle of the sea?’

33When your wares went out from the seas,

you filled many peoples.

With the quantity of your wealth and your merchandise

you enriched earth’s kings.

34The time when you broke because of the seas,

in the depths of the water,

Your merchandise and all your congregation

fell in the middle of it.

35All the inhabitants of foreign shores

are desolate over you.

Their kings bristled with horror,

their faces went dark.

36The dealers among the peoples whistled at you;

you became a horror, and you’re no more, permanently.”’

## 28:1 The King Who Thinks He’s a God

28 Yahweh’s word came to me: 2’Young man, say to Tsor’s ruler: “The Lord Yahweh has said: ‘Because your mind has been lofty and you’ve said, “I am a god, I am sitting as a deity – I’ve taken my seat in the heart of the seas”’, when you’re a human being and not God, but you made your mind like a deity’s mind:

3There, you’re smarter than Dani’el;

nothing hidden baffles you.

4Through your smartness and your discernment

you’ve made wealth for yourself.

You’ve made gold and silver in your treasuries

5through the magnitude of your smartness and through your trading.

You’ve made your wealth great,

but you’ve let your mind get lofty because of your wealth.

6Therefore the Lord Yahweh has said this:

Because of your making your mind

like the mind of a deity,

7Therefore here am I, I’m going to bring against you

strangers, the most violent of nations.

They will draw their swords against your smart beauty

and run you through in your splendour.

8Down to the Pit they will make you descend;

you will die the death of someone run through

in the heart of the seas.

9Will you actually say ‘I’m a deity’

before your killers,

Given that you’re a human being and not God—

at the hand of the people who run you through?

10The death of the foreskinned

you will die, at the hand of strangers,

because I have spoken (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh)”’.

## 28:11 A Dirge for a Living King

11Yahweh’s word came to me: 12’Young man, take up a dirge over the king of Tsor. You’re to say to him: “The Lord Yahweh has said this:

You were an exact seal ,

full of smartness, perfect in beauty.

13You were in Eden, God’s garden,

every precious stone your covering:

Carnelian, topaz, and diamond,

beryl, onyx, and jasper,

Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald,

and gold, the work of your tambourines,

And your sockets in you,

that were prepared on the day of your creation.

14You were a sphinx, anointed as the protector, and I placed you—

you were on God’s sacred mountain.

When you walked about among the fiery stones,

15you were a person of integrity in all your ways,

From the day of your creation,

until evil appeared in you.

16Through the quantity of your trading,

people filled the middle of you with violence.

You did wrong, and I am treating you as ordinary,

away from God’s mountain, and destroying you,

Sphinx the protector,

from among the fiery stones.

17Your mind became lofty because of your beauty;

you devastated your smartness, through your splendour.

I’m throwing you out onto the earth;

before kings I’m making you something to stare at.

18Because of the quantity of your wayward acts,

through the evil of your trading,

You’ve treated your great sanctuary as ordinary.

I’m making fire go out from within you and it’s devouring you.

I’m making you into ash on the earth

before the eyes of all who look at you.

19All who acknowledge you among the peoples

are becoming desolate at you.

You’re becoming a horror,

and you will be no more, permanently”’.

## 28:20 No More Prickling Briar

20Yahweh’s word came to me: 21’Young man, set your face toward Tsidon and prophesy against it. 22You’re to say, “The Lord Yahweh has said this:

Here am I against you, Tsidon;

I shall get honour within you.

They will acknowledge that I am Yahweh,

when I execute acts of authority against it.

I shall show myself sacred in it

23and let loose epidemic in it and blood in its streets.

The run through will fall within it

by the sword that’s against it from all round,

and they will acknowledge that I am Yahweh.

24No more will there be for Israel’s household prickling briar and piercing thorn from all the people round them who treat them with contempt. And they will acknowledge that I am the Lord Yahweh”’.

25The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘When I have collected Israel’s household from the peoples among whom they’re dispersed and I’ve shown myself sacred among them before the eyes of the nations, they will live on their land that I gave my servant Jacob,26and live on it with confidence. They will build houses and plant vineyards and live with confidence, when I have executed acts of authority on all the people who treat them with contempt, who are round them. And they will acknowledge that I Yahweh am their God’.

## 29:1 The Nile Is Mine: I Made It

29 In the tenth year, in the tenth, on the twelfth of the month, Yahweh’s word came to me: 2’Young man, set your face against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and prophesy against him and against Egypt, all of it. 3Speak: “The Lord Yahweh has said this:

Here am I against you,

Pharaoh king of Egypt,

Big monster stretching out

in the middle of its channels,

That said, ‘My Nile is mine;

I’m the one who made it’.

4I shall put hooks in your jaws

and make the fish in your channels stick to your scales.

I shall get you up from the middle of your channels,

with all the fish in your channels that stick to your scales.

5I shall leave you to the wilderness,

you and all the fish in your channels.

You will fall on the face of the open country;

you won’t be gathered and you won’t be collected.

I’m giving you as food to the creatures of the earth

and to the birds of the heavens.

6And all the inhabitants of Egypt

will acknowledge that I am Yahweh.

Since they were something to lean on that was made of reed

for Israel’s household,

7When they grasped you in their fist, you would fracture,

and tear their entire shoulder.

When they leaned on you, you’d break,

and make their entire hips collapse”.

8Therefore the Lord Yahweh has said this: “Here am I, I’m going to bring a sword against you. I shall cut off from you human being and animal. 9The country of Egypt will become desolation and waste. And they will acknowledge that I am Yahweh.

Because he said, “The Nile is mine; I’m the one who made it”, 10therefore here am I toward you and toward your channels: I shall make the country of Egypt an utter waste and desolation, from Migdol to Seweneh, as far as the border with Sudan. 11Human foot won’t pass through it and animal foot won’t pass through it. It won’t be inhabited for forty years.

## 29:12 Egypt as Compensation

12I shall make the country of Egypt a desolation in the middle of desolate countries, and its towns in the middle of ruined towns will be a desolation for forty years. I shall scatter the Egyptians among the nations and disperse them among the countries”’.

13Indeed the Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘At the end of forty years I shall collect the Egyptians from the peoples where they’ve scattered. 14I shall restore the fortunes of the Egyptians and bring them back to the country of Patros, onto the country of their origin. They will be a lowly kingdom there. 15It will be the lowliest of the kingdoms; it won’t arise again over the nations. I shall make them small so they don’t have dominion over the nations. 16It won’t again be an object of reliance for Israel’s household, making it mindful of its waywardness in turning its face after them. And they will acknowledge that I am the Lord Yahweh’.

17In the twenty-seventh year, on the first of the first month, Yahweh’s word came to me: 18’Young man, Nebukadne’tstsar king of Babel has made his forces serve with great servitude against Tsor. Every head is rubbed bare. Every shoulder is scraped. But he and his forces have no wages from Tsor for the servitude with which they have served on it’.

19Therefore the Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Here am I, I’m going to give the country of Egypt to Nebukadne’tstsar king of Babel. He will carry off its wealth, take spoil from it, and seize plunder from it, and it will be the wages for his force. 20As his compensation for which he served, I’m giving him the country of Egypt, because they acted for me (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh).

21On that day I shall make a horn grow for Israel’s household, and to you I shall give an opening of your mouth among them. And they will acknowledge that I am Yahweh’.

## 30:1 The Day of the Lord for Egypt

30 Yahweh’s word came to me: 2’Young man, prophesy: “Yahweh has said this:

Howl, aagh for the day,

3because Yahweh’s day is near.

A day of cloud,

a time for nations, it will be.

4A sword will come upon Egypt,

anguish will fall upon Sudan,

When people fall, run through, in Egypt,

and people take its wealth, and its foundations are torn down.

5Sudan, Libya, Lydia, the entire foreign group,

Cyrenaica, and members of the country in the pact

will fall by the sword with them.

6Yahweh has said this:

The people who support Egypt will fall;

its vigorous majesty will go down.

From Migdol to Seweneh

they will fall there by the sword (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh).

7They will be desolate among desolate countries, and its towns will be among wasted towns. 8And they will acknowledge that I am Yahweh when I put fire in Egypt, and all its helpers break. 9On that day envoys will go out from before me in ships to make confident Sudan tremble. Anguish will be upon them on Egypt’s day, because there, it’s coming’”.

10The Lord Yahweh has said this: “And I shall put a stop to Egypt’s horde by the hand of Nebukadne’tstsar king of Babel. 11He and his company with him, the most violent of nations, are going to be brought to devastate the country. They will draw their swords against Egypt and fill the country with the people run through.12 I shall make the channels dry ground and sell the country into the hand of bad people. I shall desolate the country and everything in it by the hand of strangers. I, Yahweh, have spoken”.

## 30:13 Acts of Authority on Egypt

13The Lord Yahweh has said this: “I shall obliterate the lumps and make the nonentities cease from Memphis. There will no longer be a ruler from the country of Egypt. I shall put fear in the country of Egypt. 14I shall desolate Patros. I shall put fire in Tso’an. I shall execute acts of authority in Thebes. 15I shall pour out my fury on Pelusium, Egypt’s stronghold. I shall cut off the horde of Thebes. 16I shall put fire in Egypt. Pelusium will writhe and writhe. Thebes will be torn apart. Memphis: adversaries daily. 17The young men of Heliopolis and Pi-beset will fall by the sword. Those – they will go into exile. 18In Tehaphnehes the day will be dark when I break Egypt’s yokes there, and its vigorous majesty comes to a stop in it. Cloud will cover it and its daughter-townships will go into captivity. 19I shall execute acts of authority in Egypt, and they will acknowledge that I am Yahweh”.

20In the eleventh year, in the first, on the seventh of the month, Yahweh’s word came to me: 21’Young man, I’m breaking the arm of Pharaoh king of Egypt. There, it’s not bound up so as to give healing, by putting a bandage to bind it up to strengthen it for grasping a sword’.

22Therefore the Lord Yahweh has said this: 22’Here am I toward Pharaoh king of Egypt. I shall break his arms, the strong one and the broken one. I shall make the sword fall from his hand. 23I shall scatter the Egyptians among the nations and disperse them among the countries. 24I shall strengthen the arms of the king of Babel and put my sword in his hand. I shall break the arms of Pharaoh. He will groan before him with the groans of someone run through. 25I shall strengthen the arms of the king of Babel, but Pharaoh’s arms – they will fall. And they will acknowledge that I am Yahweh, when I put my sword into the hand of the king of Babel and he stretches it out against the country of Egypt. 26I shall scatter the Egyptians among the nations and disperse them among the countries, and they will acknowledge that I am Yahweh’.

## 31:1 An Empire On Which the Sun Never Sets?

31 In the eleventh year, in the third, on the first of the month, Yahweh’s word came to me: 2’Young man, say to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his horde: “To whom are you like in your greatness?

3There, Ashshur was a cedar in Lebanon,

beautiful in boughs, and a shady thicket,

Lofty in height,

and its top was among the clouds.

4Water made it big, the deep made it high,

going with its rivers round its plantation.

It sent its channels

to all the trees of the open country.

5As a result its height was loftier

than all the trees of the open country.

Its branches abounded, its boughs extended,

because of the abundant water in its channel.

6All the birds of the heavens

nested in its branches.

All the animals of the open country

gave birth under its boughs.

All the great nations

were living in its shade.

7It was beautiful in its great size, in the length of its branches,

because its root was by abundant water.

8Cedars in God’s garden didn’t overshadow it,

junipers didn’t equal its branches,

plane trees didn’t compare with its boughs.

No tree in God’s garden

equalled it in its beauty.

9I made it beautiful

in the number of its branches.

All the trees of Eden were jealous of it,

the ones that were in God’s garden”.

## 31:10 Learn from Its Fall

10Therefore the Lord Yahweh has said this: “Since you were lofty in height—and it put its top into the middle of the clouds, and its mind became exalted in its loftiness, 11I gave it into hand of the leader of the nations so he’d deal effectively with it. In accordance with its faithlessness I dispossessed it. 12Strangers, the most violent of nations, cut it down and left it. Its branches fell on the mountains and in all the ravines and its boughs broke into all the canyons in the earth. All the peoples of the earth went down from its shade and left it.

13Upon it, fallen, all the birds of the heavens dwell, and to its boughs came all the animals of the open country—14in order that no trees by water should become lofty in their height or put their top among the clouds, nor should any of their mighty ones, drinkers of water, stand up in their loftiness, because all of them were given over to death, to the country below, among all human beings, with the people who go down to the Pit”.

15The Lord Yahweh has said this: “On the day it went down to She’ol, I caused mourning, I closed the deep over it. I held back its rivers; the abundant water held back. I made Lebanon grieve over it. All the trees of the open country languished over it. 16At the sound of its fall I made the nations shake, when I made it go down to She’ol with the people who go down to the Pit. In the country below, all the trees of Eden, the choicest and best of Lebanon, all the drinkers of water, found consolation. 17They also went down with it to She’ol, to the people run through by the sword, and its [supporting] arm, the people who had lived in its shadow among the nations.

18To whom are you thus like, in honour and in greatness among the trees of Eden? You will be brought down with the trees of Eden to the country below. Among the foreskinned you will lie, with the people run through by the sword. That is Pharaoh and his entire horde (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh)”’.

## 32:1 The Dragon Caught

32 In the twelfth year in the twelfth month on the first of the month, Yahweh’s word came to me: 2’Young man, take up a dirge over Pharaoh king of Egypt:

Lion of the nations, you are being terminated,

though you are like the dragon in the water.

You’ve thrust forth with your rivers,

you’ve stirred up the water with your feet,

you’ve muddied their rivers.

3The Lord Yahweh has said this:

‘And I shall spread my mesh over you

in a congregation of many peoples.

I shall lift you up in my net 4and leave you on the earth;

I shall throw you on the face of the open country.

I shall get all the birds of the heavens to dwell on you;

I shall get the animals of the entire earth to be full from you.

5I shall put your flesh on the mountains

and fill the ravines with your height.

6I shall drench the earth

with the flow of your blood on the mountains,

and canyons will fill from you.

7I shall cover the heavens when I put you out,

and make their stars dark.

I shall cover the sun with cloud,

and the moon won’t give its light.

8All the bright lights in the heavens

I shall make dark above you.

I shall put darkness on your country (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh)

9and vex the mind of many peoples,

When I bring you broken among the nations,

to countries that you haven’t known.

10I shall make many peoples desolate because of you;

their kings will bristle with horror because of you.

When I whirl my sword in their faces,

they will tremble at every moment,

Each for his own life,

on the day of your fall.

## 32:11 The Great Leveler

11Because the Lord Yahweh has said this:

The king of Babel’s sword will come to you;

12by strong men’s swords I shall make your horde fall.

the most violent among the nations, all of them.

They will destroy Egypt’s majesty;

its entire horde will be annihilated.

13I shall obliterate all its cattle

from beside abundant water.

Human feet will no more muddy them,

and animal hoofs won’t muddy them.

14Then I shall settle their water,

make their rivers go like oil (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh).

15When I make the country of Egypt a desolation

and the country is desolate of what filled it,

When I strike down all the people who live in it,

they will acknowledge that I am Yahweh.

16That is a dirge, and people will lament with it;

the nations’ daughters will lament with it.

Over Egypt and over its entire horde

they will lament with it (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh)’.

17In the twelfth year, on the fifteenth of the month, Yahweh’s word came to me: 18’Young man, wail for Egypt’s horde. You’re to send them down, it and the daughter-townships of mighty nations, to the country deep below, with the people who go down to the Pit.

19”Than whom are you more beautiful? Go down and be laid down with the foreskinned”. 20They will fall among people run through by the sword. The sword has been given over. They’re dragging it off with all its hordes. 21The mightiest of strong men speak to him from within She’ol, with his helpers. The foreskinned, people run through by the sword, have gone down and lain down. 22Ashshur is there, and all its congregation, round him his graves, all of them run through, fallen by the sword, 23whose graves were put in the Pit’s far parts, and its congregation was round its grave, all of them run through, fallen by the sword, people who’d spread terror in the country of the living.

## 32:24 The Strange Consolation

24Elam is there, and all its horde, round its grave, all of them run through, fallen by the sword, people who went down foreskinned to the country deep below, people who had put their terror in the country of the living but carried their shame with the people who go down to the Pit. 25Among the run through they’ve given it a bed, with all its graves round it, all of them foreskinned, run through by the sword. Because their terror was put in the country of the living, they carried their shame with the people who go down to the Pit; among the run through, he is put.

26Meshek and Tubal and its entire horde are there. Its graves are round it, all of them foreskinned, run through by the sword, because they put their terror in the country of the living. 27They don’t lie with the fallen strong men of the foreskinned, who went down to She’ol with their battle equipment and put their swords under their heads. Their wayward acts were upon their frames, because the strong men’s terror had been in the country of the living. 28And you yourselves will break among the foreskinned and will lie down with people run through by the sword.

29Edom is there, its kings and all its rulers, who despite their strength are put with the people run through by the sword. Those people lie with the foreskinned and with the people who go down to the Pit. 30The leaders of the north, all of them, are there, and all the Tsidonites, who went down with the people run through despite their terror that issued from their strength, disgraced. They lie foreskinned with the people run through by the sword. They carried their shame with the people who go down to the Pit.

31These Pharaoh will see, and he will be consoled over his entire horde, Pharaoh’s people who were run through by the sword, all his force (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh). 32Because I’m putting my terror in the country of the living. He will be laid down among the foreskinned with the people run through by the sword, Pharaoh and his entire horde (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh)’.

## 33:1 The Lookout

33 Yahweh’s word came to me: 2’Young man, speak to the members of your people: “Regarding a country: when I bring the sword against it, and the country’s people take someone from their number and make him into their lookout, 3and he sees the sword coming against the country and blows the horn and warns the people, 4and someone hears the sound of the horn but doesn’t take warning and the sword comes and takes him—his blood will be on his own head. 5He heard the sound of the horn but didn’t take warning; his blood will be on him. Had that person taken warning, he’d have saved his life. 6But should the lookout, when he sees the sword coming, not blow the horn, and the people don’t take warning, and the sword comes and takes one of them, that person gets taken because of his own waywardness, but I shall require his blood from the lookout”.

7So you, young man, I’ve made you a lookout for Israel’s household. You will hear a word from my mouth, and you’re to warn them from me. 8When I say to the faithless person, “Faithless one, you shall definitely die”, and you haven’t spoken to warn the faithless person from his way, that faithless person will die because of his waywardness, but I shall require his blood from your hand. 9But you—when you’ve warned the faithless person from his way, to turn back from it, and he hasn’t turned from his way, he will die because of his waywardness, but you will rescue your life.

10But you, young man, say to Israel’s household: “You’ve said this: ‘Our rebellions and our wrongdoings rest upon us. Because of them we’re wasting away, and how can we live?’” 11Say to them, “As I live (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh), if I want the death of the faithless person….—rather that the faithless person should turn back from his way and live. Turn back, turn back, from your bad ways. Why should you die, Israel’s household?”

## 33:11 The News Arrives

12So you, young man, say to the members of your people: “The faithfulness of the faithful person won’t rescue him on the day of his rebellion, and the faithlessness of the faithless person—he won’t fall because of it on the day he turns back from his faithlessness. So the faithful person won’t be able to live because of it on the day he commits wrongdoing. 13When I say of the faithful person, ‘He will indeed live’, but he trusts in his faithfulness and does evil, none of his faithful deeds will be kept in mind. Because of the evil that he’s done—he will die because of it. 14And when I say to the faithless person, ‘You will definitely die’, and he turns back from his wrongdoing and exercises authority faithfully 15(the faithless person gives back a pledge, makes good for what was stolen, walks by the laws of life, so as not to do evil), he will definitely live, he won’t die. 16None of his wrongdoings that he’s committed will be kept in mind for him. He’s exercised authority faithfully. He will definitely live”.

17The members of your people say, “The Lord’s way isn’t right”. But they—their way isn’t right. 18When a faithful person turns from his faithfulness and does evil, he will die because of them. 19When a faithless person turns from his faithlessness and exercises authority faithfully, on account of them that person will live. 20And you say, “The Lord’s way isn’t right”. I exercise authority over each person in accordance with his ways, Israel’s household’.

21In the twelfth year of our exile, in the tenth, on the fifth of the month, somebody who’d escaped from Jerusalem came to me, saying, ‘The town’s been struck down’. 22Yahweh’s hand had come upon me in the evening before the person who ‘d escaped came, and he’d opened my mouth, before he came to me in the morning. So my mouth had opened. I was no longer dumb.

## 33:23 On How Not to Listen to a Preacher

23Yahweh’s word came to me: 24’Young man, the people living in these wastes on Israel’s land are saying, “Abraham was one man, but he came to possess the country, whereas we’re many. The country is given to us as a possession”. 25Therefore say to them, “The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘You eat with the blood, you raise your eyes to your lumps, and you shed blood—and you will enter into possession of the country? 26You’ve stood by your sword, you’ve done an offensive thing, and you’ve each defiled his neighbour’s wife—and you will enter into possession of the country?’”

27You’re to say this to them: “The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘As I live, if the people in the wastes don’t fall by the sword and I don’t give the people in the open country to the animals for them to eat, and the people in the strongholds and in the caves don’t die in an epidemic….

28I shall make the country desolating and desolation. Its vigorous majesty will cease, Israel’s mountains will be desolate, with no one passing through, 29and they will acknowledge that I am Yahweh, when I make the country desolating and desolation because of all their offensive deeds that they’ve done’”.

30But you, young man: the members of your people are speaking about you by the walls and in the entrances of the houses. One speaks to another, a man to his brother: “Come, please, listen to what word is coming out from Yahweh”. 31They will come to you like a people coming, and sit before you, my people, and listen to your words. But they won’t do them, because while they’re making amorous sounds with their mouths, their mind is going after their loot. 32And there are you, like a singer of amorous sounds to them, beautiful in voice and doing well in playing, and they listen to your words but none of them are doing them. 33But when it comes about (there, it’s coming), they will acknowledge that a prophet’s been among them’.

## 34:1 The Self-Indulgent Shepherds

34 Yahweh’s word came to me: 2’Young man, prophesy against Israel’s shepherds. Prophesy and say to them, “About the shepherds, the Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Hey, Israel’s shepherds, who’ve been shepherding themselves! Isn’t it the flock that shepherds shepherd? 3You eat the fat and clothe yourselves in the wool, you sacrifice the fatlings; you don’t shepherd the flock. 4You haven’t strengthened the weak, nor healed the sick, nor bandaged the broken, nor brought back the scattered, nor sought the missing, but ruled them with harshness and cruelty. 5They scattered for lack of a shepherd, and they became food for any animal of the open country when they scattered. 6My flock wanders through all the mountains and on every high hill. My flock scattered over the face of the country. There’s been no one seeking and no one looking.”’

7Therefore, shepherds, listen to Yahweh’s word. 8’As I live (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh), since my flock’s become plunder and my flock’s become food for any animal of the open country through the lack of anyone shepherding, and my shepherds haven’t sought my flock, but the shepherds have shepherded themselves and not shepherded my flock, if I don’t….’

9Therefore listen, you shepherds, to Yahweh’s word. 10The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Here am I toward the shepherds. I shall require my flock from their hand. I shall make them stop shepherding the flock, and the shepherds won’t shepherd themselves anymore. I shall rescue my flock from their mouth. They won’t be food for them’.

## 34:11 The Good Shepherd

11Because the Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Here am I, I myself, and I shall inquire after my flock and search for them. 12Like a shepherd searching after his herd when he’s among his dispersed flock, so I shall search for my flock and rescue them from all the places where they’ve scattered on the day of cloud and gloom. 13I shall get them out from the peoples, collect them from the countries, and bring them to their land. I shall shepherd them on Israel’s mountains by the canyons and by all the country’s settlements. 14I shall shepherd them on good pasturage; their abode will be on Israel’s high mountains. There they will lie down in a good abode, and they will pasture on rich pasturage on Israel’s mountains. 15I myself shall shepherd my flock and I myself shall get them to lie down (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh). 16I shall seek the missing, bring back the scattered, bandage the broken, and strengthen the weak. But the fat and the strong I shall destroy. I shall shepherd with authority.

17And you, my flock (the Lord Yahweh has said this): Here am I, I’m going to decide between one animal and another. About rams and he-goats: 18Is it too little for you that you pasture on good pasturage, but you trample with your feet what’s left of your pasturage, and that you drink the clearest of the water, but muddy what’s left with your feet, 19so that my flock pastures on what your feet have trampled and your feet have muddied?’

20Therefore the Lord Yahweh has said this to them: ‘Here am I, and I shall decide between fat animal and thin animal. 21Since you were pushing with flank and shoulder, and butting with your horns against all the sick, until you scattered them abroad, 22I shall deliver my flock, and it will no longer be plunder. I shall decide between one animal and another.

## 34:23 The Davidic Shepherd

23And I shall set up over them one shepherd and he will shepherd them, my servant David. He’s the one who will shepherd them. He’ll be their shepherd. 24I, Yahweh, will be their God, with my servant David ruler among them. I Yahweh have spoken. 25I shall solemnize a pact of well-being for them. I shall stop bad creatures from the country, and they will live in the wilderness with confidence and sleep in the forests.

26I shall make them and the environs of my hill a blessing. I shall make the rain come down in its season; they will be showers that bring blessing. 27The trees of the open country will give their fruit; the earth will give its produce. People will be on their land with confidence, and they will acknowledge that I am Yahweh, when I break the bars of their yoke and rescue them from the people who make them serve them. 28They will no longer be plunder for the nations. The country’s creatures won’t eat them and they will live in confidence with no one disturbing them.

29I shall set up for them a plantation of renown, and they will no longer be carried off by famine in the country. They will no longer bear the nations’ shame. 30And they will acknowledge that I am Yahweh their God with them and they, Israel’s household, are my people (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh). 31You, my flock, the flock I shepherd, you’re human, and I am your God (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh)’.

## 35:1 The Two Peoples

35 Yahweh’s word came to me: 2’Young man, set your face against Mount Se’ir and prophesy against it. 3You’re to say to it: “The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Here am I toward you, Mount Se’ir. I shall stretch out my hand against you and make you desolating and desolation. 4Your towns I shall make into a waste and you will be a desolation, and you will acknowledge that I am Yahweh.

5Since you had an ancient enmity and you hurled the Israelites into the power of the sword at the time of their calamity, at the time of their final waywardness, 6therefore, as I live (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh), I shall make you into blood; blood will pursue you. Given that you were not hostile to blood, blood will pursue you. 7I shall make Mount Se’ir desolation and desolating, and I shall cut off from it one anyone passing by and anyone comings back. 8I shall fill its mountains with its people run through. Your hills, your valleys, and all your canyons—people run through by the sword will fall in them. 9I shall make you a permanent desolation, your towns won’t be inhabited, and you will acknowledge that I am Yahweh.

10Since you said, “The two nations and the two countries will be mine, and we shall possess them” (but Yahweh was there), 11therefore as I live (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh), I shall act in accordance with your anger and with your passion with which you acted out of your hostility to them. I shall cause myself to be acknowledged among them as I exercise authority over you. 12You will acknowledge that I Yahweh have heard all your insults, which you’ve uttered about Israel’s mountains, “They’re desolate, they’ve been given to us as food”. 13You acted big against me with your mouth and you made your words proliferate against me. I myself heard’”’.

14The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘In accordance with the rejoicing over the entire country, I shall make you a desolation. 15In accordance with your rejoicing over the domain that belonged to Israel’s household, because it became desolate, so I shall act toward you. You will become a desolation, Mount Se’ir and all Edom, all of it. And they will acknowledge that I am Yahweh’.

## 36:1 The Mountains Renewed

36 ‘And you, young man, prophesy toward Israel’s mountains: “Mountains of Israel, listen to Yahweh’s word. 2The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Since the enemy said over you, “Ah”, and “The ancient shrines have become ours as a domain”, 3therefore prophesy: “The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Since, yes since they made you desolate and trampled you all round, so that you became the possession of the remaining nations, and you were taken up onto the lip of the tongue and the slur of the people, 4therefore, Israel’s mountains, listen to the Lord Yahweh’s word.

The Lord Yahweh has said this to the mountains, to the hills, to the canyons, to the ravines, to the desolate wastes, and to the abandoned towns that have become plunder and derision to the remaining nations that are all round— 5therefore the Lord Yahweh has said: “If I haven’t spoken in my passionate anger against the remaining nations and against Edom, all of it, which made my country a possession for itself with whole-hearted rejoicing, with contempt of soul, for the sake of pastureland, as plunder….”’”

6Therefore prophesy about Israel’s land. You’re to say to the mountains, to the hills, to the canyons, and to the ravines, “The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Here am I, I’m going to speak in my passion and in my fury, since you’ve carried the nations’ shame’. 7Therefore the Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘I myself have raised my hand [to swear]: if the nations that are from all round you don’t carry their shame….

8But you, Israel’s mountains, will produce your boughs and bear your fruit for my people Israel, because they’re near coming. 9Because here am I toward you, and I shall turn my face to you, and you will be served and sown. 10I shall make the people on you abundant, Israel’s entire household, all of it. The towns will be inhabited, the wastes built up. 11I shall multiply on you human beings and animals; they’ll be many and they’ll be fruitful. I shall cause you to be inhabited as you were before and I shall make things good for you, better than before for you, and you will acknowledge that I am Yahweh. 12I shall get people, my people Israel, to walk upon you. They will come to possess you and you will be their domain. You won’t bereave them ever again’”’.

## 36:13 Yahweh Takes Pity on His name

13The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Since they’re saying to you, “You’ve been one who devours human beings, who bereaves your nations”, 14therefore you will no more devour human beings, you will not bereave your nations again any more (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh). 15I shall not let you hear the nations’ shaming any more. You will no more carry the peoples’ reviling. You will no more make your nations collapse (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh)’.

16Yahweh’s word came to me: 17’Young man, when Israel’s household were living on their land, they defiled it with their way and with their deeds. In my eyes their way was like the defilement of a woman who’s taboo. 18So I poured out my fury on them because of the blood they had poured out on the earth, and they had defiled it with their lumps. 19I scattered them among the nations and they were dispersed among the countries. In accordance with their way and with their deeds I exercised authority over them.

20They came to the nations, wherever they came, and treated my sacred name as ordinary, in that people said of them, “These are Yahweh’s people, but they went out of his country”. 21But I have taken pity on my sacred name, which Israel’s household caused to be treated as ordinary among the nations where they came.

22Therefore say to Israel’s household: “The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘It’s not for your sake that I’m going to act, Israel’s household, but for my sacred name, which you’ve caused to be treated as ordinary among the nations where you came. 23I shall make my great name sacred, which has been treated as ordinary among the nations among whom you have caused it to be treated as ordinary, and the nations will acknowledge that I am Yahweh (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh)when I show myself sacred through you before their eyes.

24I shall take you from the nations, collect you from all the countries, and bring you to your land. 25I shall toss clean water over you and you’ll be clean. From all your defilements and from all your lumps I shall cleanse you.

## 36:26 The Gift of a New Mind and a New Spirit

26I shall give you a new mind and I shall put a new spirit inside you. I shall remove the stony mind from your flesh and give you a fleshy mind, 27and I shall put my spirit inside you. I shall make it so that you walk by my laws and keep my rulings and do them. 28You will live in the country that I gave your ancestors, and you will be my people and I shall be your God. 29I shall deliver you from all your defilements. I shall call for the grain and make it abundant, and not put famine upon you. 30I shall make the fruit of the trees and the produce of the fields abundant, so that you no more receive reviling because of famine among the nations. 31You will be mindful of your bad ways and your practices that were not good, and you will be loathsome in your own sight because of your wayward acts and because of your offensive practices. 32It’s not for your sake that I’m going to act (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh), be it known to you. Be disgraced and ashamed because of your ways, Israel’s household’”’.

33The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘On the day I cleanse you from all your wayward acts, I shall cause your towns to be inhabited, the wastes will be built up, 34and the desolate country will be served instead of being a desolation in the sight of every passer-by. 35People will say, “That country which was desolate has become like Eden Garden, and the towns that were wasted and desolate and torn down, people live in, fortified”. 36The nations that remain all round you will acknowledge that I Yahweh have built up the wastes; I have planted the desolations. I Yahweh have spoken and I shall act”.

37The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Further, in this I shall let myself be inquired of by Israel’s household, to act for them. I shall make people as abundant as a flock. 38Like the flock of sacred ones, like the Jerusalem flock at its set occasions, so the wasted towns will be full of a human flock, and they will acknowledge that I am Yahweh’.

## 37:1 Dem Bones, Dem Bones, Dem Dry Bones

37 Yahweh’s hand came on me and took me out by Yahweh’s wind, and set me down in the middle of a valley. It was full of bones. 2He got me to pass through them, all the way round. There, they were very many on the face of the valley. And there, they were very dry. 3He said to me, ‘Young man, could these bones come to life?’ I said, ‘Lord Yahweh, you know’.

4He said to me, ‘Prophesy to these bones: “You dry bones, listen to Yahweh’s word. 5The Lord Yahweh has said this to these bones: ‘Here, I’m going to make breath come into you, and you will come to life. 6I shall put muscles on you, make flesh go up on you, spread skin on you, and put breath into you, and you’ll come to life, and you will acknowledge that I am Yahweh’”’.

7I prophesied as I was ordered, and a sound came as I prophesied, and there—a shaking, and the bones drew near bone to its bone. 8I looked, and there, muscles were on them, and flesh went up, and skin spread on them above. But there was no breath in them. 9He said to me, ‘Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, young man. You’re to say to the breath, “The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Come from the four winds, breath, and breathe into these people who are run through, so that they come to life’”’.

10So I prophesied as he ordered me, and the breath came into them. They came to life and stood on their feet, a very, very great force.

11He said to me, ‘Young man, these bones are Israel’s entire household. There, they’re saying, “Our bones are dry, our hope has perished, we’re totally finished”. 12Therefore prophesy and say to them, “The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Here, I’m going to open your graves and get you to go up from your graves, my people, and bring you to Israel’s land. 13You will acknowledge that I am Yahweh when I open your graves and get you to go up from your graves, my people. 14I shall put my spirit in you and you will come to life and I shall settle you down on your land, and you will acknowledge that I Yahweh have spoken and acted (Yahweh’s declaration)”’.

## 37:15 The Two Become One

15Yahweh’s word came to me: 16’And you, young man, get yourself a piece of wood and write on it, “Belonging to Judah and to the Israelites who are its associates”, and get a piece of wood and write on it, “Belonging to Joseph (Ephrayim’s piece of wood) and all Israel’s household that are its associates”. 17Bring them close one to the other so they become one piece of wood. They’re to become one in your hand.

18When members of your people say to you, “Tell us what these things of yours are, won’t you”, 19speak to them: “The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Here am I, I’m going to take Joseph’s piece of wood that’s in Ephrayim’s hand, and the Israelite clans that are his associates, and I shall put them on it (Judah’s piece of wood), and make them one piece of wood. They will be one in my hand‘”.

20The pieces of wood on which you’ve written are to be in your hand before their eyes, 21and you’re to speak to them, “The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Here am I, I’m going to get the Israelites from among the nations where they’ve gone, collect them from all round, and bring them to their land. 22I shall make them into one nation in the country, on Israel’s mountains. One king will be king for all of them. There won’t be two nations again. They won’t divide into two kingdoms ever again. 23And they won’t defile themselves again with their lumps and their abominations and all their rebellions. I shall deliver them from all their settlements in which they did wrong and cleanse them, and they will be my people and I shall be their God.

24My servant David will be king over them and they will all have one shepherd. They will walk by my rulings and keep my laws and do them. 25They’ll live in the country that I gave to my servant, to Jacob, in which your ancestors lived. They’ll live in it, they and their children and their grandchildren, permanently, with David my servant as their ruler permanently.

26I shall solemnize a pact of well-being for them. It will be a permanent pact with them. I shall give it to them and multiply them, and I shall put my sanctuary among them permanently. 27My dwelling will be with them. I shall be their God and they will be my people. 28And the nations will acknowledge that I am Yahweh, the one who makes Israel sacred, when my sanctuary is among them permanently’”’.

## 38:1 Gog and Magog

38 Yahweh’s word came to me: 2’Young man, set your face toward Gog, in the country of Magog, the highest ruler in Meshek and Tubal. You’re to prophesy against him: 3”The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Here am I toward you, Gog, highest ruler in Meshek and Tubal. 4I shall turn you back and put hooks in your jaws and make you go out, with your entire force, horses and cavalry, clothed in fullness all of them, a great congregation, with body-shield and hand-shield, grasping swords, all of them. 5Persia, Sudan, and Put are with them, all of them with shield and helmet, 6Gomer and all its legions, Bet Togarmah in the far parts of the north and all its legions—many peoples with you. 7Be ready, get yourselves ready, you and your entire congregation who are forming round you. You’re to be a watch for them. 8After many days you will be appointed; at the end of the years you will come to a country restored from the sword, collected from many peoples—against Israel’s mountains, which have been a waste continually. But it will have been taken out from the peoples, and they will be living with confidence, all of them. 9When you go up, you will come as devastation; you will be like a cloud to cover the country, you and all your legions and many peoples with you”’.

10The Lord Yahweh has said: ‘On that day, things will come up into your mind. You will think up a bad plan. 11You will say, “I shall go up against a country of open villages. I shall come to quiet people living in confidence, all of them, living without walls and without bars or gateways, 12to take plunder and seize spoil”, to turn your hand against wastes that have become inhabited, and upon a people gathered from the nations, making livestock and possessions, living at the centre of the earth. 13Sheba and Dedan, the traders of Tarshish and all its lions will say to you, “Is it to take plunder that you’re coming? Is it to seize spoil that you’ve formed your congregation, to carry off silver and gold, to get livestock and possessions, to take much plunder?”’

## 38:14 The Last Great Battle

14Therefore prophesy, young man, and say to Gog: ‘The Lord Yahweh has said this: “On that day, when my people Israel are living with confidence, you will acknowledge it, won’t you, 15and come from your place, from the far parts of the north, you and many peoples with you, riding horses all of them, a great congregation, a huge force. 16You’ll go up against my people Israel like a cloud to cover the country. At the end of the time it will come about. I shall bring you against my country in order that the nations may acknowledge me when I show myself sacred through you before their eyes, Gog”’.

17The Lord Yahweh said this: ‘Are you the one of whom I spoke in earlier days by means of my servants Israel’s prophets, who prophesied in those days for years that I would bring you against them? 18On that day, on the day Gog comes against Israel’s land (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh), my wrath will go up into my nostrils. 19In my passion, in my furious fire, I have spoken. If on that day a great earthquake doesn’t happen in Israel’s land….

20Before me things will quake: the fish in the sea, the birds in the heavens, the animals of the open country, everything that moves on the ground, and all the human beings that are on the face of the ground. The mountains will be toppled, the cliffs will fall, every wall will fall to the earth.

21I shall call for a sword against him through all my mountains (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh). One person’s sword will be against his brother. 22I shall enter into judgement with him by epidemic and by bloodshed, and I shall pour torrential rain, hailstones, fire, and sulphur, on him, on his legions, and on the many peoples that are with him. 23I shall show I am great and show I am sacred and cause myself to be acknowledged before the eyes of many nations. And they will acknowledge that I am Yahweh’.

## 39:1 The Peace Dividend

39 And you, young man, prophesy against Gog: ‘The Lord Yahweh has said this: “Here am I toward you, Gog, the highest ruler of Meshek and Tubal. 2I shall turn you back. I shall lead you along and get you to go up from the far parts of the north and bring you against Israel’s mountains. 3But I shall strike down your bow from your left hand and make your arrows fall from your right hand. 4You will fall on Israel’s mountains, you and all your legions and the peoples that are with you. I shall give you as food to birds of prey of every kind and to the animals of the open country 5when you fall on the face of the open country, because I have spoken (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh).

6I shall send off fire on Magog and on the people who live with confidence on foreign shores, and they will acknowledge that I am Yahweh. 7I shall cause my sacred name to be acknowledged among my people Israel and not let my sacred name be treated as ordinary anymore, and the nations will acknowledge that I Yahweh am sacred in Israel.

8There, it’s coming, it’s happening (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh). It’s the day of which I have spoken. 9The inhabitants of Israel’s towns will go out and make a fire and burn the weaponry, hand-shield and body-shield, bow and arrows, hand pike and spear. They’ll make a fire with them for seven years. 10They won’t carry wood from the open country and they won’t cut it from the forests, because they’ll make a fire with the weaponry. They’ll plunder their plunderers and despoil their despoilers (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh).

## 39:11 Proper Burial

11On that day I shall give Gog a place where there will be a grave in Israel, Travellers Ravine, east of the sea. It will obstruct travellers; they’ll bury Gog and his entire multitude there. They’ll call it Gog’s Multitude’s Ravine. 12Israel’s household will bury them to cleanse the country, for seven months; 13the entire people of the country will bury them. It will mean renown for them, the day I show my splendour (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh). 14They will set apart permanent people as travellers in the country, burying (the travellers) ones that remain on the face of the country, to cleanse it. At the end of seven months they’ll search. 15As travellers travel in the country and see human bones, one is to build a marker by it, until the buriers have buried it in Gog’s Multitude’s Ravine 16(the name of the town will also be Multitude) and cleansed the country.

17And you, young man (the Lord Yahweh has said this), say to birds of every kind and to every animal of the open country, “Collect yourselves and come, gather from all round to my sacrifice that I’m going to make for you, a great sacrifice on Israel’s mountains. You’ll eat flesh and drink blood. 18You’ll eat strong men’s flesh and drink the blood of earth’s rulers: rams, lambs, goats, bulls, Bashan fatlings, all of them. 19You’ll eat fat until you’re full and drink blood until you’re drunk from my sacrifice that I shall have made for you. 20At my table you’ll become full of horses, chariotry, strong men, every man of battle (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh).

## 39:21 I Shall Not Hide My Face Any More

21I shall put my splendour among the nations, and all the nations will see my authoritative decision that I’ve made and my hand that I’ve set against them. 22Israel’s household will acknowledge that I Yahweh am their God, from that day onward. 23And the nations will acknowledge that Israel’s household went into exile for their waywardness, because they trespassed against me. I hid my face from them and gave them into the hand of their adversaries, and all of them fell by the sword. 24It was in accordance with their defilement and with their rebellions that I dealt with them and hid my face from them”’.

25Therefore the Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘Now I shall restore Jacob’s fortunes and have compassion on Israel’s entire household, and be passionate about my sacred name. 26They will carry their shame and all their trespass that they committed against me when they live on their land with confidence, with no one disturbing them, 27when I bring them back from the peoples and collect them from their enemies’ countries and show myself sacred among them before the eyes of many nations. 28They will acknowledge that I Yahweh am their God, when I’ve exiled them to the nations but gathered them on their land. I shall leave none of them there anymore. 29I shall not hide my face from them anymore when I’ve poured out my spirit on Israel’s household (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh)’.

## 40:1 A Town on a Mountain

40 In the twenty-fifth year of our exile, at the beginning of the year, on the tenth of the month, in the fourteenth year after the town was struck down, on this very day Yahweh’s hand came upon me, and he brought me there. 2In a great appearance of God he brought me to the country of Israel and set me down on a very high mountain. On it was the very structure of a town to the south. 3He brought me to it, and there—a man, his appearance the very appearance of copper, a linen cord in his hand, and a measuring rod. He was standing in the gateway. 4The man spoke to me: ‘Young man, look with your eyes, listen with your ears, and set your mind on everything that I’m going to show you, because you’ve been brought here in order to show you. Tell Israel’s household everything you see’.

5There—a wall outside the house, all the way round. In the man’s hand was a six-cubit measuring rod, by the cubit-plus-a-handbreadth [three metres]. He measured the structure’s width—one rod, and the height—one rod. 6He came to the gateway whose face was toward the east, and went up its steps. He measured the gateway’s threshold—one rod in depth (the one threshold—one rod in depth). 7Each alcove—one rod in length and one rod in width. Between the alcoves—five cubits.

The gateway’s threshold next to the gateway’s porch, facing the house—one rod. 8He measured the gateway’s porch facing the house—one rod. 9He measured the gateway’s porch—eight cubits, and its columns—two cubits; the gateway’s porch was facing the house. 10The gateway alcoves toward the east were three on one side and three on the other side, one measurement for the three of them and one measurement for the columns on each side.

## 40:11 Gateways (1)

11He measured:

* the width of the gateway opening—ten cubits
* the gateway’s length—thirteen cubits
* 12the barrier in front of the alcoves—one cubit, so the barrier was one cubit on each side
* the alcove—six cubits on one side and six cubits on the other side.

13He measured the gateway from the back of an alcove to the back of the other; the width—twenty-five cubits, opening to opening. 14He made columns—sixty cubits, and next to the column was the gateway courtyard all the way round. 15Starting at the front of the outer gateway to the front of the inner gateway’s porch—fifty cubits. 16There were narrow windows to the alcoves and to their columns inside the gateway all the way round, and similarly to the porches there were windows all the way round on the inside, with palms on a column.

17He brought me to the outer courtyard, and there—halls, and a pavement made for the courtyard all the way round, thirty halls to the pavement. 18The pavement was by the side of the gateways, alongside the length of the gateways (the lower pavement). 19He measured the width from in front of the lower gateway to the front of the outer courtyard—a hundred cubits, east and north.

20The gateway whose face was toward the north, belonging to the outer courtyard—he measured its length and its width, 21its three alcoves on one side and three on the other side, its columns, and its porches. Like the measurement of the first gate, its length—fifty cubits, and the width—twenty-five cubits. 22Its windows, its porches, and its palms were like the measurement of the gateway that faced toward the east. By seven steps people would go up onto it, and its porch would be in front of them. 23There was a gateway to the inner courtyard facing the northern gate as well as the east; he measured from one gateway to the other gateway—a hundred cubits.

## 40:24 Gateways (2)

24He took me toward the south. There—a gate toward the south. He measured its columns and its porches, in accordance with these measurements. 25It and its porches had windows all the way round like these windows; the length—fifty cubits, and the width—twenty-five cubits. 26There were seven steps up to it. Its porch was in front of them. It had palms, one on one side and one on the other side, on its columns. 27The inner courtyard had a gateway toward the south. He measured from the gateway to the gateway on the south—a hundred cubits.

28He brought me to the inner courtyard through the southern gateway and measured the southern gateway in accordance with these measurements. 29Its alcoves, its columns, and its porches were in accordance with these measurements. It and its porches had windows all the way round. The length—fifty cubits, and the width—twenty-five cubits 30(the porches all the way round, the length—twenty-five cubits, the width—five cubits). 31Its porch was toward the outer courtyard. There were palms on its columns and eight steps in its staircase.

32He brought me to the inner courtyard toward the east and measured the gateway in accordance with these measurements. 33Its alcoves, its columns, and its porches were in accordance with these measurements. It and its porches had windows all the way round. The length—fifty cubits, and the width—twenty-five cubits. 34Its porch was toward the outer courtyard. There were palms on its columns, on one side and on the other side, and eight steps in its staircase.

35He brought me to the northern gateway and measured it in accordance with these measurements—36its alcoves, its columns, and its porches, and its windows all the way round. The length—fifty cubits, and the width—twenty-five cubits. 37Its columns were toward the outer courtyard. There were palms on its columns, on one side and on the other side, and eight steps in its staircase.

## 40:38 Provision for the Priests and the Singers

38There was a hall and its entrance in the porch at the gateways, where they would wash the burnt offering. 39In the gateway porch were two tables on one side and two tables on the other side for slaughtering the burnt offering, the purification offering, and the restitution offering on them. 40On the outer sidewall for someone going up to the entrance of the northern gateway were two tables and on the other sidewall in relation to the gateway’s porch were two tables, 41four tables on one side and four tables on the other side at the sidewall of the gateway, eight tables on which they would slaughter things. 42The four tables for the burnt offering were of hewn stone. The length—a cubit and a half, the width—a cubit and a half, and the height—a cubit. On them they’d set down the things with which they would slaughter the burnt offering and the sacrifice. 43There were ledges—one handbreadth, fixed inside all the way round. The flesh of the offering was on the tables.

44Outside the inner gateway were the singers’ halls in the inner courtyard, one that was on the sidewall of the northern gateway with their face toward the south, one on the sidewall of the eastern gateway facing toward the north. 45He spoke to me: ‘This, the hall that faces toward the south, is for the priests having charge of the house. 46The hall that faces toward the north is for the priests having charge of the altar. They are the Tsadoqites, who of the Levites draw near Yahweh to minister to him’.

47He measured the courtyard. The length—a hundred cubits, the width—a hundred cubits, foursquare. The altar was before the house. 48He brought me to the house’s porch and measured a porch column—five cubits on one side and five cubits on the other side. The width of the gateway—three cubits on one side and three cubits on the other side. 49The length of the porch—twenty cubits, and the width—eleven cubits. It was by steps that people would go up to it. There were pillars by the columns, one on one side, one on the other side.

## 41:1 Yahweh’s Palace (1)

41 He brought me into the palace and measured the columns—six cubits the width on one side, six cubits the width on the other side (the width of the tent). 2The width of the entrance—ten cubits, and the sidewalls of the entrance—five cubits on one side and five cubits on the other side. He measured its length—forty cubits, and the width—twenty cubits. 3He came inside and measured an entrance column—two cubits, the entrance—six cubits, and the entrance’s width—seven cubits. 4He measured its length—twenty cubits, and the width—twenty cubits, before the palace. He said to me, ‘This is the especially sacred place’.

5He measured the wall of the house—six cubits, and the width of a side room—four cubits, round the house, all the way round. 6The side rooms—side room above side room, thirty-threefold. There were insets in the wall that belonged to the house for the side rooms all the way round, to be supports but so that they wouldn’t be supports in the wall of the house. 7It widened as it went round higher and higher to the side rooms. Because the house’s surrounding went higher and higher all the way round the house, consequently the width of the house went higher, and one would go up from the lowest to the highest via the middle.

8I saw belonging to the house a raised area all the way round, the foundations of the side rooms. Its height—the full length of a rod, six cubits, to the joint. 9The width of the wall of a side room on the outside—five cubits. What was left clear between the side rooms of the house 10and between the halls, the width—twenty cubits round the house, all the way round. 11The entrance of a side room toward what was left clear, one entrance toward the north, one entrance to the south, and the width of the place that was left clear—five cubits all the way round. 12The building that was toward the front of the separate place at the corner toward the west: the width—seventy cubits. The wall of the building: the width—five cubits all the way round, and its length—ninety cubits.

## 41:15 Yahweh’s Palace (2)

13He measured the house:

* The length—a hundred cubits.
* The separate place, the building, and its walls: the length—a hundred cubits.
* 14The width of the front of the house and the separate place on the east—a hundred cubits.

15He measured the length of the building facing the separate place that was at the back of it, and its galleries on one side and on the other side—a hundred cubits. The palace inside, the courtyard porches 16(the thresholds), the narrow windows, and the galleries round the three of them by the threshold, were panelled with wood all the way round. The ground up to the windows, and the windows, they were covered, 17above the entrance and as far as the house, inside and outside.

On the entire wall, all the way round, inside and outside, was a measured area. 18Sphinxes and palms were made, a palm between sphinx and sphinx. A sphinx had two faces, 19a human face toward the palm on one side and a lion face toward the palm on the other side. It was made for the entire house all the way round. 20From the ground to above the entrance the sphinxes and the palms were made, and the palace wall.

21The palace: there was a square doorframe, and facing the sacred place something with an appearance like the appearance of 22a wood altar. The height—three cubits, its length—two cubits. It had corners, and its length and its walls were wood. He spoke to me: ‘This is the table that’s before Yahweh’. 23The palace had double doors, and the sacred place 24had double doors. The double doors had double doors that could be turned, two doors for one and two doors for the other. 25Sphinxes and palms were made for them (for the palace doors) as they were made for the walls. There was a wood canopy in front of the porch, on the outside. 16There were narrow windows and palms on one side and on the other, on the porch’s sidewalls and the side rooms of the house and the canopies.

## 42:1 The Halls

42 He took me out into the outer courtyard by the way toward the north and brought me into the hall that was opposite the separate place and that was opposite the northern building. 2Facing the length—a hundred cubits, was the northern entrance. The width—fifty cubits. 3Opposite the twenty of the inner courtyard, and opposite the pavement of the outer courtyard, one gallery was facing another gallery in threes.

4Facing the halls was a walkway (the width—ten cubits, on the inside; a path—one cubit), with its entrances to the north. 5The upper halls were cut back, because galleries had an effect on them, more than the lowest and the middle ones in the building, 6because they were divided into three, and they had no pillars like the pillars in the courtyards. Therefore it got narrower from the lowest and from the middle, from the ground.

7There was a wall outside, alongside the halls, toward the outer courtyard facing the halls. Its length—fifty cubits, 8because the length of the halls belonging to the outer court was fifty cubits. So there, in front of the palace, it was a hundred cubits. 9From below these halls was the passageway from the east when someone comes here from the outer courtyard.

10In the width of the wall toward the east, facing the separate place and facing the building, there were halls. 11Toward the front of them was a similar appearance of halls that were toward the north. Corresponding to their length, so was their width. All their exits were in accordance with the prescriptions for them and in accordance with their entrances. 12Like the halls’ entrances that were toward the south was the entrance at the head of the path, the path in front of the wall going toward the east, as one comes into them.

## 42:13 Separating Between the Sacred and the Ordinary

13He said to me, ‘The northern halls, the southern halls, that are facing the separate place, are the sacred halls where the priests who come near Yahweh will eat the most sacred things. They will set down the most sacred things there (the grain offering, the purification offering, and the restitution offering), because the place is sacred. 14When the priests come in, they won’t go out from the sacred place to the outer courtyard. They’ll set down their garments in which they minister there because it’s sacred, and put on other garments and go near the people’s area’.

15He finished measuring the inner house and took me out toward the gateway that faces toward the east, and measured all the way round.

* 16He measured the eastern side with the measuring rod—500 (in rods) with the measuring rod, all round.
* 17He measured the northern side—500 (in rods) with the measuring rod, all round.
* 18He measured the southern side—500 (in rods) with the measuring rod.
* 19He turned to the southern side and measured—500 (in rods) with the measuring rod.

20Four sides he measured it. It had a wall all the way round (the length—500; the width—500) to separate between the sacred and the ordinary.

## 43:1 Yahweh’s Splendour Is Returning

43 He took me to a gateway, the gateway that faces toward the east. 2There—the splendour of Israel’s God was coming from the eastern direction, its sound like the sound of much water. The earth was lit up by his splendour. 3The appearance was like the appearance that I saw, like the appearance that I saw when I came to devastate the town, and the great appearance was like the appearance that I saw at the River Kebar. I fell on my face.

4Yahweh’s splendour came into the house by way of the gateway whose face is toward the east. 5A spirit lifted me up and brought me to the inner courtyard. There, Yahweh’s splendour was filling the house. 6I heard someone speaking to me from the house, while the man was standing next to me. 7He said to me, ‘Young man: the place for my throne and the place for the soles of my feet, where I shall dwell among the Israelites permanently—Israel’s household shall not defile my sacred name any more, they and their kings by their whoring and by their kings’ corpses, their mounds. 8When they put their threshold with my threshold and their doorframe next to my doorframe with a wall between me and them, they would defile my sacred name with their offensive deeds that they did, and I consumed them in my anger. 9Now they are to put their whoring and their kings’ corpses far away from me, and I shall dwell among them permanently.

10You, young man, tell Israel’s household about the house. They’re to be ashamed of their wayward acts, but they’re to measure out the plan. 11When they’re ashamed of all that they did, make known the house’s form, its plan, its exits, its entrances, all its forms, all its laws, all its forms, and all its instructions. Write it down before their eyes so they may keep its entire form and all its laws, and act on them. 12This is the instruction for the house on the mountain top. Its entire boundary all the way round is most sacred. Here, this is the instruction for the house’.

## 43:13 The Altar

13These are the measurements of the altar in cubits (a ‘cubit’ is a cubit plus a handbreadth):

* the base—a cubit, and the width—a cubit
* its rim at its lip all round—one hand span; this is the altar’s mound
* 14from the base in the ground to the lower ledge—two cubits, and the width—one cubit
* from the small ledge to the big ledge—four cubits, and the width—a cubit
* 15the hearth—four cubits, and from the hearth upwards, four horns
* 16the hearth: the length—twelve, the width—twelve, made square on its four sides
* 17the ledge: the length—fourteen, with the width—fourteen, on its four sides
* the rim round it—half a cubit
* the base to it—a cubit round it, with its steps facing east.

18He said to me, ‘Young man, the Lord Yahweh has said this: “These are the laws for the altar on the day it’s built, for offering the burnt offering on it and tossing blood on it. 19You’re to give to the Levitical priests who are of the offspring of Tsadoq, who come near to me (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh) to minister to me, a bullock from the herd as a purification offering. 20You’re to get some of its blood and put it on its four horns and toward the four corners of the ledge and toward the rim round, and purge it and expiate it. 21And you’re to get the purification offering bullock and burn it in the appointed place in the house, outside the sanctuary. 22On the second day you’re to present a male goat, whole, as a purification offering. They’re to purge the altar as they purged it with the bull. 23When you’ve completed the purging, you’re to present a bullock from the herd, whole, and a ram from the flock, whole. 24You’re to present them before Yahweh, and the priests are to throw salt on them and offer them as a burnt offering to Yahweh.

## 43:23 Preparations for the Splendour’s Return

25For seven days you’re to prepare a goat as a purification offering, daily, and they’re to prepare a bullock from the herd and a ram from the flock, whole. 26For seven days they are to expiate the altar, purify it, and commission it. 27They’re to complete these days, and on the eighth day and onward the priests are to make your burnt offerings and your fellowship sacrifices on the altar. And I shall accept you (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh)’”.

44 He took me back toward the sanctuary’s outer gateway that faces east. It was shut. 2Yahweh said to me, ‘This gateway is to be shut. It’s not to be opened. No one is to come through it, because Yahweh, Israel’s God, came through it. It’s to be shut. 3As for the ruler, the ruler himself will sit in it to eat bread before Yahweh. By way of the gateway’s threshold he may come in and by way of it he may go out’.

4He brought me by way of the northern gateway to the front of the house. I looked, and there—Yahweh’s splendour was filling Yahweh’s house. I fell on my face. 5Yahweh said to me, ‘Young man, apply your mind, look with your eyes, listen with your ears to all that I’m going to speak with you regarding all the laws for Yahweh’s house and all the instructions for it. Set your mind on the entrance into the house with all the exits from the sanctuary. 6You’re to say to the rebellious, to Israel’s household: “The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘You have plenty of all your offensive deeds, Israel’s household, 7in that you brought foreigners, foreskinned in spirit and foreskinned in flesh, to be in my sanctuary, to make my house ordinary when you present my meal, the fat and blood. You contravened my pact with all your offensive deeds. 8You didn’t kept the charge of my sacred things; you appointed them as people to keep my charge in my sanctuary for you”’.

## 44:9 Who Can Properly Minister?

9The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘No foreigner, foreskinned in spirit and foreskinned in flesh, is to come into my sanctuary, of any foreigner who’s among the Israelites. 10Rather, the Levites who went far from me when Israel went astray (when they went astray from me, following their lumps) will carry their waywardness, 11but in my sanctuary they will be ministering with oversight at the gateways of the house and ministering to the house. They will slaughter the burnt offering and the sacrifice for the people and they will stand before them to minister to them.

12Because they used to minister to them before their lumps, and to Israel’s household they were obstacles that tripped them into waywardness, therefore I’ve raised my hand [to swear] concerning them (a declaration of the Lord Almighty) that they will carry their waywardness. 13They’re not to come near me to act as priests to me or to come near to any of my sacred things, to the most sacred things. They’re to carry their shame, the offensive deeds that they did. 14But I shall make them guards in charge of the house, for all its service and for all that’s done in it.

15But the Levitical priests who are descendants of Tsadoq, who kept the charge of my sanctuary when Israel’s household went astray from me, they may draw near to me to minister to me. They may stand before me to present fat and blood to me (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh). 16They’re the ones to come into my sanctuary. They’re the ones to draw near to my table to minister to me, and they will keep my charge.

17When they come to the gateways of the inner courtyard they’re to wear linen garments. They’re not to put wool on themselves when they minister in the gateways of the inner courtyard and inside. 18Linen attire is to be on their head and linen pants round their hips; they’re not to wrap on anything sweaty. 19When they go out to the outer courtyard (to the outer courtyard to the people) they’re to take off their garments in which they were ministering, set them down in the sacred halls, and put on other garments, and not make the people sacred by their garments.

## 44:20 Priests

20They’re not to shave their head or grow long hair, but definitely to trim their heads. 21They’re not to drink wine, any priest, when they go into the inner courtyard. 22They’re not to take a widow or a divorcée for themselves as wives, but rather to take a girl from the offspring of Israel’s household or a widow who’s a priest’s widow.

23They’re to teach my people between sacred and ordinary and to enable them to know between clean and defiled. 24In connection with an argument, they’re the ones to stand to give a ruling; they’re to give a rule by my rulings. They’re to keep my instructions and my laws regarding all set occasions, and to keep my sabbaths sacred.

25An individual isn’t to go in to someone dead, except that he may defile himself for father or for mother, for a son or for a daughter, for a brother or for a sister who hasn’t come to belong to a man. 26After his cleansing they’re to count seven days for him, 27and on the day he comes into the sacred place, into the inner courtyard, to minister in the sacred place, he’s to present his purification offering (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh).

28They’re to have as a domain: I am their domain. You’re to give them no holding in Israel; I am their holding. 29The grain offering, the purification offering, and the restitution offering—they’re the ones to eat them. Everything devoted in Israel will be theirs. 30The first of all the first fruits of everything and every donation of anything, of all your donations, will be the priests’. The first of your dough you’re to give to the priest, to make a blessing set down on your house. 31The priests aren’t to eat anything that’s died naturally or any prey, bird or animal.

## 45:1 Constraining the Ruler

45 When you allot the country as a domain:

* You’re to raise a donation for Yahweh, a sacred area of the country: the length—25,000 in length; the width—10,000. It’s to be a sacred area in its entire border, all round.
* 2Of this, there’s to be 500 by 500 squared all round for the sacred place, and fifty cubits as an open space all round.
* 3From this measurement you’re to measure 25,000 in length and 10,000 in width; in it is to be the sanctuary, the most sacred place. 4It will be the sacred area of the country, for the priests, the sanctuary ministers, who draw near to minister to Yahweh. It will be a place for homes for them, and a sanctuary for the sanctuary.
* 525,000 in length and 10,000 in width will be for the Levites, the ministers of the house, for them as a holding, twenty halls.
* 6The town’s holding: you’re to give 5,000 in width, and in length 25,000, alongside the sacred donation. It will belong to Israel’s entire household.
* 7To the ruler there will belong on one side and on the other side of the sacred donation and of the town’s holding, in front of the sacred donation and in front of the town’s holding, on the west westwards and on the east eastwards, a length alongside one of the shares, from the western border to the eastern border 8of the country. It will be a holding for him in Israel. My rulers are no more to oppress my people. They will give the country to Israel’s household, to their clans’.

9The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘There’s plenty for you, Israel’s rulers. Remove violence and destruction. Exercise authority with faithfulness. Lift your expulsions of my people (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh). 10You’re to have faithful balances, a faithful *ephah*, a faithful *bat*. 11The *ephah* and the *bat* are to be one size. The *bat* is to contain a tenth of a *homer*, and the *ephah* a tenth of a *homer*. The size will be based on the *homer*. 12The sheqel is twenty *gerahs*. Twenty sheqels plus twenty-five sheqels plus fifteen sheqels are a *mina* for you.

## 45:13 Responsibilities of People and Ruler

13This is the donation that you’re to raise:

* a sixth of an *ephah* from a *homer* of wheat
* a sixth of an *ephah* from a *homer* of barley
* 14the law for oil—oil by the *bat*: a tenth of a *bat* from a *kor* (ten *bats* or a *homer*, because ten *bats* make a *homer*)
* 15one sheep from the flock, out of 200, from Israel’s pastureland for a grain offering, for a burnt offering, and for fellowship sacrifices, to make expiation for them (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh).

16The entire people of the country are to be involved in this donation to the ruler in Israel, 17but the burnt offerings, the grain offering, the libation—at festivals, at new months, and on sabbaths, on all set occasions for Israel’s household—are incumbent on the ruler. He is to make the purification offering, the grain offering, the burnt offering, and the fellowship sacrifices to make expiation for Israel’s household’.

18The Lord Yahweh has said this: ‘On the first of the first month, you’re to get a bullock from the herd, whole, and purify the sanctuary. 19The priest is to get some of the blood of the purification offering and put it on the doorframe of the house, on the four corners of the altar’s ledge, and on the doorframe of the gateway to the inner courtyard. 20So you’re to do on the seventh of the month, because of someone making a mistake or being ignorant; you’re to expiate the house.

21In the first, on the fourteenth day of the month, it’s to be Pesah [Passover] for you. For the seven-day festival, flat bread is to be eaten. 22On that day the ruler is to make on his behalf and on behalf of the entire people a bull as a purification offering. 23For the seven days of the festival he’s to make a burnt offering for Yahweh, seven bullocks and seven rams, whole, daily for the seven days, and as a purification offering a male goat, daily. 24He’s to make as a grain offering an *ephah* for the bullock, an *ephah* for the ram, and oil: a *hin* for the *ephah*. 25In the seventh, on the fifteenth day of the month, during the festival, he’s to make it in accordance with these for seven days, in accordance with the purification offering, with the burnt offering, with the grain offering, and with the oil’.

## 46:1 Daily, Weekly, Monthly, Annually, and Spontaneously

46 The Lord Yahweh said this: ‘The gateway of the inner court facing east is to be shut for the six days of work, but on the sabbath day it’s to be open, and on the new month day it’s to be open. 2The ruler is to come in by way of the outer gateway’s threshold and to stand at the doorframe, and the priests are to make his burnt offering and his fellowship sacrifices. He’s to bow low at the gateway’s terrace and go out, but the gateway isn’t to be shut until evening.

3The country’s people are to bow low at that gateway door on sabbaths and on new months, before Yahweh. 4The burnt offering that the ruler presents for Yahweh on the sabbath day: six lambs, whole, a ram, whole, 5and a grain offering: an *ephah* for the ram, and for the lambs as a grain offering a gift from his hand, and oil: a *hin* for the *ephah*. 6On the day of the new month: a bullock from the herd, whole, six lambs, and a ram; they’re to be whole. 7He’s to make an *ephah* for the bullock, an *ephah* for the ram as a grain offering, and for the lambs as his hand attains to, and oil: a *hin* for the *ephah*.

8When the ruler comes in, he’s to come in by way of the gateway’s threshold, and go out the same way. 9But when the country’s people come in before Yahweh on the set occasions, someone who comes in by way of the northern gateway to bow low is to go out by way of the southern gateway, and someone who comes in by way of the southern gateway is to go out by way of the northern gateway. He isn’t to go back by way of the gateway by which he came in but go out by the one opposite him.

10The ruler will come in among them when they come in, and go out when they go out. 11On festivals and on set occasions the grain offering is to be an *ephah* for the bullock, an *ephah* for the ram, for the lambs a gift from his hand, and oil: a *hin* for the *ephah*.

## 46:12 The Preparation

12When the ruler makes a burnt offering as a voluntary offering or fellowship sacrifices as a voluntary offering to Yahweh, someone is to open the gateway facing east for him and he’s to make his burnt offering and his fellowship sacrifices as he does on the sabbath day, and he’s to go out. Someone is to shut the gateway after he goes out.

13With a lamb of the first year, whole, you’re to make an offering for the day for Yahweh; morning by morning you’re to make it. 14You’re to make a grain offering with it morning by morning: a sixth of an *ephah* and a third of a *hin* of oil to moisten the fine flour as a grain offering for Yahweh—permanent laws, regularly. 15They’re to make the lamb, the grain offering, and the oil morning by morning, a regular burnt offering’.

16The Lord Yahweh said this: ‘When the ruler gives a gift to one of his sons, it will be his domain; it will belong to his sons. It will be their holding as a domain. 17But when he gives a gift out of his domain to one of his servants, it will belong to him until the year of release, and go back to the ruler. After all, his sons—his domain is to belong to them. 18But the ruler isn’t to take from the people’s domain, oppressing them out of their holding. From his own holding he may give a domain to his sons, so that my people may not be scattered, each person from his holding’.

19He brought me by the entrance that was by the side of the gateway to the sacred halls belonging to the priests, facing north. There, in the far parts to the west, a place was there. 20He said to me, ‘This is the place where the priests are to cook the restitution offering and the purification offering, where they’re to bake the grain offering, so as not to have them go out into the outer courtyard and make the people sacred’. 21He took me out into the outer courtyard and got me to pass the courtyard’s four corners. There, a courtyard in each courtyard corner: 22in the four corners of the courtyard were enclosed courtyards: length—forty; width—thirty, one measurement for the four of them set in corners, 23with a ledge all round them (all round the four of them), and cooking places made underneath the ledges all round. 24He said to me, ‘These are the kitchens where the ministers in the house will cook the people’s fellowship sacrifice’.

## 47:1 Life-Giving Water

47 He took me back to the entrance of the house. There, water was going out from under the house’s terrace, eastward, because the front of the house was to the east. The water was going down from under the right side of the house, south of the altar. 2He took me out by way of the northern gateway and took me round by way of the outside to the outer gateway, the way facing east. There, water was flowing from the right side. 3As the man went out eastward with a line in his hand, he measured 500 metres and got me to pass through the water, ankle-deep water. 4He measured 500 and got me to pass through the water, the water being knee-deep. He measured 500 and got me to pass through the hips-deep water. 5He measured 500, a wadi that I couldn’t pass through because the water had risen, swimming water, a wadi that couldn’t be passed through.

6He said to me, ‘Have you seen, young man?’ and got me to go and return to the wadi’s bank. 7As I returned, there—on the wadi’s bank, very many trees, this side and that. 8He said to me, ‘This water is going out toward the eastern region, going down to the Steppe, and coming to the sea, to the sea of polluted water. The water will become healthy. 9Any living being that moves will live wherever the great wadi goes, and the fish will be very abundant because this water comes there. It will be healthy, and anything will live where the wadi comes. 10Fishermen will stand by it from Gedi Spring to Eglayim Spring, a place for spreading nets. In kind their fish will be like the fish of the Sea, very abundantly great. 11But its swamps and marshes won’t become healthy; they’re given over to salt.

12By the wadi there will grow, on its bank this side and that, every tree for food. Their foliage won’t wither, their fruit won’t come to an end. By their months they will produce, because their water is going out from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food and their foliage for medicine’.

## 47:13 The Extent of the Country

13The Lord Yahweh said this: ‘This is the border by which you’re to have the country as a domain for Israel’s twelve clans (Joseph—holdings). 14You’re to have it as a domain (each the same as his brother), that which I raised my hand [to swear] to give your ancestors. This country will fall to you as your domain. 15This is the border of the country:

* On the northern side: from the Great Sea by way of Hetlon, Lebo, to Tsedad, 16Hamat, Berotah, Sibrayim (which is between the border of Dammeseq and the border of Hamat), Hatser Hattikon (which is on the border of Havran). 17The border will be from the Sea to Hatser Enon, the border of Dammeseq and north, northwards, and the border of Hamat: the north side.
* 18The eastern side: from between Havran and Dammeseq, and Gil’ad and Israel’s country, the Jordan, you’re to measure from the border to the Eastern Sea: the east side.
* 19The southern side: to the south from Tamar as far as the water at Meribot Qadesh, the Wadi, to the Great Sea: the southern side, to the south.
* 20The western side: the Great Sea from the border as far as opposite Lebo Hamat: this is the western side.

21You’re to share out this country for yourselves among Israel’s clans. 22You’re to allot it as a domain for yourselves and for the aliens residing among you who’ve had children among you. They’re to be like natives among the Israelites. With you they’ll receive a domain in the property among Israel’s clans. 23In the clan with which the alien resides, there you’re to give him his domain (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh)’.

## 48:1 The Clans

48 ‘These are the names of the clans.

* At the northern end, by the side of the Hetlon road to Lebo-hamat, Hatsar Enan, the border of Dammeseq to the north by the side of Hamat, from the eastern side to the Sea will belong to it: one, Dan.
* 2At Dan’s border, from the eastern side as far as the western side: one, Asher.
* 3At Asher’s border, from the eastern side as far as the western side: one, Naphtali.
* 4At Naphtali’s border, from the eastern side as far as the western side: one, Menashsheh.
* 5At Menashsheh’s border, from the eastern side as far as the western side: one, Ephrayim.
* 6At Ephrayim’s border, from the eastern side as far as the western side: one, Re’uben.
* 7At Re’uben’s border, from the eastern side as far as the western side: one, Judah.

8At Judah’s border, from the eastern side as far as the western side, will be the donation that you raise, width and length—25,000, like one of the holdings from the eastern side as far as the western side. The sanctuary will be in the middle of it. 9The donation that you raise for Yahweh: length—25,000; width—10,000. 10It will belong to these: the sacred donation to the priests, on the north—25,000; on the west the width—10,000; on the east the width—10,000, and on the south the length—25,000. Yahweh’s sanctuary will be in the middle of it. 11What is made sacred will belong to the priests, the Tsadoqites, who kept my charge, who didn’t go astray when the Israelites went astray, as the Levites went astray. 12It will belong to them as a donation out of the donation from the country, most sacred, at the Levites’ border. 13The Levites, alongside the priests’ border: length—25,000, and width—10,000 (the entire length—25,000, and the width—10,000). 14They’re not to sell any of it. A person isn’t to exchange or transfer the first fruits of the country, because it’s sacred to Yahweh.

15The 5,000 in width by 25,000 in length that remain: it’s ordinary land for the town, for dwelling and for pasture. The town will be in the middle of it. 16These are its measurements: the northern side—4,500; the southern side—4,500; the eastern side—4,500; and the western side—4,500. 17The pasture will belong to the town, northward—250; southward—250; eastward—250; and westward—250.

## 48:18 Yahweh-Is-There

18What is left in the country alongside the sacred donation will be 10,000 eastwards and 10,000 westwards. It will be alongside the sacred donation, and its produce will be for food for the town’s servants. 19One who serves the town—from all Israel’s clans they will serve it. 20The entire donation, 25,000 by 25,000 square, you’re to raise, the sacred donation with the town’s holding. 21What is left will belong to the ruler, on this side and on the other of the sacred donation and the town’s holding. In front of the 25,000 of the donation as far as the eastern border, and on the west in front of the 25,000 to the western border, alongside the shares, will belong to the ruler. The sacred donation and the sanctuary belonging to the house in the middle of it, 22and apart from the Levites’ holding and the town’s holding within what belongs to the ruler, between Judah’s border and Benjamin’s border will belong to the ruler.

23The rest of the clans:

* from the eastern side as far as the western side: one, Benjamin
* 24at Benjamin’s border, from the eastern side as far as the western side: one, Shim’on
* 25at Shim’on’s border, from the eastern side as far as the western side: one, Yissakar
* 26at Yissakar’s border, from the eastern side as far as the western side: one, Zebulun
* 27at Zebulun’s border, from the eastern side as far as the western side: one, Gad
* 28at Gad’s border, to the southern side, southwards: the border will be from Tamar to the water at Meribat Qadesh, the Wadi, as far as the Great Sea.

29This is the country that you’re to allot as a domain to Israel’s clans. These will be the shares (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh). 30These are the town’s exits:

* on the northern side, the measurement is 4,500 31(the town’s gateways will be by the names of Israel’s clans), three northern gateways: one the Reuben gateway, one the Judah gateway, one the Levi gateway
* 32on the eastern side, 4,500, and three gateways: one the Joseph gateway, one the Benjamin gateway, one the Dan gateway
* 33on the southern side, the measure is 4,500, and three gateways: one the Shim’on gateway, one the Yissakar gateway, one the Zebulun gateway
* 34on the western side, 4,500, their three gateways: one the Gad gateway, one the Asher gateway, one the Naphtali gateway.

All round—18,000. The town’s name from now on will be “Yahweh is there”’.

# The Twelve Shorter Prophets

The traditional title for the twelve shorter prophetic books that close the Old Testament is ‘The Minor Prophets’, but they are minor only in the sense of being shorter. Page for page, they are at least as major as the three ‘Major Prophets’, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel. They divide roughly into three groups that one can link with those three.

* One can set the first six, from Hosea to Micah, alongside Isaiah in that Hosea, Amos, Jonah, and Micah belong in the late eighth century, like Isaiah, and reflect the same set of religious and political circumstances. The arrangement may imply the assumption that Joel also lived in the same period, while Obadiah is a kind of appendix to Amos.
* One can set the next three, Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah alongside Jeremiah, in that they lived a century later, in the time when Assyria was succeeded by Babylon as the world power.
* One can set the last three, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi alongside Ezekiel (and Daniel), in that they lived in the context of the restoration of Judah in the later sixth century and in the fifth, when Persia succeeded Babylon as the world power.

# Hosea

Hosea was a contemporary of Isaiah ben Amoz in the 730s but he worked in northern Israel, to which he often refers as Ephraim, with its capital in Samaria, rather than in Judah. His task was thus to seek to win Ephraim back to Yahweh in order to forestall Yahweh’s taking action against it. Occasional references to Judah indicate that Judah needs to learn from Ephraim’s bad example and its consequent fate.

Hosea’s key image for portraying Ephraim’s wrongdoing is that Ephraim is a whore in the sense of someone who is immoral and faithless to her husband, Yahweh. She expresses her whoring both in having recourse to other deities to get their help in making the land and its people fruitful, and also in having recourse to other political allies to get their help in standing up to Assyria as the threatening superpower. In the opening chapters Hosea’s own marriage to someone who was unfaithful provides an acted parable of the nation’s life.

## 1:1 The Whore

1 Yahweh’s word which came to Hosea [Hoshea] ben Be’eri in the days of Uzziyah, Yotam, Ahaz, and Yehizqiyyah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Yarob’am ben Yo’ash king of Israel.

2As the beginning of Yahweh’s word through Hosea, Yahweh said to Hosea, ‘Go get yourself a whorish woman and whorish children, because the country is really whoring away from Yahweh’. 3So he went and got Gomer bat Diblayim.

She got pregnant and gave birth to a son for him. 4Yahweh said to him, ‘Name him “Yizre’e’l”, because in yet a little while I shall attend to the bloodshed in Yizre’e’l upon Yehu’s household. I shall stop the kingship of Israel’s household. 5On that day I shall break Israel’s bow in Yizre’e’l Vale’.

6She got pregnant again and gave birth to a daughter. He said to him, ‘Name her “Not Compassioned”, because I shall no more have compassion again on Israel’s household, that I should carry them. 7(But on Judah’s household I will have compassion, and I will deliver them through Yahweh their God—I shall not deliver them through bow, through sword, and through battle, through horses, and through cavalry.)

8She weaned Not Compassioned, got pregnant, and gave birth to a son. 9He said, ‘Name him “Not my people”, because you’re not my people and I—I shall not be God to you’.

10But the number of the Israelites will be like the sand at the sea that cannot be measured or counted. In the place where it is said to them ‘You are not my people’ it will be said to them, ‘Children of the living God’. 11The Judahites and the Israelites will collect together and make one head for themselves. They will go up from the country, because Yizre’e’l’s day will be great. 2 Say to your brothers, ‘My people’, and to your sisters, ‘Compassioned’.

## 2:2 Like Mother, Like Sons and Daughters

2Argue with your mother, argue,

because she isn’t my woman and I’m not her man.

She must put away her whoring from her face,

her adultery from between her breasts.

3Otherwise I shall strip her naked,

and turn her into like the day she was born.

I shall make her like the wilderness,

change her into dry land, let her die of thirst.

4On her children I shall have no compassion,

because they’re whorish children.

5Because their mother has been whorish;

the one who conceived them has acted shamefully.

Because she’s said,

‘I’ll go after my lovers,

The ones who give me my bread and my water,

my wool and my linen, my oil and my drink’.

6Therefore:

here am I, I’m going to hedge up your way with thorn bushes,

And I shall build a wall for her,

so she can’t find her paths.

7She’ll pursue her lovers but she won’t catch them,

she’ll look for them but she won’t find them,

And she’ll say,

‘I’ll go and return to my first man,

because it was better for me then than now’.

8She—she hasn’t acknowledged

that I myself am the one who gave her

the grain, the new wine, and the fresh oil.

I produced an abundance of silver for her,

and gold, which they used for the Master.

9Therefore:

I shall take back my grain in its season

and my new wine at its set time.

I shall rescue my wool and my linen

for covering her nakedness.

10Now I shall uncover her villainy

before her lovers’ eyes.

No one will rescue her from my hand,

11and I shall make all her celebrating stop,

Her festival, her new month, her sabbath,

every set event of hers.

12I shall devastate her vine and her fig tree,

of which she’s said, ‘It’s my “gift”,

which my lovers gave me’.

I shall turn them into a forest;

animals of the wild will consume them.

13I shall attend to her for the Masters’ days

when she burns incense for them.

She’s decked herself with her ring and her jewellery,

gone after her lovers,

and put me out of mind (Yahweh’s declaration).

## 2:14 Trouble Vale Can Become Hope’s Door

14Therefore:

here, I’m going to charm her,

and get her to go into the wilderness, and speak to her heart.

15I shall give her vineyards from there,

Trouble Vale as Hope’s Door.

She’ll answer there as in her young days,

as in the day she went up from the country of Egypt.

16On that day (Yahweh’s declaration) she’ll call, ‘My Man’;

she’ll no more call me ‘My Master’.

17I shall remove the Masters’ names from her mouth;

they’ll be mentioned by their name no more.

18I shall solemnize a pact for them on that day

with the creature of the wild,

With the bird in the heavens,

and with what moves on the ground.

Bow and sword and battle

I shall break from the country, and enable them to lie down in confidence.

19I shall marry you to me permanently,

marry you to me with faithfulness and with the exercise of authority,

With commitment and with compassion,

20marry you to me with truth.

You will acknowledge Yahweh,

21and on that day I shall answer (Yahweh’s declaration).

I shall answer the heavens,

and they will answer the earth.

22The earth will answer

with grain, new wine and fresh oil,

Those will answer with Yizre’e’l,

23and shall sow it for myself in the country.

I shall have compassion on Not Compassioned,

and I shall say to Not-my-people ‘My people’

and it will say ‘My God’.

3 Yahweh said to me further, ‘Go, love a woman who is loved by a neighbour and who commits adultery—like Yahweh’s love for the Israelites, though they’re turning their face toward other gods and loving raisin slabs’. 2So I bought her for myself for fifteen silver pieces, a barrel of barley, and half a barrel of barley. 3I said to her, ‘For a long time you’re to live for me. You will not go whoring; you will not belong to a man. So also will I be for you’. 4Because for a long time the Israelites are to live with no king, no official, no sacrifice, no pillar, no ephod or effigies. 5Afterward the Israelites will turn back and have recourse to Yahweh their God and David their king. They will be in dread of Yahweh and of his goodness at the end of the time.

## 4:1 No Acknowledgment

4 Listen to Yahweh’s word,

Israelites:

Because Yahweh has an argument

with the country’s inhabitants.

Because there’s no truthfulness and no commitment,

no acknowledging of God in the country.

2Vowing, deceit, murder,

robbery, and adultery have spread out;

bloodshed follows on bloodshed.

3Therefore the country grieves,

everyone who lives in it languishes,

With the animal in the wild and with the bird in the heavens—

even the fish in the sea are gathered up.

4Yet no one is to argue

no one is to reprove.

Your people are like people arguing with a priest,

5and you will collapse by day.

A prophet will also collapse with you by night,

and I shall terminate your mother.

6My people are terminated

for lack of acknowledgment.

Because you’ve rejected acknowledgment

I shall reject you from being a priest for me.

You’ve put out of mind your God’s instruction;

I shall put out of mind your children, I too.

7As they became many, so they did wrong to me;

I shall exchange their honour for slighting.

8They feed on my people’s wrongdoing;

they direct its appetite to their waywardness.

9So it will be: as the people, so the priest;

I shall attend to its ways for it.

I shall bring back its practices for it;

10they will eat but not be full.

They’ve whored but they won’t spread out,

because they’ve abandoned Yahweh,

To keep watch 11on whoring,

as wine and new wine takes away sense.

12My people asks things of its piece of wood;

its stick tells it.

Because a whorish spirit has led it astray;

they’ve whored from under their God.

13On the tops of the mountains they sacrifice,

on the hills they burn incense,

Under oak, poplar, and terebinth,

because its shade is good.

That’s why your daughters whore,

your brides commit adultery.

14I shall not attend to your daughters because they whore,

or to your brides because they commit adultery.

Because the men themselves consort with whores

and sacrifice with hierodules,

and a people that doesn’t understand comes to ruin.

(15If you’re whorish, Israel,

Judah must not become liable.

Don’t come to Gilgal, don’t go up to Bet Aven [‘Trouble House’],

don’t swear ‘As Yahweh lives!’

## 4:16 Malcontents Have Made Deep Slaughter

16Because like a defiant cow

Israel has been stubborn.

Now Yahweh will pasture them

like sheep on the range.

17Ephrayim is attached to images;

leave him to himself.

18Their drink has gone as they’ve whored and whored;

as they’ve loved and loved, slighting is its ‘gift’.

19The wind has bound it up in its wings,

so that they’ll be shamed because of their sacrifices.

5 Listen to this, priests;

heed, Israelites!

Give ear, royal household,

because authority belongs to you!

Because you’ve been a snare to The Watchtower,

you’ve spread a net over Tabor.

2When malcontents have made deep slaughter,

I was the correction for them all.

3I myself acknowledge Ephrayim;

Israel has not eluded me.

Because you’ve now been whoring, Ephrayim;

Israel has become defiled.

4Their practices don’t allow them

to turn back to their God.

Because there’s a whorish spirit within them,

and they don’t acknowledge Yahweh.

5Israel’s majesty will avow against it;

so Israel and Ephrayim will collapse through their waywardness

(Judah has fallen with them, too).

6They may go out with their flock and with their cattle,

to seek Yahweh.

But they won’t find him—he’s withdrawn from them;

7they’ve broken faith with Yahweh.

Because they’ve given birth to alien children,

the new moon will now consume their shares.

8Sound a horn in Gib’ah,

a trumpet in Ramah!

Raise a shout in Bet Aven,

after you, Benjamin.

9Ephrayim will become a desolation

on the day of reproof.

Against Israel’s clans

I’ve made known something truthful.

(10Judah’s officials have become like people who move a boundary;

on them I shall pour out my outburst like water.)

## 5:11 What Shall I Do with You, Ephraim?

11Ephrayim is oppressed, crushed by the exercise of authority;

because he resolved to go after filth:

12I myself am like a moth to Ephrayim,

like rot to Judah’s household.

13Ephrayim saw its sickness,

Judah its sore.

Ephrayim went to Ashshur,

it sent to the king who would argue.

But that man won’t be able to heal you;

he won’t cure you of a sore.

14Because I shall be like a lion to Ephrayim,

like a cougar to Judah’s household.

I, I myself, will tear,

and as I go I shall carry, and there’ll be no one to rescue.

15I shall go, I shall return to my place,

until they make restitution,

And seek my face;

in their pressure they’ll seek me urgently:

6 ‘Come on, let’s return to Yahweh,

because he’s the one who tore, but he can heal us.

He strikes down but he can bandage us;

2he can bring us to life after two days.

On the third day he can raise us up,

so we can live before him.

3When we acknowledge, pursue the acknowledging of Yahweh,

like dawn his coming out is sure.

He’ll come to us like rain,

like spring rain that waters earth’.

4What shall I do with you, Ephrayim,

what shall I do with you, Judah,

When your commitment is like morning cloud,

like dew going early?

5That’s why I hewed them down with my prophets,

killed them with the words of my mouth;

with rulings against you, light goes out.

6Because I wanted commitment not sacrifice,

acknowledgment of God more than burnt offerings.

7But they—as at Adam they transgressed the pact;

there they broke faith with me.

8Gil’ad is a township of people who bring trouble,

trailed in blood.

9The company of priests

is like gangs waiting for someone.

On the road to Shekem they commit murder,

when they have committed deliberate wickedness.

10In Israel’s household I have seen something horrible:

Ephrayim’s whoring is there.

Israel has become defiled (Judah, too);

He’s appointed a harvest for you.

## 6:10b A Loaf Not Turned Over

When I restore my people’s fortunes,

7 as I heal Israel,

Ephrayim’s waywardness reveals itself,

Shomron’s [Samaria’s] bad dealings.

Because people have practised falsehood, a thief enters,

a gang has made a dash in the street.

2Their mind doesn’t say,

‘I’ve kept in mind all their bad dealing’.

Now their practices have surrounded them;

they’ve been in front of my face.

3They make a king rejoice, with their bad dealing,

and officials, with their lies.

4All of them are committing adultery,

like an oven burning without a baker.

He stops stirring

from the kneading of the dough to its yeasting.

5On our king’s day,

officials got sick with the heat of wine.

He extended his hand to the arrogant 6when they came near,

their mind like an oven with intrigue.

All night their baker slept,

in the morning he’s burning, like a flaming fire.

7All of them burn as hot as an oven,

they consume their authorities.

All their kings have fallen;

there’s no one among them calling to me.

8Ephrayim among the peoples, he wastes away.

Ephrayim has become a loaf not turned over.

9Strangers have consumed his energy,

and he has not acknowledged it.

Yes, grey hair has spread over him,

and he has not acknowledged it.

10Israel’s majesty avows against it,

but they haven’t turned back to Yahweh their God.

they haven’t sought him despite all this.

11Ephrayim has become like a simple pigeon,

without sense.

They’ve called on Egypt,

they’ve gone to Ashshur.

12When they go,

I shall spread my net over them.

Like a bird in the heavens, I shall bring them down;

I shall correct them in accordance with the report of their assembly.

13Oh, these people, because they’ve strayed from me;

destruction for them, because they’ve rebelled against me.

Whereas I’m the one who could redeem them,

but they themselves have spoken lies about me.

14They haven’t cried out to me in their heart,

when they wail on their beds.

Over grain and new wine they quarrel;

they turn against me.

15I myself corrected them, strengthened their arms,

but they think up bad things against me.

16They turn back, not to the One on High;

they’ve become like a false bow.

Their officials will fall by the sword

because of the condemnation of their tongue

(i.e., their jabbering in the country of Egypt).

## 8:1 They Have Made Kings, But Not through Me

8 Horn to your mouth,

like an eagle over Yahweh’s house!

Since they’ve transgressed my pact,

rebelled against my instruction.

2To me they cry out,

‘My God, as Israel we’ve acknowledged you!’

3Israel has rejected what’s good;

an enemy pursues them.

4They’ve made kings, but not through me;

they’ve made officials, but I haven’t acknowledged them.

With their silver and gold they’ve made images for themselves,

in order that [Israel] may be cut off.

5He’s rejected your bullock, Shomron;

my anger burns against them.

How long will they be incapable of being free of guilt?—

6because it was from Israel.

That thing—a metal worker made it;

it’s not a god.

Because Shomron’s bullock

will be broken bits .

7Because they sow wind,

they’ll reap a hurricane.

A stalk that has no growth

doesn’t produce flour.

If perhaps it produces,

strangers will swallow it;

8Israel has been swallowed up

and they have now become among the nations,

Like an object that no one wants,

9because they’ve gone up to Ashshur.

A wild donkey on its own,

Ephrayim has hired lovers.

10Even when they hire among the nations,

now I shall collect them.

They’ve writhed for a while

because of the burden (king, officers).

11Because Ephrayim has built many altars for wrongdoing;

for it, they’ve become altars for wrongdoing.

12Though I write for it many things in my instruction,

they’ve been thought of as alien.

13Though they offer sacrifices to me as gifts,

and eat flesh,

Yahweh doesn’t accept them;

now he’ll be mindful of their waywardness.

He’ll attend to their wrongdoings;

those people—they’ll go back to Egypt.

14Israel has put out of mind its maker

and built palaces,

(and Judah has built many fortified towns).

I shall send off fire to its towns

and it will consume its citadels.

## 9:1 I Found Israel As Like Grapes in the Wilderness

9 Don’t rejoice, Israel, with joy like the peoples,

because you’ve gone whoring away from your God.

You have loved the ‘gift’

on every grain threshing-floor.

2Threshing-floor and winepress won’t pasture them,

new wine will deceive her.

3They won’t live in Yahweh’s country;

Ephrayim will go back to Egypt,

in Ashshur they’ll eat defiled food.

4They won’t pour wine for Yahweh;

their sacrifices won’t please him.

Like mourners’ bread to them,

all who eat it will be defiled.

Because their bread will be for their own appetite;

it will not come into Yahweh’s house.

5What will you do for the set day,

for the day of Yahweh’s festival?

6Because there—when they have gone from destruction,

Egypt will collect them, Memphis will bury them.

Whereas high regard will attach to their silver,

briar will dispossess them, bramble will be in their tents.

7The days of giving attention have come,

the days of making good have come,

Israel must acknowledge it, though the prophet is stupid,

the person of the spirit is crazy,

On account of the abundance of your waywardness,

your abundant animosity.

8A prophet, with my God,

is a lookout over Ephrayim.

There’s a hunter’s snare over all his ways,

animosity in its God’s house.

9They’ve gone deep in devastation, as in the days at Gib’ah;

he’ll be mindful of their waywardness, he’ll attend to their wrongdoings.

10I found Israel

as like grapes in the wilderness.

I saw your fathers

as like the first fruit on a fig tree in its beginning.

When those people came to the Master of Pe’or,

they dedicated themselves to Shame,

and became abominations like the thing they loved.

## 9:11 The King: What Would He Do for Us?’

11Ephrayim—their splendour will fly off like a bird,

away from birth, from the womb, from conception.

12Even if they rear their children,

I shall bereave them of people.

Because—oh they, indeed,

when I turn away from them!

13Ephrayim—as I’ve seen with Tsor [Tyre],

planted in an meadow,

so Ephrayim is take out its children to the killer.

14Give them: Yahweh, what are you to give?—

give them a miscarrying womb, dry breasts.

15All their bad dealing was at Gilgal,

because there I was hostile to them.

Because of the bad nature of their practices,

I shall drive them from my house.

I shall not add to my love for them;

all their officials are defiant.

16Ephrayim is struck down, their root withers,

they won’t produce fruit.

Even when they have children,

I shall put to death the desired offspring of their womb.

17My God will reject them

because they haven’t listened to him;

they’ll become wanderers among the nations.

10 Israel is a wasting vine;

its fruit resembles it.

In accordance with the quantity of its fruit, it multiplied its altars.

in accordance with the goodness of its country, they made good pillars.

2Because their mind was deceitful,

now they are to make restitution;

He himself will break down their altars,

destroy their pillars.

3Because they now say,

‘We have no king;

Because we do not live in awe of Yahweh,

the king: what would he do for us?’

4They’ve spoken things with empty oaths

in solemnizing a pact.

The exercise of authority has flourished like poisonous growth

in the furrows of the field.

## 10:5 Sow for Yourselves for Faithfulness

5The population of Shomron fear

for the bullock of Bet Aven,

Because its people and its priestlings are mourning over it

whereas they celebrate over its splendour.

Because it’s going into exile from it;

6it, too, will be brought to Ashshur,

a gift to the king so he will argue.

Ephrayim will receive shame,

Israel will be shamed by its counsel.

7Shomron—its king is being terminated,

like a twig on the face of water.

8The shrines of Aven will be annihilated,

Israel’s wrongdoing.

Thorn and thistle

will grow on their altars.

They will say to the mountains, ‘Cover us’,

to the hills, ‘Fall on us’.

9Since the days of Gib’ah you have done wrong, Israel;

there they stood.

Will battle not overtake them in Gib’ah

because of evildoers?

10When it’s my desire and I correct them

peoples will be gathered against them.

When they’re disciplined for their double waywardness,

11though Ephrayim was a trained bullock.

It loved threshing,

and I—I passed over its good neck.

I shall drive Ephrayim, Judah will plough,

Jacob will harrow for itself.

12Sow for yourselves for faithfulness,

reap in proportion to commitment,

till the tillable ground for yourselves.

It’s time for inquiring of Yahweh, until he comes,

and showers faithfulness for you.

13You’ve ploughed faithlessness, you have reaped evil,

you’ve eaten deceptive fruit.

Because you’ve relied on your way,

on the number of your strong men.

14A din will arise against your people,

and all your fortifications will be destroyed.

Like Shalman’s destruction of Bet Arbe’l on a day of battle,

when mother smashed on children.

15Like this he is doing to you, Bet-el,

in the face of your bad, bad dealing.

At dawn he’s being terminated, being terminated,

Israel’s king.

## 11:1 The Unfailing Nature of a Mother’s Love

11 When Israel was a boy I loved him;

from Egypt I called my son.

2I called them;

thus they went from me.

They sacrifice to the Masters,

burn incense to images.

3I myself taught Ephrayim to walk,

lifted them into my arms.

But they didn’t acknowledge

that I healed them.

4With human cords I would lead them,

with loving ties.

For them I was

someone lifting a baby to the cheek,

and I bent to him so that I might feed him.

5No, they’ll go back to the country of Egypt,

or Ashshur will be their king.

because they refused to come back.

6A sword will whirl against its towns,

finish off its gate-bars, consume them because of their counsels.

7My people are bent on turning back from me;

when they call to the One on High,

he won’t lift them up at all.

8How can I give you up, Ephrayim,

hand you over, Israel?

How can I make you like Admah,

treat you like Tsebo’im?

My spirit turns round within me,

my comfort warms all at once.

9I shall not act on my angry burning;

I shall not again devastate Ephrayim.

Because I am God and not a human being,

the sacred one among you,

and I shall not come against the town.

10They will follow Yahweh;

he will roar like a lion.

When he roars,

children will come trembling from the west.

11They will come trembling like a bird from Egypt,

like a pigeon from the country of Ashshur,

I shall let them live in their homes (Yahweh’s declaration).

## 11:12 Fraud from the Womb

12Ephrayim has surrounded me with lying,

Israel’s household with deceit.

(Judah still wanders with God,

keeps faith with the sacred ones.)

12 Ephrayim pastures the wind,

pursues the easterly;

Continually it increases deception and destruction;

they solemnize a pact with Ashshur,

and oil is carried to Egypt.

2Yahweh will argue with Judah,

and attend to Jacob in accordance with his ways;

in accordance with his practices he will give back to him.

3In the womb he grabbed his brother,

and in his strength he struggled with God.

4He struggled with the envoy and prevailed;

he cried and sought grace from him.

He would find him at Bet-el,

speak with him there,

5Yahweh, God of Armies—

Yahweh is his name.

6So you yourself are to turn back to your God;

keep watch on commitment in the exercise of authority,

and wait for your God always.

7A trader in whose hand are deceptive scales

loves to defraud.

8Ephrayim has said, ‘Yes, I’ve become rich,

I’ve acquired strength for myself.

In all that I’ve toiled for they won’t find in me

waywardness that amounts to wrongdoing’.

9I am Yahweh your God

from the country of Egypt.

I shall make you live in your tents again,

as in the days of your set occasion.

10I spoke to the prophets

and I—I gave many a vision;

by means of the prophets I shall terminate.

11Is Gil’ad trouble: yes, emptiness;

in Gilgal did they sacrifice bulls?

Their altars, too,

are like stone heaps [*gallim*]on the furrows of the field.

12Jacob fled to the open country of Aram;

Israel served for a wife—

for a wife he kept [sheep].

13Through a prophet Yahweh got Israel up from Egypt,

and through a prophet he was kept.

14Ephrayim provoked with great bitterness;

his Lord will leave his bloodshed on him,

give back his reviling to him.

## 13:1 Like the Morning Cloud

13 When Ephrayim spoke, there was trembling,

when he lifted [his voice] in Israel,

but through the Master he became liable and died.

2Now they commit more and more wrongdoing,

and they’ve made themselves an idol,

Images from their silver in accordance with their insight,

the work of craftsmen, all of it.

With regard to them people are saying,

‘Human sacrifices, they kiss bullocks’.

3Therefore they will be like the morning cloud,

like the dew that goes early,

Like chaff that whirls from a threshing-floor,

like smoke from a window.

4I am Yahweh your God

from the country of Egypt.

You will not acknowledge a god apart from me;

there’s no deliverer except me.

5I acknowledged you in the wilderness,

in a country of droughts.

6When they pastured, they were full,

when they were full, their attitude became superior;

therefore they put me out of mind.

7So I’ve become like a cougar to them,

like a leopard I shall lurk by the road.

8I shall attack them like a bereaved bear,

rip open the cover of their heart.

I shall consume them like a lion;

the animals of the wild will tear them apart.

9Your devastation, Israel,

because in me is your help.

10Where is your king, then,

so he may deliver you in all your towns,

and your authorities, of whom you said,

‘Give me a king and officials’?

11I’d give you a king in my anger

and take him in my outburst.

## 13:12—14:9 Birth and Death

12Ephrayim’s waywardness is preserved,

his wrongdoings stored up.

13When the pains of giving birth come to him,

he’ll be a child who isn’t smart.

Because at the time he won’t stand

at the breach for children.

14From She’ol’s hand I could redeem them,

from death I could restore them.

Where would be your scourges, death,

where your destruction, She’ol?

Comfort will hide from my eyes,

15because he’s fruitful among brothers.

An easterly will come, Yahweh’s wind,

coming up from the wilderness.

His fountain will dry up,

his spring wither.

That will plunder the treasury,

all the objects held in high regard.

16Shomron is liable,

because it’s rebelled against its God.

People will fall by the sword,

their babies will be smashed,

their pregnant women torn open.

14 Turn back, Israel,

to Yahweh your God,

because you’ve fallen through your waywardness.

2Take words with you,

and turn back to Yahweh;

Say to him, ‘Will you carry it all, the waywardness?—

receive something good: for bulls we’ll make up with our lips.

3Ashshur isn’t to deliver us,

we won’t ride on horses.

We will no more say “our God”

to something made by our hands,

because in you the orphan will find compassion’.

4I shall heal their turning away, I shall love them freely,

because my anger has turned back from me.

5I shall become like dew to Israel;

it will flourish like the lily,

It will strike roots like the Lebanon;

6its shoots will grow

Its splendour will be like an olive tree,

its fragrance like the Lebanon.

7People who sit in its shade will again bring grain to life,

and flourish like the vine,

its fame like Lebanon wine.

8Ephrayim:

‘What shall I have to do with idols anymore?—

I myself have answered and looked to him.

I myself am like a verdant juniper’.—

from me your fruit appears.

9Who is smart and discerning about these things,

is discerning and acknowledges them?

Because Yahweh’s ways are straight,

and the faithful walk in them,

but rebels collapse by them.

# Joel

The first half of Joel comprises a double description of disaster, a past locust epidemic that is portrayed as past and a military invasion that is portrayed as coming. Possibly one is a figure for the other. The book does not give any concrete indication of the century when the disaster(s) happened. Joel’s task is to urge Judah to turn to Yahweh in this situation and to promise that Yahweh will then deliver and restore the country. Beyond this restoration, the second half of the book speaks of an unprecedented pouring out of Yahweh’s spirit, which will also be associated with a day of world judgment and a final battle between forces of good and forces of wickedness. The natural and/or military catastrophe is an embodiment of ‘Yahweh’s Day’ which will come in its final form in those events.

## 1:1 The Disaster

1 Yahweh’s word that came to Yo’el ben Petu’el.

2Listen to this, you elders;

give ear, all you inhabitants of the country.

Has this happened in your days,

or in your ancestors’ days?

3Recount it to your children,

your children to their children,

and their children to the next generation.

4What was left from the cutter, the locust has eaten;

what was left from the locust, the grub has eaten;

what was left from the grub, the hopper has eaten.

5Wake up, you drunks, and cry;

howl, all you wine drinkers,

about the new wine, because it’s been cut off from your mouth.

6Because a nation has come up against my country,

numerous, and beyond counting.

Its teeth are a lion’s teeth,

it has a lioness’s fangs.

7It’s made my vine into desolation,

my fig tree into a stump.

It’s stripped its bark and thrown it away;

its branches have turned white.

8Wail like a girl wrapped in sack

because of the husband of her youth!

9Offering and libation has been cut off

from Yahweh’s house;

The priests have mourned,

Yahweh’s ministers.

10The open country has been destroyed,

the ground has mourned.

Because the grain has been destroyed,

the new wine has withered,

the fresh oil languishes.

11Farmers, be ashamed,

vinedressers, howl,

Over wheat, over barley,

because the harvest of the field has perished.

12The vine has withered, the fig tree languishes,

pomegranate, even palm, and apricot.

All the trees of the open country wither,

because joy has withered from humankind.

## 1:13 All You Can Do Is Pray

13Wrap on and lament, priests;

howl, ministers of the altar.

Come, spend the night in sack,

ministers of my God.

Because offering and libation

have been held back from Yahweh’s house.

14Declare a sacred fast, call an assembly,

gather the elders,

all the inhabitants of the country,

To the house of Yahweh your God,

and cry out to Yahweh.

15Ah for the day,

because Yahweh’s day is near;

it comes like destruction from Shadday [the ‘Destroyer’].

16Food is cut off, isn’t it,

in front of our eyes,

Rejoicing and celebration

from Yahweh’s house.

17Seeds have shrivelled under their clods,

storehouses are desolate.

Granaries are torn down,

because grain has withered.

18How the animals have groaned,

the herds of cattle have been befuddled.

Because they have no pasture,

even the flocks of sheep suffer punishment.

19To you, Yahweh, I call,

because fire has consumed

the pastures in the wilderness.

Flame has burned

all the trees in the open country.

20Even the animals of the wild pant for you,

because the canyons of water dry up.

Fire has consumed

the pastures in the wilderness.

2 Blow a horn in Zion,

sound out on my sacred mountain.

All the country’s inhabitants are to tremble,

because Yahweh’s day has come, because it’s near,

2A day of darkness and gloom,

a day of cloud and murk.

Like dawn spread over the mountains,

a vast and numerous company!

Nothing like it has happened from of old,

and it won’t happen again after it,

through the years of generation after generation.

3Before it fire has consumed,

after it flame blazes.

Before it the country was like Eden Garden,

but after it, desolate wilderness—

indeed, no survivors have been left to it.

## 2:4 Who Knows, He May Turn Back

4Their appearance is like the appearance of horses;

like steeds, so they run.

5Like the sound of chariots,

on the tops of the mountains they leap.

Like the sound of a blazing fire

consuming straw,

Like a numerous company

lined up for battle.

6Before them, peoples shudder;

all faces have collected a flush.

7Like strong men they run,

like men of battle they climb a wall.

They go each of them on his ways,

they don’t deviate their paths.

8They don’t jostle one another;

they go each man on his causeway.

When they fall through the weaponry,

they don’t break off.

9They rush at the town,

they run at the wall.

They climb on the houses,

through the windows they come in like a robber.

10Before it earth has quaked,

heavens have shaken.

Sun and moon have gone dark,

stars have gathered up their brightness.

11Yahweh—he has given his voice

before his force.

Because his camp is very vast,

because numerous is the one performing his word.

Because Yahweh’s day is great,

very extraordinary—who can endure it?

12But even now (Yahweh’s declaration),

turn back to me with your whole heart,

with fasting, with crying, and with lamenting.

13Tear your mind, not your clothes,

and turn back to Yahweh your God,

Because he is gracious and compassionate,

long-tempered and vast in commitment,

and he relents of dealing badly.

14Who knows, he may turn back and relent,

and let a blessing remain behind him,

an offering and a libation for Yahweh your God?

15Blow the horn in Zion,

declare a sacred fast, call an assembly.

16Gather the people, make the congregation sacred.

collect the elders.

Gather the babies

and those nursing at the breast.

The groom is to go out of his room,

the bride out of her tent.

17Between the porch and the altar

the priests, Yahweh’s ministers, are to cry.

They’re to say, ‘Spare your people, Yahweh,

don’t give your domain to reviling.

as a byword against them for the nations.

Why should they say among the peoples,

“Where is their God?”’

## 2:18 The Years the Locust Has Eaten

18So Yahweh became passionate about his country,

and took pity on his people.

19Yahweh answered,

and said to his people,

‘Here I am, I’m going to send grain to you,

new wine and fresh oil—you’ll be full of it.

I shall not ever again give you over

as an object of reviling among the nations.

20I shall put the northerner far from you,

thrust him into a dry and desolate country,

His face to the eastern sea,

his rear to the western sea.

His smell will go up, his stench go up,

because he has acted big.

21Don’t be afraid, earth, celebrate and rejoice,

because Yahweh has acted big.

22Don’t be afraid, animals of the wild,

because the wilderness pastures are green.

Because the tree has borne its fruit,

fig tree and vine have given their resources.

23Members of Zion, celebrate,

rejoice in Yahweh your God.

Because he’s given you

the autumn rain in faithfulness.

He’s made rain come down for you,

autumn rain and spring rain as before.

24Threshing-floors will be full of grain,

presses will abound in new wine and fresh oil.

25I shall make good to you for the years

that the locust and the grub have consumed,

The hopper and the cutter, my big force,

which I sent off against you.

26You will eat and eat and be full,

and praise the name of Yahweh your God,

The one who acted in an extraordinary way with you;

my people won’t be ashamed permanently, and you will acknowledge it.

27Because I will be within Israel,

and I am Yahweh your God.

And there is no other,

and my people will not be ashamed, permanently.

## 2:28 You Can’t Control Who Receives God’s Spirit

28After that, I shall pour my breath on all flesh,

and your sons and your daughters will prophesy.

Your elderly will have dreams,

your young men will see visions.

29I shall also pour my breath

on servants and maidservants in those days.

30I shall put portents in the heavens and in the earth,

blood, fire, and columns of smoke.

31The sun will turn to darkness,

the moon to blood,

Before Yahweh’s day comes,

great, extraordinary.

32But anyone who calls

in Yahweh’s name will escape.

Because on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem

there will be an escape group,

As Yahweh has said,

among the survivors whom Yahweh is going to call.

3 Because there, in those days

and at that time,

When I restore the fortunes

of Judah and Jerusalem,

2I shall collect all the nations

and get them down to Yehoshaphat[‘ Yahweh has exercised authority’] Vale.

I shall enter into the exercise of authority with them there

over my people, my domain, Israel,

whom they scattered among the nations.

They shared out my country.

3and for my people they cast the lot.

They gave a boy for a whore,

sold a girl for wine and drank it.

4Now, what are you in relation to me, Tsor [Tyre] and Tsidon,

and all you regions of Philistia?

Are you making good to me with your dealings?—

if you’re dealing out me,

Swiftly, speedily,

I shall give back your dealings onto your head.

5Because it was my silver and my gold you took,

the good things that I held in high regard you brought into your palaces.

6Judahites and Jerusalemites you sold to the Greeks,

in order to send them far away from their territory.

7Here am I, stirring them up from the place to where you sold them,

and I shall give back your dealings onto your head.

8I shall sell your sons and your daughters

into the hand of the Judahites,

And they will sell them into captivity

to a far off nation (because Yahweh has spoken).

## 3:9 Beat Your Hoes into Swords

9Call out this among the nations,

declare a sacred battle.

Stir up strong men so they draw near;

all the men of battle are to go up.

10Beat your hoes into swords,

your pruning hooks into spears;

The weakling is to say, ‘ I’m a strong man!’—

11hurry, come.

All you nations around, collect yourselves,

make your strong men go down there, Yahweh!

12The nations are to stir themselves and go up

to Yehoshaphat Vale,

Because there I shall sit to exercise authority

over all the nations around.

13Put out the sickle,

because the harvest has ripened.

Come, tread,

because the vat is full.

The presses abound,

because their bad dealing is great.

14Hordes, hordes, in Verdict Vale,

because Yahweh’s day is near in Verdict Vale.

15Sun and moon have gone dark,

stars have gathered up their brightness;

16Yahweh roars from Zion,

gives voice from Jerusalem.

Heavens and earth tremble,

but Yahweh is a shelter for his people,

a stronghold for the Israelites.

17You will acknowledge that I am Yahweh,

your God who dwells on Zion, my sacred mountain.

Jerusalem will be sacred;

strangers will no more pass through it.

18On that day

the mountains will drop sweet wine,

The hills will run with milk,

all Judah’s canyons will run with water.

A fountain will go out of Yahweh’s house

and water Acacias Wadi.

19Egypt will become a desolation,

Edom will become a wilderness, a desolation,

Because of violence done to the Judahites,

in whose country they shed the blood of one free of guilt.

20But Judah will live permanently,

Jerusalem for generation after generation.

21I shall treat their bloodshed as free of guilt, which I have not treated as free of guilt,

as Yahweh is dwelling on Zion.

# Amos

Yahweh sent Amos from Judah to bring his message to northern Israel (Ephraim) at Bethel, at the southern end of the country. He was a contemporary of Hosea in Ephraim, though they may not have come into contact if Hosea was in the Ephraimite capital, Samaria. Compared with Hosea, Amos pays proportionately more attention to social ills than to religious ills, and he is a gifted communicator. The opening chapters win his audience’s attention by lambasting other nations for their war crimes before turning to declare that Ephraim is worse because it had fuller revelation from God. He invites people to come to worship, but then tells them it’s an act of rebellion that Yahweh hates. He sings a funeral lament that turns out to be a dirge for the coming demise of the nation itself. He declares that the Day of Yahweh will be bad news not good news. He tells people how he prayed successfully for Yahweh not to act in judgment but then indicates that he had to stop doing so. He warns people that they cannot escape Yahweh even by trying to hide in Sheol. But he also says that judgment will not be the end.

## 1:1 Nations Held Responsible

1 The words of Amos, who was among the sheep-breeders from Teqoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziyyah king of Judah and in the days of Yarob’am ben Yo’ash king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.

2When Yahweh roars from Zion,

gives voice from Jerusalem,

The shepherds’ pastures will mourn,

Carmel’s head will wither.

3Yahweh has said this:

For three rebellions by Dammeseq [Damascus],

for four I shall not turn it back,

because of their threshing Gil’ad with iron sledges.

4I shall send off fire against Haza’el’s house,

and it will consume Ben-hadad’s citadels.

5I shall break Dammeseq’s bar,

and I shall cut off inhabitants from Trouble Valley,

A sceptre-holder from Bet-eden,

and the people of Aram will go into exile to Qir (Yahweh has said).

6Yahweh has said this:

For three rebellions by Azzah [Gaza],

for four I shall not turn it back,

Because of their exiling a complete exile community,

handing them over to Edom.

7I shall send off fire against Azzah’s wall,

and it will consume its citadels.

8I shall cut off inhabitants from Ashdod,

a sceptre-holder from Ashqelon.

I shall turn back my hand against Eqron;

the remainder of the Philistines will perish (the Lord Yahweh has said).

9Yahweh has said this:

For three rebellions by Tsor [Tyre],

for four I shall not turn it back,

because of their handing over a complete exile community to Edom;

they were not mindful of the brotherhood pact.

10I shall send off fire against Tsor’s wall,

and it will consume its fortresses.

## 1:11 Judah Too

11Yahweh has said this:

For three rebellions by Edom,

for four I shall not turn it back,

Because he pursued his brother with a sword,

devastated his compassion.

His anger tore ceaselessly,

his outburst kept watch continually.

12I shall send off fire against Teman,

and it will consume Botsrah’s citadels.

13Yahweh has said this:

For three rebellions by the Ammonites,

for four I shall not turn it back,

Because of their ripping open pregnant women in Gil’ad,

in order to enlarge their territory.

14I shall set fire to Rabbah’s wall

and it will consume its citadels,

With shouting on a day of battle,

with a hurricane on a stormy day.

15Their king will go into exile,

he and his officials together (Yahweh has said).

2 Yahweh has said this:

For three rebellions by Mo’ab,

for four I shall not turn it back,

because of his burning the bones of the king of Edom to lime.

2I shall send off fire against Mo’ab,

and it will consume Qeriyyot’s citadels.

Mo’ab will die amid a din,

amid shouting and the sound of a horn.

3I shall cut off the authority from within it,

and kill all its officials with him (Yahweh has said).

4Yahweh has said this:

For three rebellions by Judah,

for four I shall not turn it back,

Because of their rejecting Yahweh’s instruction

and not keeping his laws.

Their lies led them astray,

which their ancestors followed.

5I shall send off fire against Judah,

and it will consume Jerusalem’s citadels.

## 2:6 And Also Ephraim

6Yahweh has said this:

“For three rebellions by Israel,

for four I shall not turn it back,

Because of their selling a faithful person for silver,

a needy person for a pair of boots.

7You who trample the head of poor people

into the dirt of the ground,

and twist the way of humble people!

An individual and his father go to a girl,

in order to treat my sacred name as ordinary.

8On garments given in pledge

they lie down by every altar.

In their God’s house they drink

the wine of people who have been defrauded.

9And I’m the one who annihilated the Amorite before them,

whose height was like the height of cedars,

and who was as sturdy as oaks.

I annihilated his fruit above

and his roots below.

10And I’m the one who took you up

from the country of Egypt.

I enabled you to go through the wilderness for forty years,

to take possession of the Amorite’s country.

11I raised up prophets from your children,

consecrated people from your young men.

It is indeed so, isn’t it, Israelites (Yahweh’s declaration),

12but you made the consecrated people drink wine

and you ordered the prophets, ‘You will not prophesy’.

13There, I’m going to make a split beneath you

as a cart makes a split

when full of its grain.

14Flight will perish from the swift,

the strong won’t firm up his energy.

The strong man won’t save his life,

15the one who wields the bow won’t stand.

One swift on his feet won’t save himself,

one riding a horse won’t save his life.

16The firmest of mind among the strong men

will flee naked on that day (Yahweh’s declaration).

## 3:1 Do Accidents Happen?

3 Listen to this word which Yahweh has spoken about you, Israelites, about the entire kin-group that I took up from Egypt:

2Only you did I acknowledge

from all earth’s kin-groups.

Therefore I shall attend to you

for all your wayward acts.

3Do two walk together

unless they’ve taken counsel?

4Does a lion roar in the forest

and it has no prey?

Does a cougar give voice from its abode

unless it has caught something?

5Does a bird fall in a trap on the earth

and there’s no snare there?

Does a trap come up from the ground

and it hasn’t actually caught something?

6If a horn sounds in a town,

doesn’t the people tremble?

And if something happens to a town,

isn’t it Yahweh who’s acted?

7Because the Lord Yahweh does nothing

except he has revealed his plan

to his servants the prophets.

8A lion has roared,

who would not be afraid?

The Lord Yahweh has spoken,

who wouldn’t prophesy?

9Make it heard in Ashdod’s citadels,

and in the citadels in the country of Egypt.

Say, ‘Gather on Shomron’s mountains,

look at the great chaos within it,

the oppressed within it.

10They haven’t acknowledged acting straight (Yahweh’s declaration),

the people who store up violence and destruction in their citadels.

11Therefore, the Lord Yahweh has said this:

An adversary, round the country:

he’ll pull down your vigour from you,

and your citadels will be plundered.

12Yahweh has said this:

As a shepherd rescues

from a lion’s mouth

Two shank bones

or the tip of an ear,

So the Israelites will escape,

the people who live in Shomron,

with the leg of a bed or the damask of a couch.

13Listen, and testify against Jacob’s household

(a declaration of the Lord Yahweh, God of Armies):

14On the day I attend to Israel’s rebellions for it,

I shall attend to Bet-el’s altars.

The altar’s horns will be cut off,

and will fall to the ground.

15I shall strike down the winter house

as well as the summer house.

The ivory houses will perish,

the great houses will come to an end (Yahweh’s declaration).

## 4:1 But You Haven’t Turned Back to Me

4 Listen to this word,

you Bashan cows,

You who are on Shomron’s mountain,

you who defraud the poor, who crush the needy,

Who say to their husbands,

‘Bring something so we can drink’.

2The Lord Yahweh has sworn by his sacredness:

There, days are coming upon you

when someone will carry you off with hooks—

yes, the last of you with fish hooks.

3Through the breaches you’ll go out, each woman straight ahead,

and you’ll be thrown out to Harmon (Yahweh’s declaration).

4Come to Bet-el and rebel—

to Gilgal, multiply the rebelling.

Bring your sacrifices every morning,

your tenths every three days.

5Burn your thank-offering of leavened bread,

call out voluntary offerings, make them heard,

because so you love it, Israelites (the Lord Yahweh’s declaration).

6Even though I—I have given you

emptiness of teeth in all your towns,

Lack of food in all your places,

but you haven’t turned back to me (Yahweh’s declaration).

7Even though I—I have withheld the rain from you

when it was still three months to the harvest.

I’d let it rain on one town

but not let it rain on another town.

One plot would be rained on,

but a plot on which it would not rain would wither.

8Two or three towns would wander

to another town to drink water.

But they wouldn’t be full,

but you haven’t turned back to me (Yahweh’s declaration).

9I have struck you down with blight and with mildew,

multiplying it on your gardens and your orchards.

The locust would eat your fig trees and olives,

but you haven’t turned back to me (Yahweh’s declaration).

10I sent off an epidemic among you

in the manner of Egypt,

I killed your young men with the sword,

with your captured horses,

Made the smell of your camps rise, even into your nostrils,

but you haven’t turned back to me (Yahweh’s declaration).

11I overthrew some of you

like the supernatural overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah,

You became like a burning stick pulled out of the fire,

but you haven’t turned back to me (Yahweh’s declaration).

## 4:12 When Authority Becomes Poisonous

12Therefore this is what I shall do to you Israel;

because I shall do this to you,

get ready to meet your God, Israel.

13Because there, one who shapes mountains,

creates wind,

Tells human beings what his thinking is,

makes dawn into darkness,

Treads on earth’s high places—

Yahweh, God of Armies, is his name.

5 Listen to this word, which I’m taking up, a lament over you, Israel’s household.

2She’s fallen, she won’t get up again,

Miss Israel;

She’s left on her land,

there’s no one to help her up.

3Because the Lord Yahweh has said this:

The town that goes out as a thousand

will have a hundred remaining.

The one that goes out as a hundred

will have ten remaining to Israel’s household.

4Because Yahweh has said this to Israel’s household:

Inquire of me, and live,

5don’t inquire of Bet-el,

Don't go to Gilgal,

don’t cross over to Be’er-sheba.

Because Gilgal is definitely to go into exile,

and Bet-el is to become nothing.

6Inquire of Yahweh and live,

so he doesn’t break out like fire

On Joseph’s household, and consume,

and there’s no one to quench it for Bet-el.

7You who turn the exercise of authority to poison

and set down faithfulness on the earth!

8He’s the one who makes Pleiades and Orion,

turns deep darkness to dawn.

He darkens day into night,

the one who calls the water of the sea,

Pours it out on the face of the earth—

Yahweh is his name—

9The one who flashes destruction on the vigorous,

so that destruction comes on the fortification.

10They are hostile to the one who reproves in the gateway,

they take offense at the one who speaks with integrity.

11Therefore, because you tax the poor person,

take a levy of grain from him:

You’ve built houses of square stone,

but you won’t live in them.

12Because I have got to know your many acts of rebellion,

your numerous wrongdoings.

You adversaries of the faithful, takers of a bribe,

who have turned aside the needy in the gateway.

## 5:10 The Day of the Lord as Bad News

13Therefore the person of insight keeps silent at such a time,

because it’s a bad time.

14Inquire after what is good, not what is bad, in order that you may live;

thus Yahweh, God of Armies, will be with you,

as you’ve said.

15Be hostile to what is bad, be loyal to what is good,

establish the exercise of authority in the gateway.

Perhaps Yahweh, God of Armies, will be gracious

to what remains of Joseph.

16Therefore Yahweh, God of Armies, the Lord, has said this:

In all the squares lamenting,

in all the streets they’ll say, ‘Oh, oh!’

They’ll call the farmhand to mourning,

and for lamenting to the people who know how to keen.

17In all the orchards lamenting,

when I pass through the middle of you ( Yahweh has said).

18Hey, you who wish

for Yahweh’s day!

What good really is Yahweh’s day to you?—

it will be darkness, not light.

19As when someone flees from before a lion

and a bear meets him,

Or he comes home,

leans his hand on a wall,

and a snake bites him.

20Yahweh’s day will be darkness not light, won’t it,

gloom, with no brightness to it.

21I’ve been hostile, I’ve rejected your festivals;

I don’t savour your assemblies.

22Even when you offer me burnt offerings,

and your grain offerings, I shall not accept them.

To a fellowship offering of well-fed animals

I shall not look.

23Remove from me the noise of your songs;

I shall not listen to the music of your mandolins.

24The exercise of authority is to roll like water,

faithfulness like a perennial wadi.

25Was it sacrifices and an offering that you presented to me

In the wilderness for forty years,

household of Israel?

26You will carry Sikkut your king,

and Kiyyun, your images, the star of your god,

That which you made for yourselves,

27and I shall exile you beyond Dammeseq,

(Yahweh whose name is God of Armies has said).

## 6:1 A Warning to People at Peace

6 Hey, you people who are at peace on Zion,

who are confident on Shomron’s mountain,

You notables of the first of the nations,

to whom Israel’s household come.

2Pass over to Kalneh and look,

go from there to Great Hamat,

go down to Gat in Philistia.

Are these better than your kingdoms,

or their territory than your territory,

3You who push away the bad day,

but bring near the rule of violence,

4You who lie on ivory beds,

lounging on their couches,

Eating lambs from the flock,

bullocks from within the stall,

5Making music to the sound of the mandolin like David,

people who have composed for themselves on musical instruments,

6Drink with bowls of wine,

anoint themselves with the finest oils,

but haven’t got sick at the breaking of Joseph?

7Therefore now:

they will go into exile at the head of the exiles,

and the revelry of the loungers will turn aside.

8The Lord Yahweh has sworn by himself (a declaration of Yahweh, God of Armies):

I detest Jacob’s majesty,

I’m hostile to its citadels,

I shall deliver up the town and what fills it.

9If ten people are left

in one house, they’ll die.

10If someone’s relative lifts him up (the person who burns spices for him)

to take his bones out of the house,

And says to whoever is in the inner parts of the house,

‘Is anyone still with you?’

He’ll say, ‘Hush,

because we are not to mention Yahweh’s name’.

11Because there, Yahweh is going to order,

and he’ll strike down the great house to pieces,

the small house to bits.

12Do horses run on a cliff,

or does one plough it with cattle?

Because you’ve turned the exercise of authority to venom,

faithful fruit to poison,

13You who rejoice at No-thing,

who say ‘It was by our strength, wasn’t it,

that we took Qarnayim for ourselves?’

14Because here am I, about to raise up against you,

Israel’s household (a declaration of Yahweh, God of Armies)—

A nation, and they’ll afflict you

from Lebo Hamat to Wadi Arabah.

## 7:1 I Wasn’t a Prophet

7 The Lord Yahweh showed me this: there, he was forming a locust swarm at the beginning of the growth of the spring crop. There—the spring crop after the king’s reaping. 2When it had finished consuming the grass in the country, I said, ‘Lord Yahweh, please pardon, how can Jacob stand, because it’s small!’ 3Yahweh relented about this. ‘It won’t happen’, Yahweh said.

4The Lord Yahweh showed me this: there, he was calling for an argument by fire. It consumed the Great Deep and it was consuming the plots. 5I said, ‘Lord Yahweh, please spare, how can Jacob stand, because it’s small!’ 6Yahweh relented about this. ‘It won’t happen either’, the Lord Yahweh said.

7He showed me this: there, the Lord was standing by a lead-weight wall, and in his hand was a lead weight. 8Yahweh said to me, ‘What are you looking at, Amos?’ I said, ‘A lead weight’. The Lord said, ‘Here am I, I’m going to put a lead weight in the middle of my people Israel. I shall not again pass over it anymore. 9Isaac’s shrines will be desolate, Israel’s sanctuaries will be laid waste. I shall rise against Yarob’am’s household with the sword’.

10Amatsyah the priest at Bet-el sent to Yarob’am king of Israel to say, ‘Amos has conspired against you within Israel’s household. The country can’t endure all his words. 11Because Amos has said this: “Yarob’am will die by the sword, Israel will go into exile, exile away from its soil”’. 12But Amatsyah said to Amos, ‘Seer, go, flee for your life to the country of Judah, eat bread there, prophesy there. 13Don’t prophesy again in Bet-el anymore, because it’s the king’s sanctuary. It’s the kingdom’s house’.

14Amos answered Amatsyah, ‘I wasn’t a prophet and I wasn’t a prophet’s son; rather I was a cattleman and a dresser of sycamore figs. 15But Yahweh took me from following the flock, and Yahweh said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel’.

16Now, listen to Yahweh’s word. You’re saying, “You shouldn’t prophesy against Israel. You shouldn’t preach against Isaac’s household”. 17Therefore Yahweh has said this: ‘Your wife will whore in the town. Your sons and your daughters will fall by the sword. Your land will be shared out by measuring line. You yourself will die on unclean land. Israel will go into exile, exile away from its land’.

## 8:1 Must Amos Not Now Pray?

8 The Lord Yahweh showed me this: there, a basket of ripe fruit. 2He said, ‘What are you looking at, Amos?’ I said, ‘A basket of ripe fruit’. Yahweh said to me, ‘The ripe time has come for my people Israel. I shall not again pass over it anymore. 3The palace singers will wail on that day (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh): “He has thrown out many a corpse in every place—hush!”’

4Listen to this, you who trample the needy person,

who make the humble people in the country cease,

5Saying, ‘When will the new month be over,

so we can sell wheat,

and the sabbath, so we can lay out grain—

Making the barrel measure small but the sheqel big,

falsifying the scales by deceit,

6Acquiring the poor people for silver,

the needy person for a pair of boots,

and selling sweepings as grain?

7Yahweh has sworn by the Majesty of Jacob,

‘If I ever put out of mind any of their doings…’.

8For this, the earth will shake, won’t it,

and everyone who lives in it mourn.

AIt will all rise like the Nile,

surge and sink like Egypt’s Nile.

9On that day (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh),

I shall make the sun set at noon,

make the earth dark during daylight.

10I shall turn your festivals into mourning,

all your songs into lamenting.

I shall put sack on all hips,

shornness on every head,

I shall make it like the mourning for an only child,

its end a truly bitter day.

## 8:11 You Can’t Get Away from God

11There, days are coming (a declaration of the Lord Yahweh)

when I shall send famine through the country—

Not famine of bread, not thirst for water,

but rather of hearing Yahweh’s words.

12People will wander from sea to sea

and roam from north to east,

To seek Yahweh’s word,

but they won’t find it.

13On that day beautiful girls and young men

will faint with thirst.

14People who swear by the liability of Shomron

and say, ‘As your god lives, Dan’,

and ‘As the way to Be’er-sheba lives’,

will fall and not rise again.

9 I saw the Lord standing by the altar. He said:

Strike down the capitals so the thresholds shake;

break them off onto the head of all of them.

The last of them I shall kill with the sword;

not one of them will flee as a fugitive,

no escapee will survive.

2If they dig into She’ol,

from there my hand will get them.

If they go up into the heavens,

I shall get them down.

3If they hide on top of Carmel,

from there I shall search them out and get them.

If they conceal themselves from in front of my eyes

at the bottom of the sea,

From there I shall order

the serpent and it will bite them.

4If they go into captivity before their enemies,

from there I shall order the sword and it will kill them.

I shall set my eye on them for something bad,

not for something good.

5The Lord Yahweh Armies—

he touches the earth and it melts,

and all the people who live in it mourn.

All of it rises like the Nile,

and sinks like Egypt’s Nile.

6He built his lofts in the heavens

and founded his structure on the earth,

The one who calls the sea’s water

and pours it over the face of the earth—

Yahweh is his name.

## 9:7 The Day of the Lord as Good News Again

7You’re like the Sudanese

to me, Israelites, aren’t you (Yahweh’s declaration).

I got Israel up from the country of Egypt, didn’t I—

and the Philistines from Kaphtor, and the Arameans from Qir?

There, the Lord Yahweh’s eyes

are on the kingdom that does wrong;

I annihilate it

from on the face of the earth.

Except that I shall not totally annihilate

Jacob’s household (Yahweh’s declaration).

9Because here I am, I’m going to give an order,

and shake Israel’s household among all the nations,

As someone shakes in a sieve,

and no pebble falls to the earth.

10All the wrongdoers in my people

will die by the sword,

The people who say, ‘It won’t reach,

it won’t come near us’.

11On that day:

I shall raise David’s fallen bivouac

and repair its breaches,

I shall raise its ruins

and build it up as in days of old,

12In order that they may enter into possession of what remains of Edom,

and all the nations that were called by my name.

(a declaration of Yahweh who is going to do this).

13There, days are coming (Yahweh’s declaration):

when the ploughman will reach the reaper,

the treader of grapes the one trailing the seed.

The mountains will drop sweet wine,

all the hills will flow.

14I shall restore the fortunes of my people Israel;

they’ll build up desolate towns and live there.

They’ll plant vineyards and drink their wine,

they will make gardens and eat their fruits.

15I shall plant them on their land

and they won’t uproot again

From on their land

which I have given them (Yahweh your God has said).

# Obadiah

Presumably Yahweh gave Obadiah many other prophecies, but the Judahite community recognized this one as having long-lasting significance. It refers to Edom’s involvement in the destruction of Jerusalem, particularly grievous because behind the relationship of Israel and Edom is the relationship between Jacob and Esau as brothers. One might guess that further background is the fact that Edom took over much of the territory Yahweh gave Judah in the centuries that followed.

## 1 Who Could Bring Me Down to Earth?

1Obadyah’s vision.

The Lord Yahweh has said this about Edom; we have heard a report from Yahweh:

An envoy has been sent out among the nations:

‘Rise up—let’s rise up against it for battle!’

2Here, I’m making you small among the nations;

you’re going to be very despised.

3The arrogance of your mind has deceived you,

you who dwell in the clefts of the crag, the height of its abode,

Saying within yourself,

‘Who could take me down to earth?’

4If you go up high like an eagle,

if you put your nest among the stars,

from there I could bring you down (Yahweh’s declaration).

5If thieves came to you, if robbers came by night

(how you are terminated!)

they would steal what they needed, wouldn’t they.

If grape-pickers came to you,

they’d let gleanings remain, wouldn’t they.

6How Esau is being ransacked,

its hidden treasures sought out!

7All the people you were in pact with

are sending you off to the border.

The people you were in alliance with

are deceiving you, prevailing over you.

The people who eat your bread set a trap beneath you

(it has no understanding).

8On that day (Yahweh’s declaration):

I shall eliminate the experts from Edom, shan’t I,

and understanding from Mount Esau.

9Your strong men will shatter, Teman,

in order that people will be cut off from Mount Esau through slaughter.

10Because of the violence to your brother Jacob

shame will cover you, and you’ll be cut off permanently.

11On the day you stood aside,

on the day foreigners captured his resources,

When aliens came into his gateways,

and cast lots for Jerusalem,

you, too, were like one of them.

## 12 On Gloating and Taking Advantage

12You shouldn’t have looked at your brother’s day,

the day this alien thing happened to him.

You shouldn’t have rejoiced at the Judahites

on the day of their perishing.

You shouldn’t have talked big

on the day of pressure.

13You shouldn’t have come into my people’s gateway

on the day of their disaster.

You shouldn’t have looked, you too, at his bad fortune

on the day of his disaster.

You shouldn’t have reached out at his resources

on the day of his disaster.

14You shouldn’t have stood at the crossroad

to cut down his escapees.

You shouldn’t have handed over his survivors

on the day of pressure.

15Because Yahweh’s day is near against all the nations;

as you did, it will be done to you,

when your dealings come back on your head.

16Because as you [Judahites] drank

on my sacred mountain,

All the nations will drink continually,

drink and swallow,

and be as if they’d never been.

17But on Mount Zion there’ll be an escape group,

and it will be sacred.

Jacob’s household will dispossess

the people who dispossessed them.

18Jacob’s household will become a fire,

Joseph’s household a flame,

Esau’s household straw,

and they will burn among them, consume them.

Esau’s household

will have no survivor (because Yahweh has spoken).

19The Negeb will possess Mount Esau,

the Lowland [will possess] the Philistines.

They will possess the fields of Ephrayim,

the fields of Shomron,

and Benjamin [will possess] Gil’ad.

20This exile community force belonging to the Israelites

[will possess] what [belongs to] the Canaanites as far as Tsarepat.

The exile community from Jerusalem which is in Sepharad

will possess the towns of the Negeb.

21Deliverers will go up on Mount Zion

to exercise authority over Mount Esau,

and the kingship will belong to Yahweh.

# Jonah

Yahweh used Jonah to promise Ephrayim the recovery of territory from the Arameans (2 Kings 14:25) and thus it would not be surprising if he were unenthusiastic about preaching to the Assyrians because he knows that Yahweh will relent of destroying them if they repent. The story about him thus warns prophets and other people about underestimating Yahweh’s concern for other nations, even domineering superpowers, and it thus complements Obadiah in illustrating the other side to Yahweh’s attitude to oppressive nations. The story is full of humour and irony, which supports the idea that it is a parable rather than a historical story.

## 1:1 The Prophet Who Runs Away

1 Yahweh’s word came to Yonah ben Amittay: 2’Set off, go to the great town of Nineveh and call out against it, because their bad dealing has come up before me’. 3But Yonah set off to flee to Tarshish from before Yahweh. He went down to Yafo, found a ship going to Tarshish, paid its fare, and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from before Yahweh. 4But Yahweh flung a great wind into the sea, there was a great storm in the sea, and the ship threatened to break up. 5The sailors were afraid and cried out each of them to his god. They flung the things that were in the ship into the sea to lighten it of them.

Yonah had gone down into the inmost parts of the vessel, lain down, and gone to sleep. 6The captain went to see him and said to him, ‘What are you doing, sleeping? Get up, call on your god. Perhaps the god will give a thought to us and we won’t perish’.

7The men said to each other, ‘Come on, let’s make lots fall so we can know on whose account this bad fate has come to us’. They made lots fall, and the lot fell on Yonah. 8They said to him, ‘Tell us, please, on whose account this bad fate has come to us. What’s your work? Where do you come from? What’s your country? What people are you from?’ 9He said to them, ‘I’m a Hebrew. I live in awe of Yahweh the God of the heavens, who made the sea and the dry land’.

10The men were greatly afraid, and said to him, ‘What is this you’ve done?’ when the men knew that he was fleeing from before Yahweh, when he had told them. 11They said to him, ‘What shall we do to you so that the sea quietens down from upon us?’ (when the sea was growing stormier). 12He said to them, ‘Lift me up and hurl me into the sea, and the sea will quieten down from upon you, because I acknowledge that it was on my account that this great storm has come upon you’.

## 1:13 How to Pray from Inside a Fish

13The men rowed to get back to dry land, but they couldn’t, because the sea was growing stormier against them. 14They called to Yahweh, ‘Oh, Yahweh, may we please not perish for this man’s life. Don’t put upon us the blood of someone free of guilt. Because you, Yahweh—as you wished, you have acted’. 15They lifted Yonah up and hurled him into the sea; and the sea stopped its raging. 16The men were in great awe of Yahweh. They offered a sacrifice to Yahweh and made pledges.

17Yahweh provided a big fish to swallow Yonah, and Yonah was in the fish’s insides three days and three nights. 2 Yonah prayed to Yahweh his God from the fish’s insides:

2Out of my pressure I called

to Yahweh and he answered me.

When I called for help from She’ol’s belly,

you listened to my voice.

3You threw me into the deep,

into the heart of the seas.

The river surrounded me;

all your breakers and your waves passed over me.

4I myself said, ‘I’ve been driven away

from in front of your eyes’.

Yet I shall again look

toward your sacred palace.

5The water overwhelmed me, up to my neck,

the deep surrounded me.

Reed was wrapped round my head

6at the roots of the mountains.

I went down into the earth,

its bars were about me permanently.

But you got my life up from the Pit,

Yahweh my God.

7When my life was ebbing away from me,

I was mindful of Yahweh.

My plea came to you,

to your sacred palace.

8People who keep watch for things that are empty and hollow

forsake their commitment.

But I—with a voice of thanksgiving I will sacrifice to you;

for what I have pledged I shall make good—

deliverance belongs to Yahweh.

9Yahweh spoke to the fish, and it vomited Yonah onto the dry land.

## 3:1 The Reluctant Prophet Does As He Is Told

3 Yahweh’s word came to Yonah a second time: 2’Set off, go to the great town of Nineveh and call out to it the thing that I’m going to speak to you’. 3Yonah set off and went to Nineveh in accordance with Yahweh’s word. Now Nineveh was an extraordinarily great town, three days walk through. 4Yonah started to go through the town, one day’s walk. He called out, ‘Forty days more, and Nineveh will be overthrown!’ 5The Ninevites believed God, and called for a fast and put on sack, from the biggest of them to the least of them.

6The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he got up from his throne, took off his robe from upon him, covered himself with sack, and sat on ash. 7He got people to cry out in Nineveh, by the decree of the king and his big people: ‘Human being and animal (cattle and flock) are not to taste anything. They’re not to pasture; they’re not to drink water. 8They’re to cover themselves in sack, human being and animal, and call on God strongly. They’re to turn, each one from his bad way and from the violence that’s in their fists. 9Who knows, God may turn back and relent, turn back from his anger, and we may not perish’.

10God saw their actions, that they turned back from their bad way, and God relented of the bad thing that he had spoken about doing to them. He didn’t do it. 4 But it seemed bad to Yonah, a very bad thing. He was enraged.

## 4:2: I Knew You’d Do That!

2He prayed to Yahweh: ‘Oh, Yahweh, isn’t this what I said when I was in my country? That’s why I acted previously by fleeing to Tarshish, because I knew that you’re a God gracious, compassionate, long-tempered, vast in commitment, and relenting about something bad. 3So now, Yahweh, please take my life from me, because my dying will be good, better than my living’. 4Yahweh said, ‘Was your rage good?’

5Yonah went out from the town and sat east of the town. He made a bivouac for himself there and sat under it in the shade until he could see what would happen in the town. 6Yahweh God provided a qiqayon vine and it grew up over Yonah so as to be a shade over his head to rescue him from what was bad for him. Yonah rejoiced greatly about the qiqayon. But God provided a worm when dawn came up next day and it struck down the qiqayon, and it withered; 8and when the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun struck down on Yonah’s head. He grew faint and asked for his life, that he might die. He said, ‘My dying will be good, better than my living’.

9God said to Yonah, ‘Was your rage good about the qiqayon?’ He said, ‘It was good, my rage, to the point of death’. 10Yahweh said, ‘You pitied the qiqayon, for which you didn’t labour and which you didn’t grow, which came into existence overnight and perished overnight. 12Should I not pity the great town of Nineveh, in which there are more than 120,000 human beings who don’t know their right hand from their left, and many animals?’

# Micah

Micah was a contemporary of Isaiah who worked in Jerusalem at about the same time and brought a similar message, though he originally came from the country rather than from the capital. Like Isaiah he declares that Yahweh intends to take action against Jerusalem because of the way people with power and resources, and spiritual leaders, take advantage of their position. Like Isaiah he has to deal with people who don’t want prophets to say the kind of thing that as a prophet he says. But like Isaiah he also looks beyond the coming disaster to Yahweh’s restoring the city. It is he who asks what God requires, and answers the question in a powerful formulation (6:8).

## 1:1 Disaster Reaches the Very Gateways

1 Yahweh’s word that came to Mikah the Morashtite in the days of Yotam, Ahaz, and Yehizqiyyah, kings of Judah, which he beheld concerning Shomron [Samaria] and Jerusalem.

2Listen, peoples, all of you,

heed, earth and what fills it,

So that the Lord Yahweh may be a witness against you,

the Lord from his sacred palace.

3Because there—Yahweh is going to come out from his place,

come down and tread on earth’s heights.

4The mountains will melt beneath him,

the vales split,

Like wax before the fire,

like water propelled down a slope.

5All this is for Jacob’s rebellion,

for the household of Israel’s wrongdoings.

What is Jacob’s rebellion—it’s Shomron, isn’t it;

and what is Judah’s great shrine—it’s Jerusalem, isn’t it.

6I shall make Shomron into a ruin in open country,

Plantations for a vineyard.

I shall propel its stones into the ravine,

expose its foundations.

7All its images will be smashed,

all its ‘gifts’ burned in fire.

All its idols I shall make into desolation.

because it collected them from a whore’s ‘gift’,

and they will go back as a whore’s ‘gift’.

8Because of this I shall lament and howl,

I shall go barefoot and stripped.

I shall make lament like the jackals,

mourning like the ostriches.

9Because its wound is grave,

because it’s come right to Judah.

It’s reached right to my people’s gateway,

right to Jerusalem.

10Don’t tell it in Gat, don’t cry at all;

in Bet Le‘aprah roll in dirt [*apar*].

11Pass on,

you inhabitants of Shapir, naked in shame;

The inhabitants of Tsa’anan

have not gone out.

Bet Etsel is in lamentation;

it will take its support from you.

12Because the inhabitants of Marot

are sick for something good.

Because bad fortune has come down from Yahweh

to Jerusalem’s gateway.

13Hitch the chariot to the steed,

inhabitants of Lakish.

It was the beginning of wrongdoing for Miss Zion,

because Israel’s rebellions were found in you.

14Therefore you will give parting gifts

to Moreshet Gat.

The houses of Akzib will be a deception [*akzab*]

to Israel’s kings.

15’I shall yet bring a dispossessor to you,

inhabitants of Mareshah.

Israel’s splendour

will come as far as Adullam.

16Shave your head, cut off your hair,

for the children in whom you delighted.

Extend the shaving of your head like an eagle,

because they’ve gone into exile from you.

## 2:1 Don’t Preach?

2 Hey, you people thinking up trouble,

doing something bad on their beds.

At morning light they do it,

because it’s in the power of their hand.

2They desire fields and steal them—

houses, and take them.

They defraud a man and his household,

an individual and his domain.

3Therefore Yahweh has said this:

Here am I, thinking up a bad fate for this kin-group

that you won’t move your neck away from.

You won’t walk tall,

because it will be a bad time.

4On that day,

someone will lift up a poem against you,

he’ll wail with a wail, a wailing.

He’s saying, ‘We are destroyed, destroyed,

he exchanges my people’s share.

Aagh, he removes it from me,

he shares out our fields to someone who turns away’.

5Therefore there will be no one for you

casting the cord by lot

in Yahweh’s congregation.

6’Don’t preach’, they preach,

‘people are not to preach about these things.

Disgrace won’t turn away

7(should it be said, Jacob’s household?).

Has Yahweh’s temper become short,

are these things his acts?’

My words are good, aren’t they,

with someone who walks upright.

8But just now my people rises up as an enemy;

you strip the mantle off the front of the coat

From people passing by with confidence,

turning back from battle.

9The women among my people—

you drive out her from the household in which she delights.

From her infants

you take my glory permanently.

10Set off, go,

because this won’t be a place to settle,

On account of defilement that will destroy

with a grave destruction.

11If someone were going about

with wind and deceptive falsehood,

‘I shall preach to you about wine and about liquor’,

he’d be this people’s preacher.

## 2:12 Prophets Who Lead Astray

12I shall definitely gather Jacob, all of you,

I shall definitely collect what remains of Israel.

I shall put them together like a sheep in a fold;

like a flock in the middle of its pasture,

It will be noisy with people;

13one who breaks out in front of them is going up.

They’re breaking out, passing through the gateway,

going out through it.

Their king passes through before them,

Yahweh at their head.

3 I said, ‘Listen, please, heads of Jacob,

rulers of Israel’s household:

It’s for you to know how to exercise authority, isn’t it,

2people who are hostile to what is good and loyal to what is bad,

Who tear the skin from on my people,

their flesh from on their bones,

3Who eat my people’s flesh

and strip off their skin from on them,

Break up their bones,

cut them up as in a pan,

like meat inside a pot.

4Then they will cry out to Yahweh,

but he will not answer them.

He will hide his face from them at that time,

as they’ve acted badly in their practices.

5Yahweh has said this:

About the prophets who lead my people astray,

who chew with their teeth and call out that things will be well,

But someone who puts nothing in their mouths—

they declare a sacred battle against him.

6Therefore there will be night for you, without vision,

darkness for you, without divination.

The sun will set for the prophets,

the day will be dark for them.

7The seers will be ashamed,

the diviners confounded.

All of them will cover over their lip,

because there’s no answer from God.

8But as for me, I’m full of energy, with Yahweh’s wind,

and strong authority,

To tell Jacob about its rebellion,

Israel about its wrongdoing.

## 3:9 The New Jerusalem

9Listen to this, please,

heads of Jacob’s household,

rulers of Israel’s household,

You who take offense at the exercise of authority,

and make what is straight crooked,

10One who builds Zion with bloodshed,

Jerusalem with evil.

11Its heads exercise authority for a bribe,

its priests teach for a fee.

Its prophets divine for money,

but lean on Yahweh:

‘Yahweh is among us, isn’t he,

bad fortune won’t come upon us’.

12Therefore, on account of you,

Zion will be a field that is ploughed.

Jerusalem will become ruins,

the house’s mount a great shrine in a forest.

4 But at the end of the time

the mountain of Yahweh’s house will be

Established at the head of the mountains,

elevated above the hills.

Peoples will stream to it;

2many nations will go and say,

‘Come, let’s go up to Yahweh’s mountain,

to the house of Jacob’s God,

So he may teach us in his ways

and we may walk in his paths’.

Because instruction will go out from Zion,

Yahweh’s word from Jerusalem.

3He will decide between many peoples

and issue reproof for numerous nations, even far away.

They’ll beat their swords into hoes,

their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation won’t take up sword against nation;

they will no more learn about battle.

4They will sit, each person

under his vine and under his fig tree,

With no one disturbing—

because the mouth of Yahweh Armies has spoken.

5Because all the peoples walk,

each in the name of its god,

But we ourselves will walk

in the name of Yahweh our God lastingly and permanently.

6On that day (Yahweh’s declaration):

I shall gather the lame, collect the ones driven out,

and those to whom I’ve done something bad.

7I shall turn the lame into a remainder,

the outcast into a numerous nation.

Yahweh will reign over them on Mount Zion

from now and permanently.

8And you, watchtower of the flock,

citadel, Miss Zion,

To you will arrive and come

the former rule, the kingship of Miss Jerusalem.

## 4:9 Is There No King in You?

9Now, why do you issue a shout,

is there not a king in you?

Has your counsellor perished,

that writhing has taken strong hold of you like a woman giving birth?

10Writhe and scream,

Miss Zion, like a woman giving birth!

Because you will now go out from the township

and dwell in the open country.

You will come as far as Babel,

but there you will be rescued.

There Yahweh will restore you

from the fist of your enemies.

11But now many nations

have gathered against you.

They’re saying, ‘It shall be profaned,

our eye shall behold Zion’.

12But those people don’t know

Yahweh’s intentions.

They don’t understand his plan,

that he’s gathered them like sheaves on the threshing-floor.

13Rise up, thresh, Miss Zion,

because I shall make your horn iron.

I shall make your hoofs copper,

and you will crush many peoples.

They will devote their dishonest gain to Yahweh,

their resources to the Lord of the entire earth.

5 Now, you may form a gang, Miss Gang—

someone has laid siege to us.

They strike down Israel’s authority

on the cheek with a club.

2But you, Bet-lehem in Ephratah,

small to be among Judah’s clans,

From you will emerge for me someone to be a ruler in Israel

whose emerging is of old, of ancient days.

3Therefore he will give them up until the time

when the one who is going to give birth has given birth,

And those who are left of his brothers

come back to the Israelites.

4He will stand and shepherd with Yahweh’s vigour,

in the majesty of the name of Yahweh his God.

They will live, because now he’ll be great, as far as the ends of the earth,

5and this will mean things are well.

Ashshur, when it comes into our country,

when it treads through our citadels:

We will set up over it seven shepherds,

eight people as leaders.

6They will shepherd the country of Ashshur with the sword,

the country of Nimrod with its entrances.

He will rescue us from Ashshur when it comes into our country,

when it treads through our territory.

## 5:7 What God Looks For

7Jacob’s remainder will become,

among many peoples,

Like dew from Yahweh,

like showers on grass,

Which don’t wait for people,

don’t look to human beings.

8Jacob’s remainder will become, among the nations,

among many peoples,

Like a lion among the animals in the forest,

like a cougar among the flocks of sheep,

Which, if it passes by, tramples and mauls,

with no one to rescue.

9Your hand will rise over your adversaries,

and all your enemies will be cut off.

10On that day (Yahweh’s declaration):

I shall cut down your horses from among you

and obliterate your chariots.

11I shall cut down the towns in your country,

and tear down all your fortresses.

12I shall cut down the charms from your hand,

and you will have no chanters.

13I shall cut down your images

and your pillars from among you.

You will not bow low any more

to something made by your hands.

14I shall uproot your totem poles from among you

and annihilate your towns.

15But I shall effect redress in anger and wrath

on the nations that have not listened.

6 Listen, please, to what Yahweh has said:

Get up, argue with the mountains;

the hills must listen to your voice.

2Listen to Yahweh’s argument, mountains,

enduring ones, earth’s foundations.

Because Yahweh has an argument with his people,

with Israel he issues a reproof.

3“My people, what have I done to you,

how have I wearied you?—avow against me.

4Because I got you up out of the country of Egypt,

redeemed you from a household of servants.

I sent before you

Moses, Aaron, and Miryam.

5My people, please be mindful

of what Balaq king of Mo’ab counselled,

and what Bil’am [Balaam] ben Be’or avowed with him,

From Acacias as far as Gilgal,

for the sake of acknowledging Yahweh’s faithful acts.

6By what means shall I meet Yahweh,

bow down to God on High?

Shall I meet him by means of burnt offerings,

bullocks a year old?

7Would Yahweh accept thousands of rams,

in myriads of streams of oil?

Should I give my firstborn for my rebellion,

the fruit of my body for my own wrongdoing?

8He has told you, people, what is good,

what Yahweh requires from you:

rather, exercising authority and being loyal to commitment,

and being diffident in how you walk with your God.

## 6:9 Like the Gleanings

9The voice of Yahweh calls to the town;

awe for your name is good sense.

Listen to the club

and the one who set it 10still.

Shall I forget the faithless household,

the faithless storehouses,

the condemned short measure?

11Would I be clean with faithless scales,

with a bag of false weights?—

12whose rich people are full of violence,

whose inhabitants speak falsehood,

and their tongue is deceit in their mouths?

13So I myself am indeed making you sick in striking you down,

desolating you for your wrongdoings.

14You—you will eat but not be full,

with your emptiness inside you.

You’ll displace, but not save,

and what you save I shall give to the sword.

15You—you’ll sow but not harvest;

you—you’ll tread olives, but not rub with oil,

and grapes, but not drink wine.

16You’ve kept Omri’s laws,

every practice of Ah’ab’s household.

You’ve walked by their policies,

for the sake of my making you a desolation,

Your inhabitants a hissing,

and you will bear the reviling of my people.

7 Aagh, me, because I’ve become

like the gatherings of summer fruit,

like the gleanings of the vintage.

There’s no cluster to eat,

or early fig that my appetite could fancy.

2The committed person has perished from the country,

there’s no one upright among the people.

All of them lie in wait for blood;

one person hunts his brother with a net.

3Both fists are on what is bad, to do it well:

the official asking, and the authority, with pay,

The big man speaking

his appetite’s desire, and they weave it together.

4The good one among them is like a briar,

the most upright worse than a thorn hedge.

The day your lookouts described,

the day when you’re attended to, is going to come;

now the disarray they described will happen.

5Don’t believe a neighbour,

don’t rely on a friend.

From the one who sleeps in your embrace

guard the opening of your mouth.

6Because son acts villainously to father,

daughter rises up against her mother,

Daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

a person’s enemies are the people in his household.

7But I myself will look to Yahweh,

I shall wait for my God who delivers me;

my God will listen to me.

## 7:8 Lament, Prayer, Expectation, and Worship for the City

8“Don’t rejoice over me, my enemy;

when I’ve fallen, I’m getting up.

When I sit in darkness,

Yahweh will be my light.

9I shall carry Yahweh’s wrath

when I’ve done wrong to him,

Until he gives judgment for me

and exercises authority for me.

He will get me out into the light,

I shall see his faithfulness,

10My enemy will see,

and shame will cover it,

The one who says to me,

‘Where is he, Yahweh, your God?’

My eyes will look on it;

now it’ll be for trampling

like mud in the streets.

11A day for building up your walls—

that will be a day when your boundary will be far away.

12That day one will come to you

from Ashshur and the towns of Egypt,

From Egypt as far as the River,

to sea from sea, to mountain from mountain.

13But the earth will become a desolation because of its inhabitants,

as the fruit of their practices.

14Pasture your people with your club,

the flock that’s your domain,

Dwelling by itself in a forest

in the middle of farmland.

May they pasture in Bashan and Gil’ad

as in days of old,

15as in the days when you got out of the country of Egypt.

When I show it my wonders, 16nations will see

and be ashamed of all their strength.

They’ll put their hand to their mouth,

their ears will go deaf.

17They’ll lick dirt like a snake,

like things that crawl on the earth.

May they come trembling out of their strongholds

to Yahweh our God,

may they be in dread and awe of you.

18Who is a God like you, one who carries waywardness,

and passes over rebellion for the remainder of his domain.

He doesn’t keep strong hold of his anger permanently,

because he delights in commitment;

19When he has compassion on us again, he’ll trample on our wayward acts;

He’ll throw all our wrongdoings into the depths of the sea.

20You will show truthfulness to Jacob,

commitment to Abraham,

as you swore to our ancestors from days of old.

# Nahum

Nahum’s vocation is to encourage Jerusalem when it is under the domination of Assyria as the superpower, with its capital in Nineveh by promising that Nineveh will be put down. Yahweh’s promise through Nahum was fulfilled when Nineveh fell to the Babylonians in 612 B.C. But there are few concrete references to Nineveh, so that the promises (or warnings) apply to other great imperial cities such as Babylon—or to Jerusalem itself.

## 1:1 Yahweh the Passionate God

1 The pronouncement about Nineveh, the document with the vision of Nahum the Elqoshite.

2Yahweh is a God who is passionate and takes redress;

Yahweh takes redress and is a possessor of wrath.

Yahweh takes redress on his adversaries,

maintains it toward his enemies.

3Yahweh is long-tempered but big in energy,

and certainly doesn’t treat people as free of guilt.

Yahweh—his way is in whirlwind and in storm,

the cloud is the dust from his feet.

4He reprimands the sea and withers it,

dries up all the rivers.

Bashan and Carmel languish,

Lebanon’s blossom languishes.

5Mountains quake because of him,

the hills melt.

The earth lifts from before him,

the world and all the people who live in it.

6Before his condemnation, who can stand,

and who can rise against his angry burning?—

His wrath pours out like fire,

and crags shatter because of him.

7Yahweh is good, a stronghold on the day of pressure,

and he acknowledges people who take shelter with him.

8With a flood passing

he makes an end of [the city’s] place,

He pursues his enemies into darkness.

9what do you think up for Yahweh?

He makes an end;

pressure doesn’t rise twice.

10Because they’re tangled among thorns,

and drunk as with their drink,

they’re consumed like straw that is fully dry.

11From you [as a city] has gone out

one who thinks up something bad against Yahweh,

one who counsels wickedness.

12Yahweh has said this:

If they are allied and thus are many,

even thus they’re cut down and he passes away;

Whereas I afflicted you, I shall afflict you no more.

13but now I shall break its yoke from on you,

tear off your shackles.

14Yahweh has given an order against you:

nothing more from your name will be sown.

From your gods’ house I shall cut off

carved image and cast image.

I shall make your grave,

because you are slight.

15There, on the mountains are the feet of a herald,

letting people hear of well-being.

Observe your festival, Judah,

make good your pledges.

Because he will no more pass through you:

the scoundrel, all of him, is being cut off.

## 2:1 The Empire Writes Back

2 A shatterer has gone up against you—

guard the ramparts.

Watch the road, strengthen your hips,

firm up your energy all you can.

2Because Yahweh is restoring

Jacob’s majesty like Israel’s majesty.

Because wasters have wasted them,

devastated their branches.

3His strong men’s shield is painted red,

the men in the force clad in scarlet.

The chariotry is with flashing fire on the day it’s made ready,

the junipers are brandished.

4In the streets the chariotry race,

they rush about in the squares,

Their appearance like torches,

they speed like lightning streaks.

5Though he calls to mind his august men, they collapse as they go;

they hurry to its wall, the shelter is made ready.

6The river gates open, the palace melts;

7it’s decreed: it’s exiled, it’s taken up.

Its handmaids lament like the voice of doves,

beating on their chests.

8Nineveh was like a pool of water of old,

but they’re fleeing!

‘Stop, stop’,

but no one can turn them.

9Plunder silver, plunder gold,

there’s no limit to the things prepared.

the splendour from all the things that people hold in high regard.

10Emptiness, just emptiness, waste;

the mind melts, the knees knock.

All hips tremble,

the faces of all of them have collected a flush.

11Where is the lions’ abode,

the pasture for the cougars,

Where the lion walked,

the lioness there,

The lion’s cub, with no one disturbing,

12the lion tearing enough for its cubs,

And strangling for its lionesses—

it filled its lairs with prey, its abodes with prey?

13Here am I toward you (a declaration of Yahweh Armies):

I shall burn up its chariotry in smoke.

The sword will consume your cougars;

I shall cut off your prey from the earth.

Your envoys’ voice

will no more be listened to.

3 Hey, town of bloodshed,

all of it deception,

Full of plunder,

where prey doesn’t depart!

2The sound of a whip,

the sound of the rumble of a wheel,

A horse galloping,

a chariot jumping,

3Cavalry going up, sword flashing,

spear glittering, a multitude run through,

A heap of carcasses, no end of the corpses,

people collapse over their corpses.

## 3:4 The Invincible Falls

4Because of the dimensions of the whore’s whorings,

the well-favoured expert in charms,

Who sells nations with her whorings,

kin-groups with her charms,

5Here am I toward you (a declaration of Yahweh Armies):

I shall expose your skirts over your face.

I shall show the nations your nakedness,

kingdoms your slighting.

6I shall throw abominations over you,

demean you and make a spectacle of you;

7All who see you will flee from you

and say, ‘Nineveh is destroyed!

Who will mourn for her,

where shall I seek for people to comfort her?’

8Are you better than Thebes of Amon,

which was sitting on the Nile,

Water surrounding it,

whose rampart was the sea, its wall made from the sea?

9Numerous Sudan

and Egypt without end,

Put and Libya

were your help.

10Even it was for exile, it went into captivity;

even its babies were smashed at the head of every street.

For its honourable men people threw lots,

and all its big people were bound in chains.

11Even you will become drunk, you will be in hiding;

even you will seek a refuge from the enemy.

12All your fortresses are fig trees, with the first fruits;

if people shake them, they fall into the mouth of an eater.

13There, your company is women within you,

to your enemies they are wide open,

The gateways of your country;

fire is consuming your gate bars.

14Draw siege water for yourself,

strengthen your fortresses,

Tread the clay, trample the mud,

take strong hold of the brick mould!

15Fire will consume you there,

the sword will cut you off, consume you like the grasshopper.

Multiply like the grasshopper,

multiply like the locust!

16You made your merchants more than the stars in the heavens;

the grasshopper strips and flies.

17Your guards are like locusts

your officials like a pile of grubs,

That settle on walls

on a cold day.

When the sun comes out, they flee;

their place, where they are, isn’t known.

18Your shepherds have gone to sleep, king of Ashshur;

your august people settle down.

Your people have scattered over the mountains,

and there’s no one collecting them.

19There’s no healing for your break;

your wound is severe.

All who hear the report of you

clap the palm of a hand at you,

Because to whom has bad fortune from you

not passed, continually?

# Habakkuk

## 1:1 Habaqquq Protests, Yahweh Answers, Habaqquq Protests Again

The bulk of Habakkuk takes the form of questions and answers between the prophet and Yahweh. Like other prophets, Habakkuk is horrified at what he sees in Judah and he wants to know what Yahweh intends to do about it. Yahweh declares that he intends to bring the Babylonians to act against Judah. This idea horrifies Habakkuk; Yahweh adds that the Babylonians will get their own comeuppance in due course. The final chapter is a vision of Yahweh’s coming to take action in this connection.

1 The pronouncement that Habaqquq the prophet beheld.

2How long have I called for help, Yahweh,

and you don’t listen?

I cry out to you, ‘Violence’,

but you don’t deliver.

3Why do you make me see owHow How Htrouble,

why do you look at oppression?

Destruction and violence are in front of me;

There’s been argument, and strife arises.

4Therefore instruction ceases,

the exercise of authority never issues.

Because the faithless person encircles the faithful;

therefore the exercise of authority issues deformed.

5Watch the nations,

look, and be utterly astounded.

Because I’m going to do something in your days

that you wouldn’t believe when it was told.

6Because here am I, I’m going to raise up the Kasdites,

the bitter, quick-moving nation,

That goes to the far reaches of the earth,

to possess dwellings that don’t belong to it.

7It’s terrible and fearful;

from itself its authority and its dignity issues.

8Its horses are swifter than leopards,

keener than wolves at evening;

Its steeds gallop;

its steeds come from afar.

They fly like an eagle hastening to devour;

9all of it comes for violence.

The thrust of their faces is forward;

it gathers captives like sand.

10It derides kings,

rulers are fun to it.

It makes fun of every fortress,

it fortifies earth and captures it.

11Then the wind sweeps on and passes through,

and it becomes guilty, because its energy is its god.

12You are from of old, Yahweh, are you not;

my God, my sacredness, you don’t die.

Yahweh, you’ve made it an authority;

my crag, you have founded it to reprove.

13Your eyes are too pure to watch bad dealing,

you cannot look at oppression.

Why do you look at people who break faith—stay still,

when the faithless person swallows one who is more faithful than him?

14You made humanity like the fish in the sea,

like moving things that have no ruler.

15He’s got all of it up with a hook,

he drags it away in his net,

Gathers it in his trawl;

that’s why he rejoices and celebrates.

16That’s why he sacrifices to his net,

burns incense to his trawl.

Because through them his share is rich,

his food luxuriant.

17Is he therefore to empty his net

and continually to kill nations,

not pity?

## 2:1: Yahweh Answers Again

2 On my watch I shall take my stand,

station myself at my post.

I shall look to see what he’ll speak through me,

what I shall say back to the reproof that comes to me.

2Yahweh answered me:

Write the vision, make it plain on tablets,

in order that someone who reads it out can run with it.

3Because there’s yet a vision about a set time,

it testifies about the end, and it won’t deceive.

If it’s slow, wait for it,

because it will definitely come, it won’t lag.

4There, his appetite within him

is swollen, not upright,

whereas the faithful person will live by his truthfulness.

5How much more does wine betray

the arrogant man.

He won’t abide,

one who’s let his appetite be as wide as She’ol.

The one who is like death,

but he isn’t full,

The one who gathers to himself all the nations,

collects to himself all the peoples.

6These people, all of them,

will raise a poem about him, won’t they,

mocking, conundrums, about him.

Hey, one who accumulates what’s not his—how long,

one who makes debts heavy for himself?

7Your creditors will suddenly arise, won’t they,

the people who make you tremble will wake up,

and you will turn into plunder for them.

8Because you’re one who despoiled many nations,

all that’s left of the peoples will despoil you,

On account of the human bloodshed and the violence against the country,

the township and all the people who live in it.

9Hey, one who makes dishonest gain,

a bad thing for his household,

To set his nest on high,

to escape from the fist of bad fortune.

10You’ve counselled shame for your household,

cutting off many peoples and doing wrong to yourself.

11Because a stone will cry out from a wall,

and the beam from the wood will answer it.

12Hey, one who builds a town through bloodshed

who establishes a township through evil

13((there, it’s from Yahweh Armies, isn’t it?),

And peoples laboured for the fire,

nations toiled for emptiness.

14Because the earth will be full

so as to acknowledge Yahweh’s splendour,

as the water covers over the sea.

## 2:15 The Confrontation

15Hey, one who makes his neighbour drink,

pouring out your wrath and your drunken anger,

in order to look at their naked bodies.

16You’re getting full of slighting rather than of splendour;

drink, and show your foreskin, you too.

The chalice in Yahweh’s right hand

will come round to you,

with slighting in place of your splendour.

17Because your violence to Lebanon will cover you,

your destruction of animals, which terrifies them,

On account of human bloodshed and violence to the earth,

the township and all who live in it.

18What use is a carved image when its carver has shaped it,

an image, which teaches falsehood,

When the one who shaped it relies on it,

in making dumb nonentities?

19Hey, one who says to wood, ‘Wake up’,

‘Get up’, to dumb stone,

so it may teach.

There, it’s cased in gold and silver,

but there isn’t any breath within it.

20But Yahweh is in his sacred palace—

be silent before him, all the earth.

3 A plea by Habaqquq the prophet; on ‘Laments’.

2Yahweh, I’ve heard a report of you,

I am in awe, Yahweh, of your action.

Within the years, bring it to life;

within the years, cause it to be acknowledged;

in the turmoil, be mindful of compassion.

3God comes from Teman,

the sacred one from Mount Pa’ran. (Rise)

His majesty has covered the heavens,

his praise has filled the earth.

4His brightness comes like dawn,

its rays from his hand,

and there is the hiding place of his vigour.

5Before him epidemic comes,

plague comes out at his feet.

6He has stood and shaken the earth;

he has looked, and agitated nations.

Ancient mountains have shattered,

age-old hills sank down.

The age-old ways are his,

7in place of the trouble that I have seen.

Kushan’s tents shake,

the dwellings of Midyan’s country.

## 3:8 A Vision that God Must and Will Turn to Reality

8Are you wrathful at the Rivers, Yahweh,

is your anger at the Rivers,

is your wrath at the Sea,

When you mount on your horses,

your chariots that bring deliverance?

9You totally bare your bow;

your clubs are sworn, by your word. (Rise)

With the Rivers you split the earth;

10when they’ve seen you, mountains writhe.

A torrent of water has passed by,

the Deep has given its voice.

The sun has raised its hands in the height,

11the moon has stood on high.

Your arrows go to give light,

the flash of your spear to give brightness.

12In condemnation you stride the earth,

in anger you trample nations.

13You have gone out for the deliverance of your people,

for the deliverance of your anointed.

You have shattered the head of the faithless household,

laying it bare, foundation to neck. (Rise)

14You have pierced his head with his clubs

when his strong men were storming out,

To scatter me in their exultation,

like consuming a humble man in hiding.

15You have made your way through the sea with your horses,

with a stirring of much water.

16I heard and my insides quaked,

at the sound my lips quivered.

Rot comes into my bones;

in my place I tremble,

While I settle for the day of pressure,

for the people who invade us to go up.

17Because the fig tree may not bud,

and there may be no produce on the vines,

The product of the olive may deceive,

and the fields may not produce food,

Someone may cut off the flock from the fold

and there may be no cattle in the stalls:

18Yet I shall exult in Yahweh,

rejoice in the God who delivers me.

19The Lord Yahweh is my resource,

he makes my feet like the deer’s,

enables me to tread on the high places.

The leader’s; with strings.

# Zephaniah

The introduction to Zephaniah makes him contemporary with the early years of Jeremiah’s activity, when King Josiah engaged in a reform of Judah’s religious life that for a while undid the apostasy of his grandfather Manasseh. The nature of the charges that Zephaniah issues indicates that any reform process is only partly under way. The threat of Yahweh’s Day thus hangs over Jerusalem, but it also hangs over the world. And the possibility of restoration holds for Jerusalem, and for the rest of the world. His distinctive declaration to Jerusalem in this connection is that Yahweh is ‘within you’.

## 1:1 How Do You Change a Culture?

1 Yahweh’s word that came to Tsephanyah ben Kushi, son of Gedalyah son of Amaryah son of Hizqiyyah, in the days of Yoshiyyahu ben Amon, king of Judah.

2I shall totally gather up everything

from on the face of the ground (Yahweh’s declaration).

3I shall gather up human beings and animals;

I shall gather up the birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea,

and the things that make the faithless collapse.

I shall cut off humanity

from on the face of the ground (Yahweh’s declaration).

4I shall stretch out my hand against Judah,

and against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

I shall cut off from this place

the remainder of the Master,

the names of the priestlings with the priests,

5The people who bow low on the roofs

to the army in the heavens,

Who bow low, who swear, to Yahweh

and swear by Malkam,

6Who turn away from following Yahweh

and don’t seek Yahweh nor inquire of him.

7Silence before the Lord Yahweh,

because Yahweh’s day is coming near.

Because Yahweh has prepared a sacrifice,

made sacred the people he called.

8On the day of Yahweh’s sacrifice

I shall attend to the officials,

To the king’s sons,

and to all the people wearing foreign clothing.

9I shall attend to all the people who leap on the threshold

on that day,

Who fill their lord’s house

with violence and deceit.

10On that day there will be (Yahweh’s declaration)

the sound of an outcry from the Fish Gate

A howl from the Mishneh,

a big breaking from the hills.

11Howl, you who live in the Maktesh,

because the entire trading people has perished,

all those who weigh out silver have been cut off.

12At that time

I shall search Jerusalem with lamps.

I shall attend to the people

who are relaxing on their lees,

Who are saying to themselves,

‘Yahweh won’t do something good and he won’t do something bad’.

13Their resources will be for plundering,

their houses will be for desolation.

They will build houses but not live [there],

plant vineyards but not drink their wine.

## 1:14 Yahweh’s Day

14Yahweh’s great day is coming near,

coming near very quickly.

The sound of Yahweh’s day is bitter;

the strong man is going to shriek there.

15That day will be a day of outburst,

a day of pressure and distress,

A day of desolation and devastation,

a day of darkness and gloom,

A day of cloud and shadow,

16a day of horn blast and shout,

Against the fortified towns,

and against the lofty corner towers.

17I shall bring pressure to the people, they will walk like the blind,

because they’ve done wrong to Yahweh.

Their blood will be poured out like dirt,

their marrow like faeces.

18Neither their silver nor their gold

will be able to rescue them.

On the day of Yahweh’s outburst,

in his passionate fire,

The entire country will be consumed,

because he will make an end, yes, how terrible,

of all the people who live in the country.

2 Pile together, pile it,

nation that isn’t wanted,

2Before the decree’s birth,

the day that passes like chaff,

Before Yahweh’s angry blazing

doesn’t come upon you,

Before Yahweh’s angry day

doesn’t come upon you.

3Seek Yahweh, all you humble people in the country,

who have implemented his ruling.

Seek faithfulness, seek lowliness;

perhaps you can hide on Yahweh’s angry day.

## 2:4 Where to Look

4Because Azzah [Gaza] will become abandoned,

Ashqelon a desolation.

Ashdod will be dispossessed at midday,

Eqron uprooted.

5Hey, you people who live in the region by the sea,

the nation of Keretites!

Yahweh’s word is against you,

Canaan, country of the Philistines!

I shall obliterate you, without inhabitant.

6The region by the sea will become abodes,

shepherds’ cisterns, pens for flocks.

7It will be a region

for the remainder of Judah’s household.

On these they will pasture;

in Ashqelon’s houses they’ll lie down in the evening.

Because Yahweh their God will attend to them,

and restore their fortunes.

8I have heard Mo’ab’s reviling,

the insults of Ammon,

Who have reviled my people,

talked big over their territory.

9Therefore, as I live

(a declaration of Yahweh Armies, Israel’s God),

Mo’ab will become like Sedom [Sodom],

the Ammonites like Amorah [Gomorrah]:

The domain of chickweed and a salt-pit,

desolation permanently.

The remainder of my people will plunder them

and what is left of my nation will have them as a domain.

10This is what they’ll have instead of their majesty,

because they reviled and talked big

at the people belonging to Yahweh Armies.

11Yahweh will be fearsome against them,

because he’s reducing all earth’s gods.

All the nations’ shores will bow down to him,

each from its place.

12You Sudanese, too:

run through by my sword.

13And he’ll stretch out his hand against the north,

and obliterate Ashshur.

He’ll make Nineveh a desolation,

dry like the wilderness.

14Flocks will lie down in the middle of it,

every creature in the nation.

Both jackdaw and owl will lodge in its pillars,

the sound will sing in the windows.

Waste will be on the threshold,

because the cedar is stripped.

15This is the exultant town,

one that sits in confidence,

Saying to itself,

‘I’m the one, there is no other’.

Aagh! It’s become a desolation,

a lair for creatures.

Everyone who passes by it hisses

and shakes his hand.

## 3:1 Wait for Me

3 Hey, rebellious and defiled one,

oppressive town!

2It hasn’t listened to a voice,

it hasn’t accepted correction.

It hasn’t relied on Yahweh,

it hasn’t come near to its God.

3Its officials within it

are roaring lions.

Its authorities are wolves at evening;

they don’t gnaw until morning.

4Its prophets are arrogant, people who break faith;

its priests treat what’s sacred as ordinary, they violate instruction.

5Yahweh is faithful within it;

he doesn’t do evil.

Morning by morning he gives his ruling,

at daybreak he doesn’t fail,

but the evildoer doesn’t acknowledge shame.

6I am cutting off nations, their corner towers are becoming desolate;

I am wasting their streets, so that no one passes through.

Their towns are standing without people,

with no inhabitant.

7I said, ‘You’ll surely be in awe of me,

you’ll accept correction’.

Then its abode wouldn’t be cut off,

all that I attended to for it.

On the contrary, they’ve been up early

and made all their deeds devastating.

8Therefore wait for me (Yahweh’s declaration),

for the day when I rise as a witness.

Because it’s my ruling to gather nations,

for me to collect kingdoms,

To pour out on them my condemnation,

all my angry blazing.

Because in my passionate fire

the entire earth will be consumed.

9Because then I shall transform for the peoples

purified speech,

So that all of them call on Yahweh’s name,

so that they serve him shoulder to shoulder.

10From beyond Sudan’s rivers my suppliants,

my scattered community, will bring my offering.

## 3:11 God Among Us

11On that day,

you [Jerusalem] won’t be ashamed of all your deeds,

with which you’ve rebelled against me.

Because then I shall remove from within you

the people exulting in your majesty.

You’ll no more be very superior

on my sacred mountain.

12I shall leave remaining within you

a humble, poor people,

and they will find shelter in Yahweh’s name.

13The remainder of Israel won’t do wrong,

and won’t speak lies.

There won’t be found in their mouth

a deceitful tongue.

Because they are the ones who will pasture and lie down,

with no one disturbing.

14Resound, Miss Zion,

shout, Israel.

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

Miss Jerusalem.

15Yahweh is turning aside the rulings about you,

he’s turning back your enemy.

Yahweh, Israel’s King, is within you;

you needn’t be afraid of bad things any more.

16On that day it will be said to Jerusalem:

Don’t be afraid, Zion;

your hands shouldn’t droop.

17Yahweh your God is within you,

a strong man who delivers.

He’ll celebrate over you with rejoicing,

he’ll hold his peace in his love,

he’ll be glad over you with resounding.

18The people who grieve on account of the set occasions—

I’m gathering them from you;

upon you they’ve been a burden, a reviling.

19Here am I, I’m going to deal with all your oppressors

at that time.

I shall deliver the lame,

collect the ones driven out.

I shall make them an object of praise and renown

whose shame was in the entire earth.

20At that time I shall bring you—

yes, at the time I shall collect you.

Because I shall make you an object of renown and praise

among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes before your eyes (Yahweh has said).

# Haggai

On conquering Babylon, Cyrus the king of Persia permitted and encouraged Judahites who had been taken into exile there to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. In the short term the work miscarried, and Haggai, with whom Zechariah was contemporary, was involved in encouraging the people to retake up the work again and complete it, in 520-516. It was apparently his vital role in connection with this vital event that led to the preserving of his prophecies concerning it. The story, with an account of the role of Haggai and Zechariah, appears in Ezra 1—6.

## 1:1 Concerning Remodelling Priorities

1 In the second year of Dareyavesh [Darius] the king, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, Yahweh’s word came by means of Haggay the prophet to Zerubbabal ben She’alti’el governor of Judah and to Yehoshua ben Yehotsadaq the big priest: 2’Yahweh Armies has said this: “This people has said, ‘The time hasn’t come, the time for building Yahweh’s house’”’.

3Yahweh’s word came by means of Haggay the prophet: 4’Is it the time for you yourselves to live in your panelled houses, and this house lies waste? 5So now Yahweh Armies has said this: “Apply your mind to your ways. 6You’ve sown much but brought in little. You eat but without having enough. You drink but without getting drunk. You dress but without a person getting warm. And the people who earn wages earn them for a purse with holes”.

7Yahweh Armies has said this: “Apply your mind to your ways. 8Go up to the highland, bring wood, and build the house, and I shall accept it and find honour”, Yahweh has said. 9”You looked for much, but there—little. You brought it home, and I’d blow on it. On account of what (a declaration of Yahweh Armies)? On account of my house that lies waste, and you’re running each person to his own house. 10That’s why above you the heavens have withheld dew, and the earth has withheld its produce, 11and I’ve called for drought on the earth, on the mountains, on the grain, on the new wine, on the fresh oil, on all that the ground produces, on human beings, on animals and on all the labour of your fists”’.

12Zerubbabel ben She’alti’el, Yehoshua ben Yehotsadaq the big priest, and all the remainder of the people listened to the voice of Yahweh their God, and because of Haggay the prophet, as Yahweh their God sent him. So the people were in awe of Yahweh, 13and Haggay, Yahweh’s envoy in Yahweh’s work, said to the people, ‘I am with you (Yahweh’s declaration)’.

## 1:14 A New Splendour

14So Yahweh aroused the spirit of Zerubbabal ben She’alti’el governor of Judah, the spirit of Yehoshua ben Yehotsadaq the big priest, and the spirit of all the remainder of the people, and they came and did work on the house of Yahweh Armies, their God, 15on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth.

15bIn the second year of Dareyavesh the king, 2 in the seventh, on the twenty-first of the month, Yahweh’s word came by means of Haggay the prophet: ‘Say, please, to Zerubbabel ben She’alti’el governor of Judah, and to Yehoshua ben Yehotsadaq the big priest, and to the remainder of the people: 3”Who among you remains who saw this house in its former splendour? How do you see it now? In comparison with it, it’s just nothing in your eyes, isn’t it.

4But now, be strong, Zerubbabel (Yahweh’s declaration), be strong, Yehoshua ben Yehotsadaq, big priest, be strong, all you people of the country (Yahweh’s declaration). Act, because I am with you (a declaration of Yahweh Armies), 5the thing that I solemnized with you when you got out of Egypt. My spirit stays among you. Don’t be afraid. 6Because Yahweh Armies has said this: “Once more, shortly, I’m going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. 7I shall shake all the nations, and the things held in high regard belonging to all the nations will come. I shall fill this house with splendour (Yahweh Armies has said). 8Mine is the silver and mine is the gold (a declaration of Yahweh Armies). 9The splendour of this later house will be greater than the earlier one (Yahweh Armies has said). In this place I shall give you well-being (a declaration of Yahweh Armies)”’.

## 2:10 A Renewed Promise

10On the twenty-fourth of the ninth in the second year of Dareyavesh, Yahweh’s word came to Haggay the prophet. 11Yahweh Armies said this: ‘Ask the priests for instruction, please: 12”If someone carries sacred meat in the fold of his garment and touches bread or stew or wine or oil or any other food with the fold, does it become sacred?”’ The priests answered, ‘No’. 13Haggay said, ‘If someone taboo because of a body touches any of these, does it become taboo?’ The priests answered, ‘It becomes taboo’. 14Haggai responded, ‘So is this people, so is this nation before me (Yahweh’s declaration), and so is the action of their hands. What they present there is taboo.

15But now, apply your mind, please, from this day and onward. Before the setting of stone on stone in Yahweh’s palace, 16from when these things happened, someone came to a twenty-measure heap, and there’d be ten; someone came to the wine vat to skim off fifty measures, there’d be twenty. 17I struck you down with blight, with mildew, and with hail, in all the action of your hands, but you were not with me (Yahweh’s declaration). 18Apply your mind, please, from this day and onward, from the twenty-fourth day of the ninth, from the day when Yahweh’s palace was founded. Apply your mind: 19is there still seed in the barn? Whereas until now the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree have not borne, from this day I shall bless’.

20Yahweh’s word came a second time to Haggay on the twenty-fourth of the month. 21’Say to Zerubbabel governor of Judah: “I’m going to shake the heavens and the earth, 22overturn the throne of the kingdoms, destroy the strength of the nations’ kingdoms, and overturn chariotry and its drivers. Horses and their riders will come down, each by his brother’s sword.

23On that day (a declaration of Yahweh Armies), I shall take you, Zerubbabel ben She’alti’el my servant (Yahweh’s declaration) and make you like a signet, because I’ve chosen you (a declaration of Yahweh Armies)”’.

# Zechariah

Zechariah was a contemporary of Haggay, associated with him in the story of the rebuilding of the temple in Ezra 1—6. While Haggay was the bad cop who confronted the people about their failure, and Zechariah was the good cop who encouraged them with Yahweh’s promises in chapters 1—8, a series of visions and exhortations. Zechariah 9—14 comprises a series of prophecies without concrete indications of a context.

## 1:1 A World at Peace

1 In the eighth month in the second year of Dareyavesh [Darius], Yahweh’s word came to Zekaryah ben Berekyah, son of Iddo, the prophet. 2’”Yahweh felt a great fury with your ancestors”. 3You’re to say to them, “Yahweh Armies has said this: ‘Turn back to me (a declaration of Yahweh Armies) and I shall turn back to you (Yahweh Armies has said). 4Don’t become like your ancestors, to whom the earlier prophets called out, “Yahweh Armies has said this: ‘Turn back, please, from your bad ways and from your bad practices’”, but they didn’t listen or heed me (Yahweh’s declaration). 5Your ancestors: where are they? The prophets: do they live permanently? 6Yet my words and my laws that I ordered my servants the prophets: they overtake your ancestors, didn’t they, and they turned back and said, “As Yahweh Armies schemed to do to us in accordance with our ways and with our practices, so he has done with us”’”’.

7On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month (i.e., the month of Shebat) in the second year of Dareyavesh, Yahweh’s word came to Zekaryah ben Berekyah, son of Iddo: 8’I saw by night: there, a man riding on a red horse. He was standing among myrtle trees that were in the deep. Behind him were red, brown, and white horses. 9I said, “What are these, my lord?” The envoy who was speaking with me said, “I’ll show you what those are”. 10The man who was standing among the myrtle trees answered, “These are ones that Yahweh sent to go round in the earth”.

11They answered Yahweh’s envoy who was standing among the myrtle trees, “We’ve been going round in the earth. There, the entire earth is living quiet”.

## 1:12 Too Peaceful

12Yahweh’s envoy answered, “Yahweh Armies, how long will you not have compassion on Jerusalem and on Judah’s towns, which you’ve been condemning these seventy years?” 13Yahweh answered the envoy who was speaking with me with good words, comforting words.

14The envoy who was speaking with me said to me, “Call out: ‘Yahweh Armies has said this: “I have felt a great passion for Jerusalem and for Zion, 15and I—I have been feeling a great fury with the nations that are peaceful, because I was a bit furious, but they helped it become bad fortune”. 16Therefore Yahweh has said this: “I’m turning back to Jerusalem in compassion. My house will be built up in it (a declaration of Yahweh Armies), and a cord will be stretched over Jerusalem”. 17Call out further: “Yahweh Armies has said this: ‘My towns will again flow with good things. Yahweh will again comfort Zion and again choose Jerusalem’”’.

18I lifted my eyes and looked: there, four horns. 19I said to the envoy who was speaking with me, ‘What are these?’ He said to me, ‘These are the horns that scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem’. 20And Yahweh showed me four smiths. 21I said, ‘What are these coming to do?’ He said, ‘These are the horns that scattered Judah to such an extent that no one lifted his head. But these have come to disturb them by throwing down the horns of the nations that lifted a horn against the country of Judah, to scatter it’.

## 2:1 You Can’t Measure Jerusalem

2 I lifted my eyes and looked: there, a man, with a measuring line in his hand. 2I said, ‘Where are you going?’ He said to me, ‘To measure Jerusalem, to see exactly what is its breadth and its length’. 3But there, the envoy who was speaking with me was going out, and another envoy was going out to meet him. 4He said to him, ‘Run, speak to that young man: “Jerusalem will be inhabited as un-walled villages because of the number of people and animals within it. 5And I myself shall be for it (Yahweh’s declaration) a wall of fire round, and I shall be splendour within it”’.

6’Hey, hey, flee from the northern country (Yahweh’s declaration), because I’m scattering you like the four winds of the heavens (Yahweh’s declaration)’. 7Hey, Zion, escape, you who live in Miss Babel. 8Because Yahweh Armies has said this (after splendour sent me) regarding the nations who plundered you: the one touching you was touching the apple of his eye. 9’Because here am I, I’m going to shake my hand against them. They will become spoil for their servants. And you will acknowledge that Yahweh Armies sent me. 10Resound, rejoice, Miss Zion, because here am I—I’m coming to dwell within you (Yahweh’s declaration). 11Many nations will attach themselves to Yahweh on that day and will become my people, and I shall dwell within you’.

And you will acknowledge that Yahweh sent me to you. 12And Yahweh will have Judah as his domain on the sacred ground, and will again choose Jerusalem.

13Hush, all flesh, before Yahweh, because he h**a**s roused himself from his sacred abode.

## 3:1 Guilt Is Not the End

3 He showed me Yehoshua the big priest standing before Yahweh’s envoy, and the adversary standing at his right to act as his adversary. 2Yahweh said to the adversary, ‘Yahweh reprimand you, adversary, Yahweh who chose Jerusalem reprimand you. Isn’t this a burning stick snatched from the fire?’ 3Yehoshua was wearing filthy clothes as he was standing before the envoy.

4He avowed to the beings who were standing before him, ‘Take the filthy clothes off him’, and he said to him, ‘Look: I’ve made your waywardness pass on from you, and you may wear fine robes. 5And I’ve said, “They should put a pure turban on his head”’. They put the pure turban on his head and dressed him in clothes as Yahweh’s envoy was standing by.

6Yahweh’s envoy testified against Yehoshua: 7’Yahweh Armies has said this: “If you walk in my ways and keep my charge, you yourself will both judge my house and also keep watch on my courtyards, and I shall give you movement among these who are standing in attendance. 8Listen, please, Yehoshua, senior priest, you and your fellows who are sitting before you, because they are people who constitute a sign. Because here am I, I’m going to bring my servant, branch. 9Because here’s the stone that I’ve put before Yehoshua. On one stone are seven eyes. Here am I, I’m going to make its engraving (a declaration of Yahweh Armies), and I shall remove this country’s waywardness in one day.

10On that day (a declaration of Yahweh Armies) you will call, each person his neighbour, under his vine and under his fig tree’.

## 4:1 A Candelabrum and a Promise

4 The envoy who was speaking with me came back and woke me up like someone who wakes up from his sleep. 2He said to me, ‘What are you looking at?’ I said, ‘I looked, and there—a candelabrum of gold, all of it, with its bowl on top of it, and its seven lamps on it, seven spouts each for the lamps that were on top of it, 3and two olive trees by it, one to the right of the bowl and one to its left’. 4I avowed to the envoy who was speaking with me, “What are these, my lord?” 5The envoy who was speaking with me answered me, ‘Don’t you know what these are?’ I said, ‘No, my lord’. 6He answered me….

‘This is Yahweh’s word to Zerubbabel: “Not by resources, not by energy, but by my spirit”, Yahweh Armies has said. 6Who are you, big mountain, before Zerubbabel? Into flatland! He will take out the top stone, with shouts of “Grace, grace to it!”’

8Yahweh’s word came to me: 9’Zerubbabel’s hands have founded this house and his hands will finish it off’. And you will acknowledge that Yahweh Armies sent me to you. 10Because who despises the day of little things? They will rejoice when they see the metal stone in Zerubbabel’s hand.

….’These seven are Yahweh’s eyes ranging through the entire earth’. 11I avowed to him, ‘What are these two olive trees on the right of the candelabrum and on its left?’ 12And I avowed to him a second time, ‘What are the two ears [of grain] of the olive trees that pour out gold from themselves by means of the two gold pipes?’ 13He said to me, ‘Don’t you know what these are?’ I said, ‘No, my lord’. 14He said, ‘These are the two sons of fresh oil who stand by the Lord of the entire earth’.

## 5:1 A Flying Scroll, and a Flying Container

5 I again lifted my eyes and looked—there, a flying scroll. 2He said to me, ‘What are you looking at?’ I said, ‘I’m looking at a flying scroll. Its length is ten metres and its width five metres’. 3He said to me, ‘This is the vow that’s going out over the face of the entire country. Because everyone who steals (from this side, according to it) has gone free of guilt, and everyone who swears (from the other side, according to it) has gone free of guilt. 4I’m causing it to go out (a declaration of Yahweh Armies) and it will come into the thief’s house and the house of the person who swears by my name for falsehood. It will lodge inside his house and consume it, both its timbers and its stones’.

5The envoy who spoke with me went out and said to me, ‘Lift up your eyes, please, and look. What’s this going out?’ 6I said, ‘What is it?’ He said, ‘This is the barrel that’s going out’. And he said, ‘This is their appearance in the entire country’. 7And there, a lead disk lifted, and it was a woman sitting inside the barrel. 8He said, ‘This is Faithlessness’. He thrust her inside the container and thrust the lead disk to its mouth.

9I lifted my eyes and looked, and there—two women going out with wind in their wings (they had wings like a stork’s wings). They carried the barrel between the earth and the heavens. 10I said to the envoy who was speaking with me, ‘Where are they making the container go?’ 11He said to me, ‘To build it a house in the country of Shin’ar, which will be established, and it will be settled down there on its established place’.

## 6:1 Settling Yahweh’s Spirit and Making Crowns

6 I lifted my eyes again and looked, and there—four chariots going out from between two mountains; the mountains were mountains of copper. 2In the first chariot the horses were red, in the second chariot the horses were black, 3in the third chariot the horses were white, in the fourth chariot the horses were dappled, strong.

4I avowed to the envoy who was speaking with me, ‘What are these, my lord?’ 5The envoy answered me, ‘These are the four winds of the heavens, going out after standing by the Lord of the entire earth’. 6The one where the black horses are—they were going out to the northern country. The white left after them. The dappled went out to the southern country. 7So the strong went out. When they sought to go, so as to go about through the earth, he said, ‘Go, go about through the earth’. So they went about through the earth. 8He cried out to me and spoke to me: ‘Look, the ones going out to the northern country have settled my spirit in the northern country’.

9Yahweh’s word came to me: 10’Receive from the exile community, from Helday, from Tobiyyah, and from Yeda‘yah, and you yourself are to come on that day, to come to the house of Yo’shiyyah ben Tsephanyah, when they’ve come from Babel: 11you’re to receive gold and silver and make crowns and put them on the head of Yehoshua ben Yehotsadaq the big priest, 12and say to him, “Yahweh Armies has said this: ‘There is the man whose name is branch. From his place he will branch out and build Yahweh’s palace. 13He’s the one who’ll build Yahweh’s palace. He’s the one who’ll put on majesty, and sit and rule on his throne. A priest will be by his throne, and there’ll be peaceful counsel between the two of them. 14For Helem, for Tobiyyah, for Yeda‘yah, and for Hen ben Tsephanyah, the crowns will be a memorial in Yahweh’s palace. 15Distant people will come and build in Yahweh’s palace, and you will acknowledge that Yahweh Armies sent me to you. It will happen if you really do listen to the voice of Yahweh your God’”’.

## 7:1 Who Are You Fasting For?

7 In the fourth year of Dareyavesh the king, Yahweh’s word came to Zekaryah, on the fourth of the ninth month, in Kislev. 2Bet-el Sar-ezer and Regem Melek and his men sent to seek Yahweh’s goodwill 3by saying to the priests who were at the house of Yahweh Armies and to the prophets, ‘Should I cry in the fifth month, consecrating myself, as I have done these how many years?’

4A word from Yahweh Armies came to me: 5’Say to all the people of the country and to the priests, “When you fasted and lamented in the fifth and in the seventh even these seventy years, did you really fast for me? 6When you eat and when you drink, it’s you who eat and you who drink, isn’t it. 7They’re the words that Yahweh called out by means of the earlier prophets, aren’t they, when Jerusalem was peopled and peaceful, and its towns round it, and the Negeb and the Lowland were peopled?”’

8Yahweh’s word came to Zekaryah, 9’Yahweh Armies has said this: “Exercise truthful authority, exercise commitment and compassion each person with his brother. 10Don’t oppress widow and orphan, alien and humble. Don’t think up bad dealings each person against his brother in his mind”. 11But they refused to heed and presented a defiant shoulder. They stopped their ears from listening. 12They made their mind concrete so as not to listen to the instruction and the words that Yahweh Armies sent by his spirit by means of the earlier prophets, and great wrath came from Yahweh Armies. 13As he called but they didn’t listen, “so they’ll call and I shall not listen”, Yahweh Armies said. 14”And I blasted them away to all the nations that they hadn’t known. The country was desolate behind them from anyone passing through or coming back. They made a country that was held in high regard into a desolation’.

## 8:1 I Will Make You a Blessing

8 A word from Yahweh Armies came. 2’Yahweh Armies has said this: “I feel a great passion for Zion. I feel a fierce passion for it”. 3Yahweh has said this: “I’m coming back to Zion and I shall dwell within Jerusalem. Jerusalem will be called ‘Truthful Town’, and the mountain of Yahweh Armies ‘Sacred Mountain’”.

4Yahweh Armies has said this: “Old men and old women will again sit in Jerusalem’s squares, each with his cane in his hand because of the great number of his days. 5The town’s squares will be full of boys and girls having fun in its squares”.

6Yahweh Armies has said this: “Because it will be fantastic in the eyes of the remainder of this people in those days, will it also be fantastic in my eyes (a declaration of Yahweh Armies)?”

7Yahweh Armies has said this: “Here am I, I’m going to deliver my people from the eastern country and from the western country, 8and bring them, and they will dwell within Jerusalem. They will be a people for me and I shall be God for them, in truth and faithfulness”.

9Yahweh Armies has said this: “Your hands are to be strong, you who are listening to these words in these days from the mouth of the prophets who were on the day when the house of Yahweh Armies was founded, for building the palace. 10Because before those days there were no wages for a human being and there were no wages for an animal. For anyone going out or coming in, there was no peace from the adversary. I set all human beings one against his neighbour. 11But now I’m not acting toward the remainder of this people as in earlier days (a declaration of Yahweh Armies), 12because the sowing will be in peace, the vine will give its fruit, the earth will give its produce, the heavens will give their dew, and I shall let the remainder of this people have all these things as a domain. 13As you became a slighting among the nations, Judah’s household and Israel’s household, so I shall deliver you and you will become a blessing. Don’t be afraid. Your hands are to be strong”.

## 8:14 Make Me a Blessing

14Because Yahweh Armies has said this: “As I schemed to do something bad to you when your ancestors infuriated me (Yahweh Armies said) and didn’t relent, 15so I have again schemed in these days to do good to Jerusalem and to Judah’s household. Don’t be afraid. 16These are the things that you’re to do. Speak the truth each to his neighbour. Exercise authority with truthful authority that makes for peace in your gateways. 17Don’t think up something bad in your mind each person against his neighbour. Don’t love a false oath. Because all these are things to which I’m hostile (Yahweh’s declaration)”’.

18The word of Yahweh Armies came to me. 19’Yahweh Armies has said this: “The fast of the fourth, the fast of the fifth, the fast of the seventh, and the fast of the tenth will become for Judah’s household celebration and rejoicing, good set occasions. So love truthfulness and peace”.

20Yahweh Armies has said this: “Peoples and inhabitants of many towns will yet come, 21and the inhabitants of one will go to one another saying, ‘Let’s go, let’s go to seek Yahweh’s goodwill and seek Yahweh Armies. I myself intend to go, yes’. 22Many peoples will come, numerous nations, to seek Yahweh Armies in Jerusalem and to seek Yahweh’s goodwill”.

23Yahweh Armies has said this: “In those days, when ten people from all the nations’ tongues will take hold, they’ll take hold of the hem of a Judahite individual’s coat, saying ‘We want to go with you, because we’ve heard that God is with you’”’.

## 9:1 The King on a Donkey

1A pronouncement.

Yahweh’s word against the country of Hadrak,

and Dammeseq [Damascus] its place of settling.

Because people’s eye will be toward Yahweh,

all Israel’s clans.

2Hamat, too, which borders on it;

Tsor [Tyre], and Tsidon because it’s very smart.

3Tsor has built itself a stronghold,

it has heaped up silver like dirt,

Gold like the mud in the streets;

4there, the Lord Yahweh will dispossess it.

He’ll strike down its resources at sea;

it will be consumed by fire, itself.

5Ashqelon will see and be afraid,

Azzah [Gaza] will writhe much,

and Eqron, because its reliance will have withered.

King will perish from Azzah,

Ashqelon won’t be inhabited.

6A mongrel will live in Ashdod;

I shall cut off the majesty of the Philistines.

7But I shall remove the blood it has shed from its mouth,

and its abominations from between its teeth.

What remains of it, too, will belong to our God,

and become like a clan in Judah,

while Eqron will be like the Yebusites.

8I shall camp for my house as a garrison

against anyone passing through or coming back.

No oppressor will pass through against them again,

because now I shall have looked with my eyes.

9Celebrate greatly, Miss Zion;

shout, Miss Jerusalem.

There, your king will come to you;

he’ll be faithful and one who finds deliverance,

Humble and riding on a donkey,

on an ass, the child of a she-ass.

10I shall cut off chariotry from Ephrayim

and horse from Jerusalem.

The bow of battle will be cut off;

he will speak of peace to the nations.

His rule will be from sea to sea,

from the River to the ends of the earth.

## 9:11 Crown Jewels Glittering on His Hand

11Yes, you [Jerusalem], by the blood of your pact:

I’m sending off your captives.

From the pit where there’s no water,

12get back to the fortress, hopeful prisoners.

Yes, today I’m going to announce:

I shall give back double to you.

13Because I’m directing Judah for myself as a bow,

I’m loading Ephrayim.

I shall arouse your sons, Zion,

against your sons, Greece,

and make you like a strong man’s sword.

14Yahweh—he’ll appear over them,

his arrow will go out like lightning.

The Lord God will sound on the horn

and go in southern hurricanes.

15Yahweh Armies will shield over them;

sling stones will consume and tread down.

They will drink, make a noise as with wine,

be full like a bowl, like the altar’s corners.

16Yahweh our God will deliver them

on that day, 17like a flock, his people.

Because they are crown jewels glittering on his land,

17because how good they are and how beautiful they are!

Grain will make the young men flourish,

new wine the young women.

10 Ask for rain from Yahweh

at the time of the spring rain;

Yahweh is the one who sends lightning flashes,

gives them a downpour of rain,

growth in the fields for each one.

2Because the effigies have spoken trouble,

the diviners have beheld falsehood.

They speak lying dreams,

they comfort with hollowness.

Therefore people have strayed like a flock,

they suffer because there’s no shepherd.

3Against the shepherds my anger has blazed,

I shall attend to the big guys.

Because Yahweh Armies is attending to his flock,

Judah’s household.

He will make them

like his majestic horse in battle.

4From it cornerstone, from it tent peg,

from it battle bow,

From it will go out

every overseer, together.

5They’ll be like strong men,

trampling the mud of the streets, in battle.

They’ll do battle, because Yahweh will be with them;

they’ll shame the people riding horses.

## 10:6 Judah’s Household Become Strong Men

6’So I shall make Judah’s household strong men,

and I shall deliver Joseph’s household.

I shall restore them, because I’ve had compassion on them;

they’ll be as if I had not rejected them.

Because I am Yahweh,

their God, and I shall answer them.

7Ephrayim will be a veritable strong man;

their heart will rejoice as with wine.

Their children will see and rejoice;

their heart will be joyful in Yahweh.

8I shall whistle to them and gather them,

because I have redeemed them.

They will become many, as they were many,

9though I sowed them among the nations.

In far off places they will be mindful of me;

they will live with their children, and come back.

10I shall bring them back from the country of Egypt,

collect them from Ashshur.

Though I bring them to the country of Gil’ad and Lebanon,

room won’t be found for them.

11He will pass through the confining sea,

he will strike down the sea of waves.

All the Nile’s deeps will dry up,

and the majesty of Ashshur will be put down.

Egypt’s club will pass away,

12and I shall make them strong men through Yahweh,

and in his name they’ll go about (Yahweh’s declaration).

11 Open your doors, Lebanon,

so fire cam consume your cedars!

2Howl, junipers, because the cedar is falling,

when the august are being destroyed!

Howl, Bashan oaks,

because the fortified forest is going down.

3The sound of the shepherds’ howling,

because their eminence is destroyed!

The sound of the lions’ roar,

because Jordan’s majesty is destroyed!

## 11:4 Lying, Neglectful, Loathsome, and Stupid Shepherds

4Yahweh my God said this: ‘Tend the flock to be killed, 5whose acquirers will kill them and won’t be liable, whose sellers will say, “Yahweh be blessed! I shall be rich”, and whose shepherds won’t have pity on them. 6Because I shall no more have pity on the country’s inhabitants (Yahweh’s declaration). There, I’m going to make people vulnerable, each to his neighbour’s hand and to his king’s hand. They will crush the country, and I shall not rescue it from their hand’.

7So I pastured the sheep to be killed, therefore the lowliest of the flock. I got myself two staffs, I called one ‘Beauty’, and the other I called ‘Binders’, and I pastured the sheep. 8I disposed of the three shepherds in one month. With my whole being I lost patience with them, and with their whole being they loathed me, too. 9So I said, ‘I shall not pasture you. The one who dies may die and the one who gets disposed of may get disposed of, and the ones who remain, each may eat the flesh of her neighbour’.

10I got my staff ‘Beauty’ and broke it, contravening my pact that I had solemnized with all the peoples. 11So it was contravened on that day, and the lowliest of the sheep, who were keeping watch toward me, thus acknowledged that it was Yahweh’s word. 12I said to them, ‘If it’s good in your eyes, give me my pay; it not, withhold it’. They weighed out my pay, thirty silver pieces. 13Yahweh said to me, ‘Throw it to the potter’ (the worthy magnificence that I was worth to them). So I took the thirty silver pieces and threw them to the potter in Yahweh’s house. 14And I broke my second staff, ‘Binders’, to contravene the brotherhood between Judah and Israel.

15Yahweh said to me again, ‘Get yourself the implements of a stupid shepherd. 16Because here I am, I’m going to raise up a shepherd in the country who won’t attend to the ones who are disposed of or seek the young one or heal the injured or sustain the one who stands firm, but will eat the flesh of the fat one and tear off their hoofs.

17Hey, nonentity shepherds,

abandoning the flock:

A sword on your arm

and on your right eye!

May his arm quite wither,

his right eye go quite blind!

## 12:1 A Chalice That Causes Reeling

1A pronouncement. Yahweh’s word concerning Israel.

A declaration of Yahweh,

the one who stretched out the heavens,

Who founded the earth,

who shaped the spirit of humanity within it.

2’There, I’m going to make Jerusalem a chalice that causes reeling to all the peoples around. It will also be against Judah during the siege against Jerusalem.

3On that day, I shall make Jerusalem a stone hard to lift for all the peoples. All who lift it will seriously injure themselves when all the nations of the earth gather against it.

4On that day (Yahweh’s declaration), I shall strike down every horse with panic and its rider with madness. Over Judah’s household I shall open my eyes, but every horse belonging to the peoples I shall strike with blindness. 5Judah’s clans will say to themselves, “Jerusalem’s inhabitants are my strength, through Yahweh Armies, their God”.

6On that day, I shall make Judah’s clans like a fire pot among trees, like a fiery torch among sheaves. They will consume all the peoples around, to the right and the left. And Jerusalem will again live in its place, in Jerusalem”. 7Yahweh will deliver Judah’s tents first, so that the glory of David’s household and the glory of Jerusalem’s population will not be greater than Judah.

8On that day Yahweh will shield over Jerusalem’s population. Someone among them who is liable to collapse will be like David on that day, and David’s household will be like gods, like Yahweh’s envoy going before them.

9‘On that day I shall seek to annihilate all the nations that come against Jerusalem, 10but I shall pour out on David’s household and on Jerusalem’s population a spirit of grace and of prayers for grace. They will look to me concerning someone they’ve thrust through, and they will lament over him with the lamentation for an only son, and express distress for him like the distress over a firstborn.

## 12:11 The Sword Against the Shepherd

11On that day the lamentation in Jerusalem will be great, like the lamentation for Hadad-rimmon in Megiddo Valley. 12The country will lament, kin-group by kin-group by itself, the kin-group of David’s household by itself and their women by themselves, the kin-group of Natan’s household by itself and their women by themselves, 13the kin-group of Levi’s household by itself and their women by themselves, the kin-group of the Shim‘ites by itself and their women by themselves, 14all the remaining kin-groups kin-group by kin-group by itself and their women by themselves.

13 On that day there will be a fountain opened for David’s household and Jerusalem’s inhabitants, for purification and for cleansing.

2And on that day (a declaration of Yahweh Armies) I shall cut off the names of the images from the country. They won’t be mentioned again. Also the prophets and the defiled spirit I shall cause to pass away from the country. 3When someone prophesies again, his father and his mother, who brought him to birth, will say, ‘You will not live, because you’ve spoken falsehood in Yahweh’s name’. His father and his mother, who brought him to birth, will thrust him through when he prophesies.

4On that day the prophets will be ashamed, each one, of his vision when he prophesies. They won’t wear a garment of hair so as to deceive. 5He will say, ‘I’m not a prophet, I’m a man who works the ground, because a man acquired me from my youth’. 6If someone says to him, ‘What are these wounds between your hands?’ he will say, ‘I was wounded in my friends’ house’.

7’Sword, rouse yourself against my shepherd,

against a man who is my envoy (a declaration of Yahweh Armies).

Strike down my shepherd, the flock is to scatter;

I shall turn back my hand against the little ones.

8In all the country (Yahweh’s declaration)

two parts in it will be cut off, will perish.

A third will be left in it.

9but I shall bring the third into the fire.

I shall smelt them as one smelts silver,

test them as one tests gold.

It will call in my name

and I myself shall answer it,

I shall have said, ‘It is my people’,

and it will say, ‘Yahweh is my God’.

## 14:1 Yahweh Stands on the Mount of Olives

14 There, a day of Yahweh is coming, and your spoil [Jerusalem] will be shared out within you. 2I shall gather all the nations to Jerusalem for battle. The town will be captured, the houses will be plundered, the women will be ravished, and half the town will go out into exile. But the rest of the people will not be cut off from the town, 3and Yahweh will go out and do battle against those nations, as he does battle on a day of engagement.

4On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives which faces Jerusalem to the east. The Mount of Olives will split in half from east to west, a very big ravine; half of the mountain will move away northward, half of it southward. 5You people will flee by the ravine between my mountains, because the ravine between the mountains will reach to Atsal. You will flee as you fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziyah king of Judah. But Yahweh my God will come—all the sacred ones will be with you.

6On that day there won’t be light from the glorious ones; they will dwindle. 7There’ll be one day (it is known to Yahweh), not day and not night; at evening time it will be light.

8On that day living water will go out from Jerusalem, half of it to the eastern sea, half of it to the western sea. It will happen in summer and in winter. 9Yahweh will be king over all the earth.

## 14:12 No More Trader in Yahweh’s House

On that day Yahweh will be one and his name one. 10The entire country will turn round [and be] like the steppe, from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem, but it [Jerusalem] will rise up and stay in its place, from the Benjamin Gate to the place of the First Gate, to the Corner Gate, and from Hananel’s Tower to the king’s winepresses. 11People will live in it, and ‘devoting’ will not happen anymore. Jerusalem will live in confidence.

12But this will be the epidemic that Yahweh will impose on all the peoples that made war against Jerusalem: making someone’s flesh waste away while he stands on his feet, his eyes waste away in their sockets, and his tongue waste away in their mouth.

13On that day a great panic from Yahweh will come upon them. They’ll take hold, each person, of his neighbour’s hand, and his hand will rise against his neighbour’s hand. 14Judah, too, will do battle at Jerusalem. The resources of all the nations around will be gathered—gold and silver and clothing, a great quantity.

15Like this epidemic, so will be the epidemic affecting horse, mule, camel, donkey, and every animal that will be in those camps. 16But everyone who is left from all the nations that come against Jerusalem will go up year by year to bow low to the King, Yahweh Armies, and to observe the Sukkot festival. 17Whichever does not go up from the kin-groups of the earth to Jerusalem to bow low to the King, Yahweh Armies, there’ll be no rain on them. 18If Egypt’s kin-group doesn’t go up and doesn’t come, there’ll be none on them; there’ll be the epidemic that Yahweh imposes on the nations that don’t go up to observe the Sukkot festival. 19This will be [the penalty for] the wrongdoing of Egypt and the wrongdoing of all the nations that don’t go up to observe the Sukkot festival.

20On that day, upon a horse’s bells will be ‘Sacred to Yahweh’. The pots in Yahweh’s house will be like the basins before the altar. 21Every pot in Jerusalem and Judah will be sacred to Yahweh Armies. All the people who offer sacrifice will come and take some of them and cook in them. There’ll be no more trader in the house of Yahweh Armies on that day.

# Malachi

Malachi’s location in the Old Testament invites us to infer that it belongs, with Haggai and Zechariah, in the period after exiled Judahites have been free to return to Jerusalem. The temple is functioning, so it presupposes the completion of their work, while the variety of problems it seeks to handle then fit with the pressures of the subsequent time of Ezra and Nehemiah. It proceeds mostly by means of a to-and-fro argument in which Yahweh or the prophet confronts the community over a series of issues. Its ending with the prospect of Yahweh sending a new Elijah or the old Elijah recommissioned, to herald Yahweh’s Day, makes it an appropriate close to the Prophets, and its ending the Old Testament as a whole (in the Christian ordering of the Old Testament) makes for a deft transition to the New Testament.

## 1:1 Easy-going Priests

1 A pronouncement. Yahweh’s word to Israel by means of Malachi.

2’I’ve been loyal to you’, Yahweh said. But you say, ‘How have you been loyal to us?’ ‘Esau was Jacob’s brother, wasn’t he (Yahweh’s declaration). But I was loyal to Jacob 3and I was hostile to Esau. I’m making his mountains a desolation, his domain to belong to wilderness jackals’. 4Because Edom says, ‘We’ve been crushed, but we’ll build the wastes again’, Yahweh Armies has said this: ‘Those people may build, but I myself will tear down’. They will be called ‘Faithless Territory’ and ‘the people Yahweh has condemned permanently’. 5Your own eyes will see it. You yourselves will say, ‘Yahweh is great, beyond Israel’s territory!’

6’A son honours his father, a servant his lord. If I’m a father, where’s the honour for me? If I’m a Lord, where’s the awe for me?’ Yahweh Armies said to you, priests who disdain my name. You say, “How have we disdained your name?” 7You’re presenting defiled food on my altar. You say, “How have we defiled you?” By your saying, “Yahweh’s table can be disdained”. 8When you bring up something blind for sacrifice, there’s nothing bad. When you bring up something lame or sick, there’s nothing bad. Present it to your governor, please. Will he accept you? Will he have regard to you? (Yahweh Armies has said)’. 9Now, please seek Yahweh’s goodwill so that he shows favour to us. This has come from your hand. Will he have regard to any of you? (Yahweh Armies has said).

10‘Who indeed is there among you who’ll shut the doors, and not light a fire on my altar to no end! I find no delight in you (Yahweh Armies has said) and I shall not accept an offering from your hand.

## 1:11 A Priest’s Lips Keep Watch on Knowledge

11Because from the sun’s rising to its setting my name is great among the nations and in every place incense is offered to my name, and a pure offering, because my name is great among the nations (Yahweh Armies has said). 12But you’re treating it as ordinary when you say, “The Lord’s table is defiled, and its fruit, its food, can be disdained”, 13or say, “This is a weariness”, and blow it off (Yahweh Armies has said), or bring something stolen or lame or sick, and bring it as the offering. Should I accept it from your hand (Yahweh has said)? 14Cursed is the cheat when there’s a male in his flock but he pledges and sacrifices to the Lord something devastated. Because I am a great king (Yahweh Armies has said) and my name is held in awe among the nations.

2 So now to you priests, this order. 2If you don’t listen and don’t receive it into your mind to give honour to my name (Yahweh Armies has said), I shall send off a curse among you. I shall curse your blessings. Indeed, I have cursed it, because you don’t receive it into your mind. 3Here am I, I’m going to reprimand your seed. I’m going to spread faeces on your faces, the faeces from your festival sacrifice. Someone will carry you out to it. 4And you will acknowledge that I have sent off this order to you so that my pact with Levi might exist (Yahweh Armies has said). 5My pact with him was life and well-being, and I gave them to him, with awe. He was in awe of me. He was in dread of my name.

6True instruction was in his mouth;

evil wasn’t found on his lips.

In well-being and in uprightness he walked with me,

and he turned many back from waywardness.

7Because a priest’s lips keep watch on knowledge;

people seek instruction from his mouth,

because he’s an envoy of Yahweh Armies.

8But you’ve turned aside from the way. You’ve made many people collapse through your instruction. You’ve devastated Levi’s pact (Yahweh Armies has said). 9I myself in turn am making you shameful and low to the entire people, on account of the fact that you don’t keep watch on my ways but you show regard in the instruction’.

## 2:10 A Broader Neglected Covenant

10We all of us have one father, don’t we. One God created us, didn’t he. Why do we break faith, each with his brother, in treating our ancestors’ pact as ordinary? 11Judah has broken faith. An offence has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem, because Judah has treated as ordinary what is sacred to Yahweh, to which he is loyal, and has married the daughter of a strange god. 12May Yahweh cut off the person who does this (anyone who arises and anyone who responds) from Jacob’s tents, even one who presents an offering to Yahweh Armies!

13And you do this second thing, covering Yahweh’s altar with tears, crying and wailing because he’s no longer regarding the offering or receiving it with acceptance from your hand, 14and you’ve said, ‘On account of what?’ On account of the fact that Yahweh is a witness between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you’ve broken faith, when she was your partner and your covenanted woman. 15Didn’t One make us, and isn’t the remainder of the spirit his? And what is the One seeking? Godly offspring. So you will guard yourself in your spirit. Someone is not to break faith with the wife of your youth.

16You’ve wearied Yahweh with your words. You’ve said, ‘How have we wearied him?’ When you say, ‘Everyone who does something bad is good in Yahweh’s eyes. In them he takes delight’. Or ‘Where is the God who exercises authority?’ 3 ‘Here am I, I’m going to send my envoy, and he’ll clear the way before me’. Suddenly there will come to his palace the Lord for whom you are looking.

## 3:1b A Full and Frank Exchange of Views

1bSo the envoy of the pact whom you want—there, he’s coming (Yahweh Armies has said). 2But who’s going to endure the day of his coming? Who’s going to stand when he appears? Because he’ll be like a smelter’s fire or like launderer’s soap. 3He’ll sit smelting and purifying silver. He’ll purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver, and they’ll be Yahweh’s, people who take up an offering in faithfulness. 4The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will please Yahweh as in the days gone by, in former years.

5So I shall come near to you to exercise authority and be an eager witness against the diviners, the adulterers, the people who swear falsely, the people who defraud the employee of his wages, the widow and orphan, and those who turn aside the resident and who are not in awe of me (Yahweh Armies has said). 6Because I am Yahweh, I haven’t changed, and you’re Jacob’s descendants, you haven’t come to an end. 7Given that from your ancestors’ days you’ve turned aside from my laws and not kept them: come back to me and I’ll come back to you (Yahweh Armies has said).

You’ll say, “How shall we come back?” 8Does a person cheat God? Because you’re cheating me. You’ll say, “How have we cheated you?” In tithe and contribution. 9You’re subjected to a curse, and you’re cheating me—the nation, all of it. 10Bring the entire tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and test me by this, please (Yahweh Armies has said), if I don’t open the heavens’ floodgates and empty out blessing on you until there’s no need. 11 I’ll reprimand the devourer for you, and it won’t destroy the fruit of the ground for you, and the vine in the open country won’t miscarry for you (Yahweh Armies has said). 12All the nations will count you fortunate, because you’ll be a delightful land (Yahweh Armies has said).

## 3:13 A Faithful Sun with Healing in Its Rays

13You’ve made your words strong against me (Yahweh has said). You’ll say, “What have we spoken to ourselves against you?” 14You’ve said, “Serving God is empty in results. What was the gain when we kept his charge and walked in gloom before Yahweh Armies? 15So now we count the arrogant fortunate. The people who act in faithlessness have both been built up and have also tested God and escaped”’.

16Then the people who were in awe of Yahweh talked, each with his neighbour, and Yahweh heeded and listened, and a remembrance scroll was written before him regarding the people who were in awe of Yahweh and who esteemed his name. 17’For me they will be a special possession (Yahweh Armies has said) for the day that I’m preparing. I shall have pity on them as someone has pity on his son who serves him. 18You’ll again see the difference between the faithful and the faithless, between the one who serves God over against the one who has not served him.

4 Because there—the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all the people who act in faithlessness will be stubble, and the day that’s coming will burn them up (Yahweh Armies has said) so that it doesn’t leave them root or branch. 2But there will rise for you who are in awe of my name a faithful sun with healing in its rays. You’ll go out and jump like well-fed bullocks. 3You’ll trample the faithless, because they’ll be ashes under the soles of your feet, on that day that I’m making (Yahweh Armies has said).

4Be mindful of Moses my servant’s instruction, which I ordered him for all Israel at Horeb, laws and rulings. 5There, I’m sending you Eliyyah [Elijah] the prophet before the coming of the great and awe-inspiring day of Yahweh. 6He will turn back the mind of parents to children and the mind of children to parents, so that I don’t come and strike down the country with “devoting”’.