

Isaiah

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth; for the LORD has spoken: I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me. The

5 ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's crib; but Israel does not know, my people do not understand. Ah, sinful nation, people laden with iniquity, offspring who do evil, children who deal corruptly, who have forsaken the LORD, who have despised the Holy One of Israel, who are utterly estranged! Why do you seek further beatings? Why do you continue

10 to rebel? The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but bruises and sores and bleeding wounds; they have not been drained, or bound up, or softened with oil. Your country lies desolate, your cities are burned with fire; in your very presence aliens devour your land; it is desolate, as overthrown

15 by foreigners. And daughter Zion is left like a booth in a vineyard, like a shelter in a cucumber field, like a besieged city. If the LORD of hosts had not left us a few survivors, we would have been like Sodom, and become like Gomorrah. Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! What to me is the

20 multitude of your sacrifices? says the LORD; I have had enough of burnt

offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of
bulls, or of lambs, or of goats. When you come to appear before me, who
asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more; bringing offerings is
futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and sabbath and calling
5 of convocation-- I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity. Your new
moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a
burden to me, I am weary of bearing them. When you stretch out your
hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers,
I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves; make
10 yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease
to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the
orphan, plead for the widow. Come now, let us argue it out, says the
LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though
they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. If you are willing
15 and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel,
you shall be devoured by the sword; for the mouth of the LORD has
spoken. How the faithful city has become a whore! She that was full of
justice, righteousness lodged in her-- but now murderers! Your silver has
become dross, your wine is mixed with water. Your princes are rebels and
20 companions of thieves. Everyone loves a bribe and runs after gifts. They do

not defend the orphan, and the widow's cause does not come before them.

Therefore says the Sovereign, the LORD of hosts, the Mighty One of Israel:

Ah, I will pour out my wrath on my enemies, and avenge myself on my
foes! I will turn my hand against you; I will smelt away your dross as with

5 lye and remove all your alloy. And I will restore your judges as at the first,
and your counselors as at the beginning. Afterward you shall be called the
city of righteousness, the faithful city. Zion shall be redeemed by justice, and
those in her who repent, by righteousness. But rebels and sinners shall be
destroyed together, and those who forsake the LORD shall be consumed. For

10 you shall be ashamed of the oaks in which you delighted; and you shall
blush for the gardens that you have chosen. For you shall be like an oak
whose leaf withers, and like a garden without water. The strong shall become
like tinder, and their work like a spark; they and their work shall burn
together, with no one to quench them. The word that Isaiah son of Amoz

15 saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the
Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall
be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples
shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to
the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we

20 may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the

word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let

5 us walk in the light of the LORD! For you have forsaken the ways of your people, O house of Jacob. Indeed they are full of diviners from the east and of soothsayers like the Philistines, and they clasp hands with foreigners. Their land is filled with silver and gold, and there is no end to their treasures; their land is filled with horses, and there is no end to their chariots. Their

10 land is filled with idols; they bow down to the work of their hands, to what their own fingers have made. And so people are humbled, and everyone is brought low-- do not forgive them! Enter into the rock, and hide in the dust from the terror of the LORD, and from the glory of his majesty. The haughty eyes of people shall be brought low, and the pride of everyone shall

15 be humbled; and the LORD alone will be exalted in that day. For the LORD of hosts has a day against all that is proud and lofty, against all that is lifted up and high; against all the cedars of Lebanon, lofty and lifted up; and against all the oaks of Bashan; against all the high mountains, and against all the lofty hills; against every high tower, and against every fortified wall;

20 against all the ships of Tarshish, and against all the beautiful craft. The

haughtiness of people shall be humbled, and the pride of everyone shall be brought low; and the LORD alone will be exalted on that day. The idols shall utterly pass away. Enter the caves of the rocks and the holes of the ground, from the terror of the LORD, and from the glory of his majesty,

5 when he rises to terrify the earth. On that day people will throw away to the moles and to the bats their idols of silver and their idols of gold, which they made for themselves to worship, to enter the caverns of the rocks and the clefts in the crags, from the terror of the LORD, and from the glory of his majesty, when he rises to terrify the earth. Turn away from mortals, who

10 have only breath in their nostrils, for of what account are they? For now the Sovereign, the LORD of hosts, is taking away from Jerusalem and from Judah support and staff-- all support of bread, and all support of water-- warrior and soldier, judge and prophet, diviner and elder, captain of fifty and dignitary, counselor and skillful magician and expert enchanter. And I will

15 make boys their princes, and babes shall rule over them. The people will be oppressed, everyone by another and everyone by a neighbor; the youth will be insolent to the elder, and the base to the honorable. Someone will even seize a relative, a member of the clan, saying, "You have a cloak; you shall be our leader, and this heap of ruins shall be under your rule." But the other

20 will cry out on that day, saying, "I will not be a healer; in my house there

is neither bread nor cloak; you shall not make me leader of the people." For Jerusalem has stumbled and Judah has fallen, because their speech and their deeds are against the LORD, defying his glorious presence. The look on their faces bears witness against them; they proclaim their sin like Sodom, they do not hide it. Woe to them! For they have brought evil on themselves. Tell the innocent how fortunate they are, for they shall eat the fruit of their labors. Woe to the guilty! How unfortunate they are, for what their hands have done shall be done to them. My people--children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, your leaders mislead you, and confuse the course of your paths. The LORD rises to argue his case; he stands to judge the peoples. The LORD enters into judgment with the elders and princes of his people: It is you who have devoured the vineyard; the spoil of the poor is in your houses. What do you mean by crushing my people, by grinding the face of the poor? says the Lord GOD of hosts. The LORD said: Because the daughters of Zion are haughty and walk with outstretched necks, glancing wantonly with their eyes, mincing along as they go, tinkling with their feet; the Lord will afflict with scabs the heads of the daughters of Zion, and the LORD will lay bare their secret parts. In that day the Lord will take away the finery of the anklets, the headbands, and the crescents; the pendants, the bracelets, and the scarfs; the headdresses, the armlets, the sashes, the perfume

boxes, and the amulets; the signet rings and nose rings; the festal robes, the
mantles, the cloaks, and the handbags; the garments of gauze, the linen
garments, the turbans, and the veils. Instead of perfume there will be a
stench; and instead of a sash, a rope; and instead of well-set hair, baldness;
5 and instead of a rich robe, a binding of sackcloth; instead of beauty, shame.
Your men shall fall by the sword and your warriors in battle. And her gates
shall lament and mourn; ravaged, she shall sit upon the ground. Seven
women shall take hold of one man in that day, saying, "We will eat our
own bread and wear our own clothes; just let us be called by your name;
10 take away our disgrace." On that day the branch of the LORD shall be
beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and glory
of the survivors of Israel. Whoever is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem
will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem,
once the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and
15 cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem from its midst by a spirit of judgment
and by a spirit of burning. Then the LORD will create over the whole site
of Mount Zion and over its places of assembly a cloud by day and smoke
and the shining of a flaming fire by night. Indeed over all the glory there
will be a canopy. It will serve as a pavilion, a shade by day from the heat,
20 and a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain. Let me sing for my

beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with
choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine
vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And
5 now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and
my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not
done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild
grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will
remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and
10 it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or
hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command
the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the LORD of
hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant
planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a
15 cry! Ah, you who join house to house, who add field to field, until there is
room for no one but you, and you are left to live alone in the midst of the
land! The LORD of hosts has sworn in my hearing: Surely many houses
shall be desolate, large and beautiful houses, without inhabitant. For ten acres
of vineyard shall yield but one bath, and a homer of seed shall yield a mere
20 ephah. Ah, you who rise early in the morning in pursuit of strong drink,

who linger in the evening to be inflamed by wine, whose feasts consist of
lyre and harp, tambourine and flute and wine, but who do not regard the
deeds of the LORD, or see the work of his hands! Therefore my people go
into exile without knowledge; their nobles are dying of hunger, and their
5 multitude is parched with thirst. Therefore Sheol has enlarged its appetite and
opened its mouth beyond measure; the nobility of Jerusalem and her
multitude go down, her throng and all who exult in her. People are bowed
down, everyone is brought low, and the eyes of the haughty are humbled.
But the LORD of hosts is exalted by justice, and the Holy God shows
10 himself holy by righteousness. Then the lambs shall graze as in their pasture,
fatlings and kids shall feed among the ruins. Ah, you who drag iniquity
along with cords of falsehood, who drag sin along as with cart ropes, who
say, "Let him make haste, let him speed his work that we may see it; let
the plan of the Holy One of Israel hasten to fulfillment, that we may know
15 it!" Ah, you who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light
and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Ah,
you who are wise in your own eyes, and shrewd in your own sight! Ah,
you who are heroes in drinking wine and valiant at mixing drink, who acquit
the guilty for a bribe, and deprive the innocent of their rights! Therefore, as
20 the tongue of fire devours the stubble, and as dry grass sinks down in the

flame, so their root will become rotten, and their blossom go up like dust;
for they have rejected the instruction of the LORD of hosts, and have
despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. Therefore the anger of the
LORD was kindled against his people, and he stretched out his hand against
5 them and struck them; the mountains quaked, and their corpses were like
refuse in the streets. For all this his anger has not turned away, and his
hand is stretched out still. He will raise a signal for a nation far away, and
whistle for a people at the ends of the earth; Here they come, swiftly,
speedily! None of them is weary, none stumbles, none slumbers or sleeps,
10 not a loincloth is loose, not a sandal-thong broken; their arrows are sharp, all
their bows bent, their horses' hoofs seem like flint, and their wheels like the
whirlwind. Their roaring is like a lion, like young lions they roar; they growl
and seize their prey, they carry it off, and no one can rescue. They will roar
over it on that day, like the roaring of the sea. And if one look to the land-
15 - only darkness and distress; and the light grows dark with clouds. In the
year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and
lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance
above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with
two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to
20 another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is

full of his glory." The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" Then one of the

5 seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" And he said,

10 "Go and say to this people: 'Keep listening, but do not comprehend; keep looking, but do not understand.' Make the mind of this people dull, and stop their ears, and shut their eyes, so that they may not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and comprehend with their minds, and turn and be healed." Then I said, "How long, O Lord?" And he said: "Until cities lie

15 waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is utterly desolate; until the LORD sends everyone far away, and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land. Even if a tenth part remain in it, it will be burned again, like a terebinth or an oak whose stump remains standing when it is felled." The holy seed is its stump. In the days of Ahaz son of Jotham son

20 of Uzziah, king of Judah, King Rezin of Aram and King Pekah son of

Remaliah of Israel went up to attack Jerusalem, but could not mount an attack against it. When the house of David heard that Aram had allied itself with Ephraim, the heart of Ahaz and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind. Then the LORD said to Isaiah, Go
5 out to meet Ahaz, you and your son Shear-jashub, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Fuller's Field, and say to him, Take heed, be quiet, do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint because of these two smoldering stumps of firebrands, because of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and the son of Remaliah. Because Aram--with Ephraim and
10 the son of Remaliah--has plotted evil against you, saying, Let us go up against Judah and cut off Jerusalem and conquer it for ourselves and make the son of Tabeel king in it; therefore thus says the Lord GOD: It shall not stand, and it shall not come to pass. For the head of Aram is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is Rezin. (Within sixty-five years Ephraim will be
15 shattered, no longer a people.) The head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah. If you do not stand firm in faith, you shall not stand at all. Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then
20 Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary

mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child

5 knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted. The LORD will bring on you and on your people and on your ancestral house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah--the king of Assyria." On that day the LORD will whistle for the fly that is at the sources of the

10 streams of Egypt, and for the bee that is in the land of Assyria. And they will all come and settle in the steep ravines, and in the clefts of the rocks, and on all the thornbushes, and on all the pastures. On that day the Lord will shave with a razor hired beyond the River--with the king of Assyria--the head and the hair of the feet, and it will take off the beard as well. On that

15 day one will keep alive a young cow and two sheep, and will eat curds because of the abundance of milk that they give; for everyone that is left in the land shall eat curds and honey. On that day every place where there used to be a thousand vines, worth a thousand shekels of silver, will become briers and thorns. With bow and arrows one will go there, for all the land

20 will be briers and thorns; and as for all the hills that used to be hoed with

a hoe, you will not go there for fear of briers and thorns; but they will become a place where cattle are let loose and where sheep tread. Then the LORD said to me, Take a large tablet and write on it in common characters, "Belonging to Maher-shalal-hash-baz," and have it attested for me by reliable

5 witnesses, the priest Uriah and Zechariah son of Jeberechiah. And I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and bore a son. Then the LORD said to me, Name him Maher-shalal-hash-baz; for before the child knows how to call "My father" or "My mother," the wealth of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria will be carried away by the king of Assyria. The LORD spoke to

10 me again: Because this people has refused the waters of Shiloah that flow gently, and melt in fear before Rezin and the son of Remaliah; therefore, the Lord is bringing up against it the mighty flood waters of the River, the king of Assyria and all his glory; it will rise above all its channels and overflow all its banks; it will sweep on into Judah as a flood, and, pouring over, it

15 will reach up to the neck; and its outspread wings will fill the breadth of your land, O Immanuel. Band together, you peoples, and be dismayed; listen, all you far countries; gird yourselves and be dismayed; gird yourselves and be dismayed! Take counsel together, but it shall be brought to naught; speak a word, but it will not stand, for God is with us. For the LORD spoke thus

20 to me while his hand was strong upon me, and warned me not to walk in

the way of this people, saying: Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what it fears, or be in dread. But the LORD of hosts, him you shall regard as holy; let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. He will become a sanctuary, a stone one strikes against;

5 for both houses of Israel he will become a rock one stumbles over--a trap and a snare for the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And many among them shall stumble; they shall fall and be broken; they shall be snared and taken. Bind up the testimony, seal the teaching among my disciples. I will wait for the LORD, who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob, and I will hope in

10 him. See, I and the children whom the LORD has given me are signs and portents in Israel from the LORD of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion. Now if people say to you, "Consult the ghosts and the familiar spirits that chirp and mutter; should not a people consult their gods, the dead on behalf of the living, for teaching and for instruction?" Surely, those who speak like this

15 will have no dawn! They will pass through the land, greatly distressed and hungry; when they are hungry, they will be enraged and will curse their king and their gods. They will turn their faces upward, or they will look to the earth, but will see only distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish; and they will be thrust into thick darkness. But there will be no gloom for those who

20 were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of

Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make
glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the
nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those
who lived in a land of deep darkness-- on them light has shined. You have
5 multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as
with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke
of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping
warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the
10 fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests
upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and
there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He
will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this
15 time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.
The Lord sent a word against Jacob, and it fell on Israel; and all the people
knew it-- Ephraim and the inhabitants of Samaria-- but in pride and
arrogance of heart they said: "The bricks have fallen, but we will build with
dressed stones; the sycamores have been cut down, but we will put cedars in
20 their place." So the LORD raised adversaries against them, and stirred up

their enemies, the Arameans on the east and the Philistines on the west, and they devoured Israel with open mouth. For all this his anger has not turned away; his hand is stretched out still. The people did not turn to him who struck them, or seek the LORD of hosts. So the LORD cut off from Israel

5 head and tail, palm branch and reed in one day-- elders and dignitaries are the head, and prophets who teach lies are the tail; for those who led this people led them astray, and those who were led by them were left in confusion. That is why the Lord did not have pity on their young people, or compassion on their orphans and widows; for everyone was godless and an

10 evildoer, and every mouth spoke folly. For all this his anger has not turned away, his hand is stretched out still. For wickedness burned like a fire, consuming briars and thorns; it kindled the thickets of the forest, and they swirled upward in a column of smoke. Through the wrath of the LORD of hosts the land was burned, and the people became like fuel for the fire; no

15 one spared another. They gorged on the right, but still were hungry, and they devoured on the left, but were not satisfied; they devoured the flesh of their own kindred; Manasseh devoured Ephraim, and Ephraim Manasseh, and together they were against Judah. For all this his anger has not turned away; his hand is stretched out still. Ah, you who make iniquitous decrees, who

20 write oppressive statutes, to turn aside the needy from justice and to rob the

poor of my people of their right, that widows may be your spoil, and that
you may make the orphans your prey! What will you do on the day of
punishment, in the calamity that will come from far away? To whom will
you flee for help, and where will you leave your wealth, so as not to crouch
5 among the prisoners or fall among the slain? For all this his anger has not
turned away; his hand is stretched out still. Ah, Assyria, the rod of my
anger-- the club in their hands is my fury! Against a godless nation I send
him, and against the people of my wrath I command him, to take spoil and
seize plunder, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets. But this
10 is not what he intends, nor does he have this in mind; but it is in his heart
to destroy, and to cut off nations not a few. For he says: "Are not my
commanders all kings? Is not Calno like Carchemish? Is not Hamath like
Arpad? Is not Samaria like Damascus? As my hand has reached to the
kingdoms of the idols whose images were greater than those of Jerusalem
15 and Samaria, shall I not do to Jerusalem and her idols what I have done to
Samaria and her images?" When the Lord has finished all his work on
Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, he will punish the arrogant boasting of the
king of Assyria and his haughty pride. For he says: "By the strength of my
hand I have done it, and by my wisdom, for I have understanding; I have
20 removed the boundaries of peoples, and have plundered their treasures; like a

bull I have brought down those who sat on thrones. My hand has found, like
a nest, the wealth of the peoples; and as one gathers eggs that have been
forsaken, so I have gathered all the earth; and there was none that moved a
wing, or opened its mouth, or chirped." Shall the ax vaunt itself over the
5 one who wields it, or the saw magnify itself against the one who handles it?
As if a rod should raise the one who lifts it up, or as if a staff should lift
the one who is not wood! Therefore the Sovereign, the LORD of hosts, will
send wasting sickness among his stout warriors, and under his glory a
burning will be kindled, like the burning of fire. The light of Israel will
10 become a fire, and his Holy One a flame; and it will burn and devour his
thorns and briers in one day. The glory of his forest and his fruitful land the
LORD will destroy, both soul and body, and it will be as when an invalid
wastes away. The remnant of the trees of his forest will be so few that a
child can write them down. On that day the remnant of Israel and the
15 survivors of the house of Jacob will no more lean on the one who struck
them, but will lean on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. A
remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the mighty God. For though
your people Israel were like the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them
will return. Destruction is decreed, overflowing with righteousness. For the
20 Lord GOD of hosts will make a full end, as decreed, in all the earth.

Therefore thus says the Lord GOD of hosts: O my people, who live in Zion,
do not be afraid of the Assyrians when they beat you with a rod and lift up
their staff against you as the Egyptians did. For in a very little while my
indignation will come to an end, and my anger will be directed to their
5 destruction. The LORD of hosts will wield a whip against them, as when he
struck Midian at the rock of Oreb; his staff will be over the sea, and he
will lift it as he did in Egypt. On that day his burden will be removed from
your shoulder, and his yoke will be destroyed from your neck. He has gone
up from Rimmon, he has come to Aiath; he has passed through Migron, at
10 Michmash he stores his baggage; they have crossed over the pass, at Geba
they lodge for the night; Ramah trembles, Gibeah of Saul has fled. Cry
aloud, O daughter Gallim! Listen, O Laishah! Answer her, O Anathoth!
Madmenah is in flight, the inhabitants of Gebim flee for safety. This very
day he will halt at Nob, he will shake his fist at the mount of daughter
15 Zion, the hill of Jerusalem. Look, the Sovereign, the LORD of hosts, will
lop the boughs with terrifying power; the tallest trees will be cut down, and
the lofty will be brought low. He will hack down the thickets of the forest
with an ax, and Lebanon with its majestic trees will fall. A shoot shall come
out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The
20 spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and

understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious. On that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that is left of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Ethiopia, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea. He will raise a signal for the nations, and will assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather the

dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. The jealousy of Ephraim shall depart, the hostility of Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not be jealous of Judah, and Judah shall not be hostile towards Ephraim. But they shall swoop down on the backs of the Philistines in the west, together

5 they shall plunder the people of the east. They shall put forth their hand against Edom and Moab, and the Ammonites shall obey them. And the LORD will utterly destroy the tongue of the sea of Egypt; and will wave his hand over the River with his scorching wind; and will split it into seven channels, and make a way to cross on foot; so there shall be a highway

10 from Assyria for the remnant that is left of his people, as there was for Israel when they came up from the land of Egypt. You will say in that day: I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and

15 my might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy,

20 O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. The oracle

concerning Babylon that Isaiah son of Amoz saw. On a bare hill raise a
signal, cry aloud to them; wave the hand for them to enter the gates of the
nobles. I myself have commanded my consecrated ones, have summoned my
warriors, my proudly exulting ones, to execute my anger. Listen, a tumult on
5 the mountains as of a great multitude! Listen, an uproar of kingdoms, of
nations gathering together! The LORD of hosts is mustering an army for
battle. They come from a distant land, from the end of the heavens, the
LORD and the weapons of his indignation, to destroy the whole earth. Wail,
for the day of the LORD is near; it will come like destruction from the
10 Almighty! Therefore all hands will be feeble, and every human heart will
melt, and they will be dismayed. Pangs and agony will seize them; they will
be in anguish like a woman in labor. They will look aghast at one another;
their faces will be aflame. See, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with
wrath and fierce anger, to make the earth a desolation, and to destroy its
15 sinners from it. For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not
give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not
shed its light. I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their
iniquity; I will put an end to the pride of the arrogant, and lay low the
insolence of tyrants. I will make mortals more rare than fine gold, and
20 humans than the gold of Ophir. Therefore I will make the heavens tremble,

and the earth will be shaken out of its place, at the wrath of the LORD of
hosts in the day of his fierce anger. Like a hunted gazelle, or like sheep
with no one to gather them, all will turn to their own people, and all will
flee to their own lands. Whoever is found will be thrust through, and
5 whoever is caught will fall by the sword. Their infants will be dashed to
pieces before their eyes; their houses will be plundered, and their wives
ravished. See, I am stirring up the Medes against them, who have no regard
for silver and do not delight in gold. Their bows will slaughter the young
men; they will have no mercy on the fruit of the womb; their eyes will not
10 pity children. And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the splendor and pride of
the Chaldeans, will be like Sodom and Gomorrah when God overthrew them.
It will never be inhabited or lived in for all generations; Arabs will not pitch
their tents there, shepherds will not make their flocks lie down there. But
wild animals will lie down there, and its houses will be full of howling
15 creatures; there ostriches will live, and there goat-demons will dance. Hyenas
will cry in its towers, and jackals in the pleasant palaces; its time is close at
hand, and its days will not be prolonged. But the LORD will have
compassion on Jacob and will again choose Israel, and will set them in their
own land; and aliens will join them and attach themselves to the house of
20 Jacob. And the nations will take them and bring them to their place, and the

house of Israel will possess the nations as male and female slaves in the Lord's land; they will take captive those who were their captors, and rule over those who oppressed them. When the LORD has given you rest from your pain and turmoil and the hard service with which you were made to

5 serve, you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon: How the oppressor has ceased! How his insolence has ceased! The LORD has broken the staff of the wicked, the scepter of rulers, that struck down the peoples in wrath with unceasing blows, that ruled the nations in anger with unrelenting persecution. The whole earth is at rest and quiet; they break forth into

10 singing. The cypresses exult over you, the cedars of Lebanon, saying, "Since you were laid low, no one comes to cut us down." Sheol beneath is stirred up to meet you when you come; it rouses the shades to greet you, all who were leaders of the earth; it raises from their thrones all who were kings of the nations. All of them will speak and say to you: "You too have become

15 as weak as we! You have become like us!" Your pomp is brought down to Sheol, and the sound of your harps; maggots are the bed beneath you, and worms are your covering. How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations

20 throne above the stars of God; I will sit on the mount of assembly on the

heights of Zaphon; I will ascend to the tops of the clouds, I will make
 myself like the Most High." But you are brought down to Sheol, to the
 depths of the Pit. Those who see you will stare at you, and ponder over
 you: "Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms,
 5 who made the world like a desert and overthrew its cities, who would not
 let his prisoners go home?" All the kings of the nations lie in glory, each in
 his own tomb; but you are cast out, away from your grave, like loathsome
 carrion, clothed with the dead, those pierced by the sword, who go down to
 the stones of the Pit, like a corpse trampled underfoot. You will not be
 10 joined with them in burial, because you have destroyed your land, you have
 killed your people. May the descendants of evildoers nevermore be named!
 Prepare slaughter for his sons because of the guilt of their father. Let them
 never rise to possess the earth or cover the face of the world with cities. I
 will rise up against them, says the LORD of hosts, and will cut off from
 15 Babylon name and remnant, offspring and posterity, says the LORD. And I
 will make it a possession of the hedgehog, and pools of water, and I will
 sweep it with the broom of destruction, says the LORD of hosts. The LORD
 of hosts has sworn: As I have designed, so shall it be; and as I have
 planned, so shall it come to pass: I will break the Assyrian in my land, and
 20 on my mountains trample him under foot; his yoke shall be removed from

them, and his burden from their shoulders. This is the plan that is planned concerning the whole earth; and this is the hand that is stretched out over all the nations. For the LORD of hosts has planned, and who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, and who will turn it back? In the year that King Ahaz

5 died this oracle came: Do not rejoice, all you Philistines, that the rod that struck you is broken, for from the root of the snake will come forth an adder, and its fruit will be a flying fiery serpent. The firstborn of the poor will graze, and the needy lie down in safety; but I will make your root die of famine, and your remnant I will kill. Wail, O gate; cry, O city; melt in

10 fear, O Philistia, all of you! For smoke comes out of the north, and there is no straggler in its ranks. What will one answer the messengers of the nation?

"The LORD has founded Zion, and the needy among his people will find refuge in her." An oracle concerning Moab. Because Ar is laid waste in a night, Moab is undone; because Kir is laid waste in a night, Moab is

15 undone. Dibon has gone up to the temple, to the high places to weep; over Nebo and over Medeba Moab wails. On every head is baldness, every beard is shorn; in the streets they bind on sackcloth; on the housetops and in the squares everyone wails and melts in tears. Heshbon and Elealeh cry out, their voices are heard as far as Jahaz; therefore the loins of Moab quiver; his soul

20 trembles. My heart cries out for Moab; his fugitives flee to Zoar, to Eglath-

shelishiyah. For at the ascent of Luhith they go up weeping; on the road to
Horonaim they raise a cry of destruction; the waters of Nimrim are a
desolation; the grass is withered, the new growth fails, the verdure is no
more. Therefore the abundance they have gained and what they have laid up
5 they carry away over the Wadi of the Willows. For a cry has gone around
the land of Moab; the wailing reaches to Eglaim, the wailing reaches to
Beer-elim. For the waters of Dibon are full of blood; yet I will bring upon
Dibon even more-- a lion for those of Moab who escape, for the remnant of
the land. Send lambs to the ruler of the land, from Sela, by way of the
10 desert, to the mount of daughter Zion. Like fluttering birds, like scattered
nestlings, so are the daughters of Moab at the fords of the Arnon. "Give
counsel, grant justice; make your shade like night at the height of noon; hide
the outcasts, do not betray the fugitive; let the outcasts of Moab settle among
you; be a refuge to them from the destroyer." When the oppressor is no
15 more, and destruction has ceased, and marauders have vanished from the
land, then a throne shall be established in steadfast love in the tent of David,
and on it shall sit in faithfulness a ruler who seeks justice and is swift to do
what is right. We have heard of the pride of Moab--how proud he is!-- of
his arrogance, his pride, and his insolence; his boasts are false. Therefore let
20 Moab wail, let everyone wail for Moab. Mourn, utterly stricken, for the

raisin-cakes of Kir-hareseth. For the fields of Heshbon languish, and the vines
of Sibmah, whose clusters once made drunk the lords of the nations, reached
to Jazer and strayed to the desert; their shoots once spread abroad and
crossed over the sea. Therefore I weep with the weeping of Jazer for the
5 vines of Sibmah; I drench you with my tears, O Heshbon and Elealeh; for
the shout over your fruit harvest and your grain harvest has ceased. Joy and
gladness are taken away from the fruitful field; and in the vineyards no
songs are sung, no shouts are raised; no treader treads out wine in the
presses; the vintage-shout is hushed. Therefore my heart throbs like a harp
10 for Moab, and my very soul for Kir-heres. When Moab presents himself,
when he wearies himself upon the high place, when he comes to his
sanctuary to pray, he will not prevail. This was the word that the LORD
spoke concerning Moab in the past. But now the LORD says, In three years,
like the years of a hired worker, the glory of Moab will be brought into
15 contempt, in spite of all its great multitude; and those who survive will be
very few and feeble. An oracle concerning Damascus. See, Damascus will
cease to be a city, and will become a heap of ruins. Her towns will be
deserted forever; they will be places for flocks, which will lie down, and no
one will make them afraid. The fortress will disappear from Ephraim, and the
20 kingdom from Damascus; and the remnant of Aram will be like the glory of

the children of Israel, says the LORD of hosts. On that day the glory of Jacob will be brought low, and the fat of his flesh will grow lean. And it shall be as when reapers gather standing grain and their arms harvest the ears, and as when one gleans the ears of grain in the Valley of Rephaim.

5 Gleanings will be left in it, as when an olive tree is beaten-- two or three berries in the top of the highest bough, four or five on the branches of a fruit tree, says the LORD God of Israel. On that day people will regard their Maker, and their eyes will look to the Holy One of Israel; they will not have regard for the altars, the work of their hands, and they will not look to

10 what their own fingers have made, either the sacred poles or the altars of incense. On that day their strong cities will be like the deserted places of the Hivites and the Amorites, which they deserted because of the children of Israel, and there will be desolation. For you have forgotten the God of your salvation, and have not remembered the Rock of your refuge; therefore,

15 though you plant pleasant plants and set out slips of an alien god, though you make them grow on the day that you plant them, and make them blossom in the morning that you sow; yet the harvest will flee away in a day of grief and incurable pain. Ah, the thunder of many peoples, they thunder like the thundering of the sea! Ah, the roar of nations, they roar like

20 the roaring of mighty waters! The nations roar like the roaring of many

waters, but he will rebuke them, and they will flee far away, chased like
chaff on the mountains before the wind and whirling dust before the storm.
At evening time, lo, terror! Before morning, they are no more. This is the
fate of those who despoil us, and the lot of those who plunder us. Ah, land
5 of whirring wings beyond the rivers of Ethiopia, sending ambassadors by the
Nile in vessels of papyrus on the waters! Go, you swift messengers, to a
nation tall and smooth, to a people feared near and far, a nation mighty and
conquering, whose land the rivers divide. All you inhabitants of the world,
you who live on the earth, when a signal is raised on the mountains, look!
10 When a trumpet is blown, listen! For thus the LORD said to me: I will
quietly look from my dwelling like clear heat in sunshine, like a cloud of
dew in the heat of harvest. For before the harvest, when the blossom is over
and the flower becomes a ripening grape, he will cut off the shoots with
pruning hooks, and the spreading branches he will hew away. They shall all
15 be left to the birds of prey of the mountains and to the animals of the earth.
And the birds of prey will summer on them, and all the animals of the earth
will winter on them. At that time gifts will be brought to the LORD of
hosts from a people tall and smooth, from a people feared near and far, a
nation mighty and conquering, whose land the rivers divide, to Mount Zion,
20 the place of the name of the LORD of hosts. An oracle concerning Egypt.

See, the LORD is riding on a swift cloud and comes to Egypt; the idols of Egypt will tremble at his presence, and the heart of the Egyptians will melt within them. I will stir up Egyptians against Egyptians, and they will fight, one against the other, neighbor against neighbor, city against city, kingdom
5 against kingdom; the spirit of the Egyptians within them will be emptied out, and I will confound their plans; they will consult the idols and the spirits of the dead and the ghosts and the familiar spirits; I will deliver the Egyptians into the hand of a hard master; a fierce king will rule over them, says the Sovereign, the LORD of hosts. The waters of the Nile will be dried up, and
10 the river will be parched and dry; its canals will become foul, and the branches of Egypt's Nile will diminish and dry up, reeds and rushes will rot away. There will be bare places by the Nile, on the brink of the Nile; and all that is sown by the Nile will dry up, be driven away, and be no more. Those who fish will mourn; all who cast hooks in the Nile will lament, and
15 those who spread nets on the water will languish. The workers in flax will be in despair, and the carders and those at the loom will grow pale. Its weavers will be dismayed, and all who work for wages will be grieved. The princes of Zoan are utterly foolish; the wise counselors of Pharaoh give
20 descendant of ancient kings"? Where now are your sages? Let them tell you

and make known what the LORD of hosts has planned against Egypt. The
princes of Zoan have become fools, and the princes of Memphis are deluded;
those who are the cornerstones of its tribes have led Egypt astray. The
LORD has poured into them a spirit of confusion; and they have made
5 Egypt stagger in all its doings as a drunkard staggers around in vomit.
Neither head nor tail, palm branch or reed, will be able to do anything for
Egypt. On that day the Egyptians will be like women, and tremble with fear
before the hand that the LORD of hosts raises against them. And the land of
Judah will become a terror to the Egyptians; everyone to whom it is
10 mentioned will fear because of the plan that the LORD of hosts is planning
against them. On that day there will be five cities in the land of Egypt that
speak the language of Canaan and swear allegiance to the LORD of hosts.
One of these will be called the City of the Sun. On that day there will be
an altar to the LORD in the center of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the
15 LORD at its border. It will be a sign and a witness to the LORD of hosts
in the land of Egypt; when they cry to the LORD because of oppressors, he
will send them a savior, and will defend and deliver them. The LORD will
make himself known to the Egyptians; and the Egyptians will know the
LORD on that day, and will worship with sacrifice and burnt offering, and
20 they will make vows to the LORD and perform them. The LORD will strike

Egypt, striking and healing; they will return to the LORD, and he will listen to their supplications and heal them. On that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian will come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians. On

5 that day Israel will be the third with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, whom the LORD of hosts has blessed, saying, "Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my heritage." In the year that the commander-in-chief, who was sent by King Sargon of Assyria, came to Ashdod and fought against it and took it-- at

10 that time the LORD had spoken to Isaiah son of Amoz, saying, "Go, and loose the sackcloth from your loins and take your sandals off your feet," and he had done so, walking naked and barefoot. Then the LORD said, "Just as my servant Isaiah has walked naked and barefoot for three years as a sign and a portent against Egypt and Ethiopia, so shall the king of Assyria lead

15 away the Egyptians as captives and the Ethiopians as exiles, both the young and the old, naked and barefoot, with buttocks uncovered, to the shame of Egypt. And they shall be dismayed and confounded because of Ethiopia their hope and of Egypt their boast. In that day the inhabitants of this coastland will say, 'See, this is what has happened to those in whom we hoped and to

20 whom we fled for help and deliverance from the king of Assyria! And we,

how shall we escape?" The oracle concerning the wilderness of the sea. As
 whirlwinds in the Negeb sweep on, it comes from the desert, from a terrible
 land. A stern vision is told to me; the betrayer betrays, and the destroyer
 destroys. Go up, O Elam, lay siege, O Media; all the sighing she has caused
 5 I bring to an end. Therefore my loins are filled with anguish; pangs have
 seized me, like the pangs of a woman in labor; I am bowed down so that I
 cannot hear, I am dismayed so that I cannot see. My mind reels, horror has
 appalled me; the twilight I longed for has been turned for me into trembling.
 They prepare the table, they spread the rugs, they eat, they drink. Rise up,
 10 commanders, oil the shield! For thus the Lord said to me: "Go, post a
 lookout, let him announce what he sees. When he sees riders, horsemen in
 pairs, riders on donkeys, riders on camels, let him listen diligently, very
 diligently." Then the watcher called out: "Upon a watchtower I stand, O
 Lord, continually by day, and at my post I am stationed throughout the
 15 night. Look, there they come, riders, horsemen in pairs!" Then he responded,
 "Fallen, fallen is Babylon; and all the images of her gods lie shattered on
 the ground." O my threshed and winnowed one, what I have heard from the
 LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, I announce to you. The oracle concerning
 Dumah. One is calling to me from Seir, "Sentinel, what of the night?
 20 Sentinel, what of the night?" The sentinel says: "Morning comes, and also

the night. If you will inquire, inquire; come back again." The oracle concerning the desert plain. In the scrub of the desert plain you will lodge, O caravans of Dedanites. Bring water to the thirsty, meet the fugitive with bread, O inhabitants of the land of Tema. For they have fled from the

5 swords, from the drawn sword, from the bent bow, and from the stress of battle. For thus the Lord said to me: Within a year, according to the years of a hired worker, all the glory of Kedar will come to an end; and the remaining bows of Kedar's warriors will be few; for the LORD, the God of Israel, has spoken. The oracle concerning the valley of vision. What do you

10 mean that you have gone up, all of you, to the housetops, you that are full of shoutings, tumultuous city, exultant town? Your slain are not slain by the sword, nor are they dead in battle. Your rulers have all fled together; they were captured without the use of a bow. All of you who were found were captured, though they had fled far away. Therefore I said: Look away from

15 me, let me weep bitter tears; do not try to comfort me for the destruction of my beloved people. For the Lord GOD of hosts has a day of tumult and trampling and confusion in the valley of vision, a battering down of walls and a cry for help to the mountains. Elam bore the quiver with chariots and cavalry, and Kir uncovered the shield. Your choicest valleys were full of

20 chariots, and the cavalry took their stand at the gates. He has taken away the

covering of Judah. On that day you looked to the weapons of the House of the Forest, and you saw that there were many breaches in the city of David, and you collected the waters of the lower pool. You counted the houses of Jerusalem, and you broke down the houses to fortify the wall. You made a

5 reservoir between the two walls for the water of the old pool. But you did not look to him who did it, or have regard for him who planned it long ago. In that day the Lord GOD of hosts called to weeping and mourning, to baldness and putting on sackcloth; but instead there was joy and festivity, killing oxen and slaughtering sheep, eating meat and drinking wine. "Let us

10 eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." The LORD of hosts has revealed himself in my ears: Surely this iniquity will not be forgiven you until you die, says the Lord GOD of hosts. Thus says the Lord GOD of hosts: Come, go to this steward, to Shebna, who is master of the household, and say to him: What right do you have here? Who are your relatives here, that you

15 have cut out a tomb here for yourself, cutting a tomb on the height, and carving a habitation for yourself in the rock? The LORD is about to hurl you away violently, my fellow. He will seize firm hold on you, whirl you round and round, and throw you like a ball into a wide land; there you shall die, and there your splendid chariots shall lie, O you disgrace to your

20 master's house! I will thrust you from your office, and you will be pulled

down from your post. On that day I will call my servant Eliakim son of
Hilkiah, and will clothe him with your robe and bind your sash on him. I
will commit your authority to his hand, and he shall be a father to the
inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. I will place on his
5 shoulder the key of the house of David; he shall open, and no one shall
shut; he shall shut, and no one shall open. I will fasten him like a peg in a
secure place, and he will become a throne of honor to his ancestral house.
And they will hang on him the whole weight of his ancestral house, the
offspring and issue, every small vessel, from the cups to all the flagons. On
10 that day, says the LORD of hosts, the peg that was fastened in a secure
place will give way; it will be cut down and fall, and the load that was on
it will perish, for the LORD has spoken. The oracle concerning Tyre. Wail,
O ships of Tarshish, for your fortress is destroyed. When they came in from
Cyprus they learned of it. Be still, O inhabitants of the coast, O merchants
15 of Sidon, your messengers crossed over the sea and were on the mighty
waters; your revenue was the grain of Shihor, the harvest of the Nile; you
were the merchant of the nations. Be ashamed, O Sidon, for the sea has
spoken, the fortress of the sea, saying: "I have neither labored nor given
birth, I have neither reared young men nor brought up young women." When
20 the report comes to Egypt, they will be in anguish over the report about

Tyre. Cross over to Tarshish-- wail, O inhabitants of the coast! Is this your exultant city whose origin is from days of old, whose feet carried her to settle far away? Who has planned this against Tyre, the bestower of crowns, whose merchants were princes, whose traders were the honored of the earth?

5 The LORD of hosts has planned it-- to defile the pride of all glory, to shame all the honored of the earth. Cross over to your own land, O ships of Tarshish; this is a harbor no more. He has stretched out his hand over the sea, he has shaken the kingdoms; the LORD has given command concerning Canaan to destroy its fortresses. He said: You will exult no longer, O

10 oppressed virgin daughter Sidon; rise, cross over to Cyprus-- even there you will have no rest. Look at the land of the Chaldeans! This is the people; it was not Assyria. They destined Tyre for wild animals. They erected their siege towers, they tore down her palaces, they made her a ruin. Wail, O ships of Tarshish, for your fortress is destroyed. From that day Tyre will be

15 forgotten for seventy years, the lifetime of one king. At the end of seventy years, it will happen to Tyre as in the song about the prostitute: Take a harp, go about the city, you forgotten prostitute! Make sweet melody, sing many songs, that you may be remembered. At the end of seventy years, the LORD will visit Tyre, and she will return to her trade, and will prostitute

20 herself with all the kingdoms of the world on the face of the earth. Her

merchandise and her wages will be dedicated to the LORD; her profits will not be stored or hoarded, but her merchandise will supply abundant food and fine clothing for those who live in the presence of the LORD. Now the LORD is about to lay waste the earth and make it desolate, and he will

5 twist its surface and scatter its inhabitants. And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; as with the slave, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the creditor, so with the debtor. The earth shall be utterly laid waste and utterly despoiled; for the LORD has

10 spoken this word. The earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers; the heavens languish together with the earth. The earth lies polluted under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore a curse devours the earth, and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt; therefore the inhabitants of the earth

15 dwindled, and few people are left. The wine dries up, the vine languishes, all the merry-hearted sigh. The mirth of the timbrels is stilled, the noise of the jubilant has ceased, the mirth of the lyre is stilled. No longer do they drink wine with singing; strong drink is bitter to those who drink it. The city of chaos is broken down, every house is shut up so that no one can enter.

20 There is an outcry in the streets for lack of wine; all joy has reached its

eventide; the gladness of the earth is banished. Desolation is left in the city,
the gates are battered into ruins. For thus it shall be on the earth and among
the nations, as when an olive tree is beaten, as at the gleaning when the
grape harvest is ended. They lift up their voices, they sing for joy; they
5 shout from the west over the majesty of the LORD. Therefore in the east
give glory to the LORD; in the coastlands of the sea glorify the name of the
LORD, the God of Israel. From the ends of the earth we hear songs of
praise, of glory to the Righteous One. But I say, I pine away, I pine away.
Woe is me! For the treacherous deal treacherously, the treacherous deal very
10 treacherously. Terror, and the pit, and the snare are upon you, O inhabitant
of the earth! Whoever flees at the sound of the terror shall fall into the pit;
and whoever climbs out of the pit shall be caught in the snare. For the
windows of heaven are opened, and the foundations of the earth tremble. The
earth is utterly broken, the earth is torn asunder, the earth is violently
15 shaken. The earth staggers like a drunkard, it sways like a hut; its
transgression lies heavy upon it, and it falls, and will not rise again. On that
day the LORD will punish the host of heaven in heaven, and on earth the
kings of the earth. They will be gathered together like prisoners in a pit;
they will be shut up in a prison, and after many days they will be punished.
20 Then the moon will be abashed, and the sun ashamed; for the LORD of

hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and before his elders he
 will manifest his glory. O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will
 praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old,
 faithful and sure. For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a
 5 ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt.
 Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear
 you. For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their
 distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the
 blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, the noise of aliens like heat
 10 in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of
 the ruthless was stilled. On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for
 all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food
 filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on
 this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread
 15 over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will
 wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will
 take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on
 that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might
 save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and
 20 rejoice in his salvation. For the hand of the LORD will rest on this

mountain. The Moabites shall be trodden down in their place as straw is
trodden down in a dung-pit. Though they spread out their hands in the midst
of it, as swimmers spread out their hands to swim, their pride will be laid
low despite the struggle of their hands. The high fortifications of his walls
5 will be brought down, laid low, cast to the ground, even to the dust. On that
day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: We have a strong city; he
sets up victory like walls and bulwarks. Open the gates, so that the righteous
nation that keeps faith may enter in. Those of steadfast mind you keep in
peace-- in peace because they trust in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for
10 in the LORD GOD you have an everlasting rock. For he has brought low
the inhabitants of the height; the lofty city he lays low. He lays it low to
the ground, casts it to the dust. The foot tramples it, the feet of the poor,
the steps of the needy. The way of the righteous is level; O Just One, you
make smooth the path of the righteous. In the path of your judgments, O
15 LORD, we wait for you; your name and your renown are the soul's desire.
My soul yearns for you in the night, my spirit within me earnestly seeks
you. For when your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world
learn righteousness. If favor is shown to the wicked, they do not learn
righteousness; in the land of uprightness they deal perversely and do not see
20 the majesty of the LORD. O LORD, your hand is lifted up, but they do not

see it. Let them see your zeal for your people, and be ashamed. Let the fire
for your adversaries consume them. O LORD, you will ordain peace for us,
for indeed, all that we have done, you have done for us. O LORD our God,
other lords besides you have ruled over us, but we acknowledge your name
5 alone. The dead do not live; shades do not rise-- because you have punished
and destroyed them, and wiped out all memory of them. But you have
increased the nation, O LORD, you have increased the nation; you are
glorified; you have enlarged all the borders of the land. O LORD, in distress
they sought you, they poured out a prayer when your chastening was on
10 them. Like a woman with child, who writhes and cries out in her pangs
when she is near her time, so were we because of you, O LORD; we were
with child, we writhed, but we gave birth only to wind. We have won no
victories on earth, and no one is born to inhabit the world. Your dead shall
live, their corpses shall rise. O dwellers in the dust, awake and sing for joy!
15 For your dew is a radiant dew, and the earth will give birth to those long
dead. Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind
you; hide yourselves for a little while until the wrath is past. For the LORD
comes out from his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their
iniquity; the earth will disclose the blood shed on it, and will no longer
20 cover its slain. On that day the LORD with his cruel and great and strong

sword will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan the twisting serpent, and he will kill the dragon that is in the sea. On that day: A pleasant vineyard, sing about it! I, the LORD, am its keeper; every moment I water it. I guard it night and day so that no one can harm it; I have no

5 wrath. If it gives me thorns and briers, I will march to battle against it. I will burn it up. Or else let it cling to me for protection, let it make peace with me, let it make peace with me. In days to come Jacob shall take root, Israel shall blossom and put forth shoots, and fill the whole world with fruit. Has he struck them down as he struck down those who struck them? Or

10 have they been killed as their killers were killed? By expulsion, by exile you struggled against them; with his fierce blast he removed them in the day of the east wind. Therefore by this the guilt of Jacob will be expiated, and this will be the full fruit of the removal of his sin: when he makes all the stones of the altars like chalkstones crushed to pieces, no sacred poles or incense

15 altars will remain standing. For the fortified city is solitary, a habitation deserted and forsaken, like the wilderness; the calves graze there, there they lie down, and strip its branches. When its boughs are dry, they are broken; women come and make a fire of them. For this is a people without understanding; therefore he that made them will not have compassion on

20 them, he that formed them will show them no favor. On that day the LORD

will thresh from the channel of the Euphrates to the Wadi of Egypt, and you
will be gathered one by one, O people of Israel. And on that day a great
trumpet will be blown, and those who were lost in the land of Assyria and
those who were driven out to the land of Egypt will come and worship the
5 LORD on the holy mountain at Jerusalem. Ah, the proud garland of the
drunkards of Ephraim, and the fading flower of its glorious beauty, which is
on the head of those bloated with rich food, of those overcome with wine!
See, the Lord has one who is mighty and strong; like a storm of hail, a
destroying tempest, like a storm of mighty, overflowing waters; with his hand
10 he will hurl them down to the earth. Trampled under foot will be the proud
garland of the drunkards of Ephraim. And the fading flower of its glorious
beauty, which is on the head of those bloated with rich food, will be like a
first-ripe fig before the summer; whoever sees it, eats it up as soon as it
comes to hand. In that day the LORD of hosts will be a garland of glory,
15 and a diadem of beauty, to the remnant of his people; and a spirit of justice
to the one who sits in judgment, and strength to those who turn back the
battle at the gate. These also reel with wine and stagger with strong drink;
the priest and the prophet reel with strong drink, they are confused with
wine, they stagger with strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in
20 giving judgment. All tables are covered with filthy vomit; no place is clean.

"Whom will he teach knowledge, and to whom will he explain the message?
Those who are weaned from milk, those taken from the breast? For it is
precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line,
here a little, there a little." Truly, with stammering lip and with alien tongue
5 he will speak to this people, to whom he has said, "This is rest; give rest to
the weary; and this is repose"; yet they would not hear. Therefore the word
of the LORD will be to them, "Precept upon precept, precept upon precept,
line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little;" in order that they
may go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken. Therefore
10 hear the word of the LORD, you scoffers who rule this people in Jerusalem.
Because you have said, "We have made a covenant with death, and with
Sheol we have an agreement; when the overwhelming scourge passes through
it will not come to us; for we have made lies our refuge, and in falsehood
we have taken shelter"; therefore thus says the Lord GOD, See, I am laying
15 in Zion a foundation stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure
foundation: "One who trusts will not panic." And I will make justice the
line, and righteousness the plummet; hail will sweep away the refuge of lies,
and waters will overwhelm the shelter. Then your covenant with death will
be annulled, and your agreement with Sheol will not stand; when the
20 overwhelming scourge passes through you will be beaten down by it. As

often as it passes through, it will take you; for morning by morning it will pass through, by day and by night; and it will be sheer terror to understand the message. For the bed is too short to stretch oneself on it, and the covering too narrow to wrap oneself in it. For the LORD will rise up as on

5 Mount Perazim, he will rage as in the valley of Gibeon; to do his deed-- strange is his deed! and to work his work--alien is his work! Now therefore do not scoff, or your bonds will be made stronger; for I have heard a decree of destruction from the Lord GOD of hosts upon the whole land. Listen, and hear my voice; Pay attention, and hear my speech. Do those who plow for

10 sowing plow continually? Do they continually open and harrow their ground? When they have leveled its surface, do they not scatter dill, sow cummin, and plant wheat in rows and barley in its proper place, and spelt as the border? For they are well instructed; their God teaches them. Dill is not threshed with a threshing sledge, nor is a cart wheel rolled over cummin; but

15 dill is beaten out with a stick, and cummin with a rod. Grain is crushed for bread, but one does not thresh it forever; one drives the cart wheel and horses over it, but does not pulverize it. This also comes from the LORD of hosts; he is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in wisdom. Ah, Ariel, Ariel, the city where David encamped! Add year to year; let the festivals run their

20 round. Yet I will distress Ariel, and there shall be moaning and lamentation,

and Jerusalem shall be to me like an Ariel. And like David I will encamp
against you; I will besiege you with towers and raise siegeworks against you.
Then deep from the earth you shall speak, from low in the dust your words
shall come; your voice shall come from the ground like the voice of a ghost,
5 and your speech shall whisper out of the dust. But the multitude of your
foes shall be like small dust, and the multitude of tyrants like flying chaff.
And in an instant, suddenly, you will be visited by the LORD of hosts with
thunder and earthquake and great noise, with whirlwind and tempest, and the
flame of a devouring fire. And the multitude of all the nations that fight
10 against Ariel, all that fight against her and her stronghold, and who distress
her, shall be like a dream, a vision of the night. Just as when a hungry
person dreams of eating and wakes up still hungry, or a thirsty person
dreams of drinking and wakes up faint, still thirsty, so shall the multitude of
all the nations be that fight against Mount Zion. Stupefy yourselves and be
15 in a stupor, blind yourselves and be blind! Be drunk, but not from wine;
stagger, but not from strong drink! For the LORD has poured out upon you
a spirit of deep sleep; he has closed your eyes, you prophets, and covered
your heads, you seers. The vision of all this has become for you like the
words of a sealed document. If it is given to those who can read, with the
20 command, "Read this," they say, "We cannot, for it is sealed." And if it is

given to those who cannot read, saying, "Read this," they say, "We cannot read." The Lord said: Because these people draw near with their mouths and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their worship of me is a human commandment learned by rote; so I will again do

5 amazing things with this people, shocking and amazing. The wisdom of their wise shall perish, and the discernment of the discerning shall be hidden. Ha! You who hide a plan too deep for the LORD, whose deeds are in the dark, and who say, "Who sees us? Who knows us?" You turn things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the clay? Shall the thing made say of its

10 maker, "He did not make me"; or the thing formed say of the one who formed it, "He has no understanding"? Shall not Lebanon in a very little while become a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be regarded as a forest? On that day the deaf shall hear the words of a scroll, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see. The meek shall obtain

15 fresh joy in the LORD, and the neediest people shall exult in the Holy One of Israel. For the tyrant shall be no more, and the scoffer shall cease to be; all those alert to do evil shall be cut off-- those who cause a person to lose a lawsuit, who set a trap for the arbiter in the gate, and without grounds deny justice to the one in the right. Therefore thus says the LORD, who

20 redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob: No longer shall Jacob be

ashamed, no longer shall his face grow pale. For when he sees his children,
the work of my hands, in his midst, they will sanctify my name; they will
sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and will stand in awe of the God of Israel.
And those who err in spirit will come to understanding, and those who
5 grumble will accept instruction. Oh, rebellious children, says the LORD, who
carry out a plan, but not mine; who make an alliance, but against my will,
adding sin to sin; who set out to go down to Egypt without asking for my
counsel, to take refuge in the protection of Pharaoh, and to seek shelter in
the shadow of Egypt; Therefore the protection of Pharaoh shall become your
10 shame, and the shelter in the shadow of Egypt your humiliation. For though
his officials are at Zoan and his envoys reach Hanes, everyone comes to
shame through a people that cannot profit them, that brings neither help nor
profit, but shame and disgrace. An oracle concerning the animals of the
Negeb. Through a land of trouble and distress, of lioness and roaring lion, of
15 viper and flying serpent, they carry their riches on the backs of donkeys, and
their treasures on the humps of camels, to a people that cannot profit them.
For Egypt's help is worthless and empty, therefore I have called her, "Rahab
who sits still." Go now, write it before them on a tablet, and inscribe it in a
book, so that it may be for the time to come as a witness forever. For they
20 are a rebellious people, faithless children, children who will not hear the

instruction of the LORD; who say to the seers, "Do not see"; and to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us what is right; speak to us smooth things, prophesy illusions, leave the way, turn aside from the path, let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel." Therefore thus says the Holy One of

5 Israel: Because you reject this word, and put your trust in oppression and deceit, and rely on them; therefore this iniquity shall become for you like a break in a high wall, bulging out, and about to collapse, whose crash comes suddenly, in an instant; its breaking is like that of a potter's vessel that is smashed so ruthlessly that among its fragments not a sherd is found for

10 taking fire from the hearth, or dipping water out of the cistern. For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength. But you refused and said, "No! We will flee upon horses"-- therefore you shall flee! and, "We will ride upon swift steeds"-- therefore your pursuers shall be swift! A

15 thousand shall flee at the threat of one, at the threat of five you shall flee, until you are left like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain, like a signal on a hill. Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show mercy to you. For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him. Truly, O people in Zion, inhabitants of

20 Jerusalem, you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the

sound of your cry; when he hears it, he will answer you. Though the Lord
may give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your
Teacher will not hide himself any more, but your eyes shall see your
Teacher. And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your
5 ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."
Then you will defile your silver-covered idols and your gold-plated images.
You will scatter them like filthy rags; you will say to them, "Away with
you!" He will give rain for the seed with which you sow the ground, and
grain, the produce of the ground, which will be rich and plenteous. On that
10 day your cattle will graze in broad pastures; and the oxen and donkeys that
till the ground will eat silage, which has been winnowed with shovel and
fork. On every lofty mountain and every high hill there will be brooks
running with water--on a day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall.
Moreover the light of the moon will be like the light of the sun, and the
15 light of the sun will be sevenfold, like the light of seven days, on the day
when the LORD binds up the injuries of his people, and heals the wounds
inflicted by his blow. See, the name of the LORD comes from far away,
burning with his anger, and in thick rising smoke; his lips are full of
indignation, and his tongue is like a devouring fire; his breath is like an
20 overflowing stream that reaches up to the neck-- to sift the nations with the

sieve of destruction, and to place on the jaws of the peoples a bridle that leads them astray. You shall have a song as in the night when a holy festival is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one sets out to the sound of the flute to go to the mountain of the LORD, to the Rock of Israel. And the

5 LORD will cause his majestic voice to be heard and the descending blow of his arm to be seen, in furious anger and a flame of devouring fire, with a cloudburst and tempest and hailstones. The Assyrian will be terror-stricken at the voice of the LORD, when he strikes with his rod. And every stroke of the staff of punishment that the LORD lays upon him will be to the sound

10 of timbrels and lyres; battling with brandished arm he will fight with him. For his burning place has long been prepared; truly it is made ready for the king, its pyre made deep and wide, with fire and wood in abundance; the breath of the LORD, like a stream of sulfur, kindles it. Alas for those who go down to Egypt for help and who rely on horses, who trust in chariots

15 because they are many and in horsemen because they are very strong, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel or consult the LORD! Yet he too is wise and brings disaster; he does not call back his words, but will rise against the house of the evildoers, and against the helpers of those who work iniquity. The Egyptians are human, and not God; their horses are flesh, and not spirit.

20 When the LORD stretches out his hand, the helper will stumble, and the one

helped will fall, and they will all perish together. For thus the LORD said to me, As a lion or a young lion growls over its prey, and--when a band of shepherds is called out against it-- is not terrified by their shouting or daunted at their noise, so the LORD of hosts will come down to fight upon

5 Mount Zion and upon its hill. Like birds hovering overhead, so the LORD of hosts will protect Jerusalem; he will protect and deliver it, he will spare and rescue it. Turn back to him whom you have deeply betrayed, O people of Israel. For on that day all of you shall throw away your idols of silver and idols of gold, which your hands have sinfully made for you. "Then the

10 Assyrian shall fall by a sword, not of mortals; and a sword, not of humans, shall devour him; he shall flee from the sword, and his young men shall be put to forced labor. His rock shall pass away in terror, and his officers desert the standard in panic," says the LORD, whose fire is in Zion, and whose furnace is in Jerusalem. See, a king will reign in righteousness, and

15 princes will rule with justice. Each will be like a hiding place from the wind, a covert from the tempest, like streams of water in a dry place, like the shade of a great rock in a weary land. Then the eyes of those who have sight will not be closed, and the ears of those who have hearing will listen. The minds of the rash will have good judgment, and the tongues of

20 stammerers will speak readily and distinctly. A fool will no longer be called

noble, nor a villain said to be honorable. For fools speak folly, and their
minds plot iniquity: to practice ungodliness, to utter error concerning the
LORD, to leave the craving of the hungry unsatisfied, and to deprive the
thirsty of drink. The villainies of villains are evil; they devise wicked devices
5 to ruin the poor with lying words, even when the plea of the needy is right.
But those who are noble plan noble things, and by noble things they stand.
Rise up, you women who are at ease, hear my voice; you complacent
daughters, listen to my speech. In little more than a year you will shudder,
you complacent ones; for the vintage will fail, the fruit harvest will not
10 come. Tremble, you women who are at ease, shudder, you complacent ones;
strip, and make yourselves bare, and put sackcloth on your loins. Beat your
breasts for the pleasant fields, for the fruitful vine, for the soil of my people
growing up in thorns and briers; yes, for all the joyous houses in the jubilant
city. For the palace will be forsaken, the populous city deserted; the hill and
15 the watchtower will become dens forever, the joy of wild asses, a pasture for
flocks; until a spirit from on high is poured out on us, and the wilderness
becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is deemed a forest. Then
justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful
field. The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of
20 righteousness, quietness and trust forever. My people will abide in a peaceful

habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places. The forest will disappear completely, and the city will be utterly laid low. Happy will you be who sow beside every stream, who let the ox and the donkey range freely. Ah, you destroyer, who yourself have not been destroyed; you

5 treacherous one, with whom no one has dealt treacherously! When you have ceased to destroy, you will be destroyed; and when you have stopped dealing treacherously, you will be dealt with treacherously. O LORD, be gracious to us; we wait for you. Be our arm every morning, our salvation in the time of trouble. At the sound of tumult, peoples fled; before your majesty, nations

10 scattered. Spoil was gathered as the caterpillar gathers; as locusts leap, they leaped upon it. The LORD is exalted, he dwells on high; he filled Zion with justice and righteousness; he will be the stability of your times, abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is Zion's treasure.

Listen! the valiant cry in the streets; the envoys of peace weep bitterly. The

15 highways are deserted, travelers have quit the road. The treaty is broken, its oaths are despised, its obligation is disregarded. The land mourns and languishes; Lebanon is confounded and withers away; Sharon is like a desert; and Bashan and Carmel shake off their leaves. "Now I will arise," says the LORD, "now I will lift myself up; now I will be exalted. You conceive

20 chaff, you bring forth stubble; your breath is a fire that will consume you.

And the peoples will be as if burned to lime, like thorns cut down, that are
burned in the fire." Hear, you who are far away, what I have done; and you
who are near, acknowledge my might. The sinners in Zion are afraid;
trembling has seized the godless: "Who among us can live with the
5 devouring fire? Who among us can live with everlasting flames?" Those who
walk righteously and speak uprightly, who despise the gain of oppression,
who wave away a bribe instead of accepting it, who stop their ears from
hearing of bloodshed and shut their eyes from looking on evil, they will live
on the heights; their refuge will be the fortresses of rocks; their food will be
10 supplied, their water assured. Your eyes will see the king in his beauty; they
will behold a land that stretches far away. Your mind will muse on the
terror: "Where is the one who counted? Where is the one who weighed the
tribute? Where is the one who counted the towers?" No longer will you see
the insolent people, the people of an obscure speech that you cannot
15 comprehend, stammering in a language that you cannot understand. Look on
Zion, the city of our appointed festivals! Your eyes will see Jerusalem, a
quiet habitation, an immovable tent, whose stakes will never be pulled up,
and none of whose ropes will be broken. But there the LORD in majesty
will be for us a place of broad rivers and streams, where no galley with
20 oars can go, nor stately ship can pass. For the LORD is our judge, the

LORD is our ruler, the LORD is our king; he will save us. Your rigging
hangs loose; it cannot hold the mast firm in its place, or keep the sail
spread out. Then prey and spoil in abundance will be divided; even the lame
will fall to plundering. And no inhabitant will say, "I am sick"; the people
5 who live there will be forgiven their iniquity. Draw near, O nations, to hear;
O peoples, give heed! Let the earth hear, and all that fills it; the world, and
all that comes from it. For the LORD is enraged against all the nations, and
furious against all their hoards; he has doomed them, has given them over
for slaughter. Their slain shall be cast out, and the stench of their corpses
10 shall rise; the mountains shall flow with their blood. All the host of heaven
shall rot away, and the skies roll up like a scroll. All their host shall wither
like a leaf withering on a vine, or fruit withering on a fig tree. When my
sword has drunk its fill in the heavens, lo, it will descend upon Edom, upon
the people I have doomed to judgment. The LORD has a sword; it is sated
15 with blood, it is gorged with fat, with the blood of lambs and goats, with
the fat of the kidneys of rams. For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah, a
great slaughter in the land of Edom. Wild oxen shall fall with them, and
young steers with the mighty bulls. Their land shall be soaked with blood,
and their soil made rich with fat. For the LORD has a day of vengeance, a
20 year of vindication by Zion's cause. And the streams of Edom shall be

turned into pitch, and her soil into sulfur; her land shall become burning
pitch. Night and day it shall not be quenched; its smoke shall go up forever.
From generation to generation it shall lie waste; no one shall pass through it
forever and ever. But the hawk and the hedgehog shall possess it; the owl
5 and the raven shall live in it. He shall stretch the line of confusion over it,
and the plummet of chaos over its nobles. They shall name it No Kingdom
There, and all its princes shall be nothing. Thorns shall grow over its
strongholds, nettles and thistles in its fortresses. It shall be the haunt of
jackals, an abode for ostriches. Wildcats shall meet with hyenas, goat-demons
10 shall call to each other; there too Lilith shall repose, and find a place to
rest. There shall the owl nest and lay and hatch and brood in its shadow;
there too the buzzards shall gather, each one with its mate. Seek and read
from the book of the LORD: Not one of these shall be missing; none shall
be without its mate. For the mouth of the LORD has commanded, and his
15 spirit has gathered them. He has cast the lot for them, his hand has
portioned it out to them with the line; they shall possess it forever, from
generation to generation they shall live in it. The wilderness and the dry land
shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall
blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon
20 shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the

glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and
make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be
strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with
terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind
5 shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap
like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall
break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand
shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of
jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A
10 highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean
shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even
fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast
come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk
there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with
15 singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and
gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. In the fourteenth year of
King Hezekiah, King Sennacherib of Assyria came up against all the fortified
cities of Judah and captured them. The king of Assyria sent the Rabshakeh
from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem, with a great army. He stood by
20 the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Fuller's Field. And there

came out to him Eliakim son of Hilkiyah, who was in charge of the palace,
and Shebna the secretary, and Joah son of Asaph, the recorder. The
Rabshakeh said to them, "Say to Hezekiah: Thus says the great king, the
king of Assyria: On what do you base this confidence of yours? Do you
5 think that mere words are strategy and power for war? On whom do you
now rely, that you have rebelled against me? See, you are relying on Egypt,
that broken reed of a staff, which will pierce the hand of anyone who leans
on it. Such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who rely on him. But if you say
to me, 'We rely on the LORD our God,' is it not he whose high places and
10 altars Hezekiah has removed, saying to Judah and to Jerusalem, 'You shall
worship before this altar'? Come now, make a wager with my master the
king of Assyria: I will give you two thousand horses, if you are able on
your part to set riders on them. How then can you repulse a single captain
among the least of my master's servants, when you rely on Egypt for
15 chariots and for horsemen? Moreover, is it without the LORD that I have
come up against this land to destroy it? The LORD said to me, Go up
against this land, and destroy it." Then Eliakim, Shebna, and Joah said to the
Rabshakeh, "Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, for we understand it;
do not speak to us in the language of Judah within the hearing of the people
20 who are on the wall." But the Rabshakeh said, "Has my master sent me to

speak these words to your master and to you, and not to the people sitting
 on the wall, who are doomed with you to eat their own dung and drink their
 own urine?" Then the Rabshakeh stood and called out in a loud voice in the
 language of Judah, "Hear the words of the great king, the king of Assyria!
 5 Thus says the king: 'Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he will not be
 able to deliver you. Do not let Hezekiah make you rely on the LORD by
 saying, The LORD will surely deliver us; this city will not be given into the
 hand of the king of Assyria.' Do not listen to Hezekiah; for thus says the
 king of Assyria: 'Make your peace with me and come out to me; then
 10 everyone of you will eat from your own vine and your own fig tree and
 drink water from your own cistern, until I come and take you away to a
 land like your own land, a land of grain and wine, a land of bread and
 vineyards. Do not let Hezekiah mislead you by saying, The LORD will save
 us. Has any of the gods of the nations saved their land out of the hand of
 15 the king of Assyria? Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are
 the gods of Sepharvaim? Have they delivered Samaria out of my hand? Who
 among all the gods of these countries have saved their countries out of my
 hand, that the LORD should save Jerusalem out of my hand?'" But they
 were silent and answered him not a word, for the king's command was, "Do
 20 not answer him." Then Eliakim son of Hilkiah, who was in charge of the

palace, and Shebna the secretary, and Joah son of Asaph, the recorder, came to Hezekiah with their clothes torn, and told him the words of the Rabshakeh. When King Hezekiah heard it, he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD. And he sent

5 Eliakim, who was in charge of the palace, and Shebna the secretary, and the senior priests, covered with sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz. They said to him, "Thus says Hezekiah, This day is a day of distress, of rebuke, and of disgrace; children have come to the birth, and there is no strength to bring them forth. It may be that the LORD your God heard the

10 words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to mock the living God, and will rebuke the words that the LORD your God has heard; therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left." When the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah, Isaiah said to them, "Say to your master, "Thus says the LORD: Do not be afraid because of the words

15 that you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have reviled me. I myself will put a spirit in him, so that he shall hear a rumor, and return to his own land; I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.'" The Rabshakeh returned, and found the king of Assyria fighting against Libnah; for he had heard that the king had left Lachish. Now the

20 king heard concerning King Tirhakah of Ethiopia, "He has set out to fight

against you." When he heard it, he sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying,

"Thus shall you speak to King Hezekiah of Judah: Do not let your God on whom you rely deceive you by promising that Jerusalem will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria. See, you have heard what the kings of

5 Assyria have done to all lands, destroying them utterly. Shall you be delivered? Have the gods of the nations delivered them, the nations that my predecessors destroyed, Gozan, Haran, Rezeph, and the people of Eden who were in Telassar? Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, the king of the city of Sepharvaim, the king of Hena, or the king of Ivvah?"

10 Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers and read it; then Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD and spread it before the LORD. And Hezekiah prayed to the LORD, saying: "O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, who are enthroned above the cherubim, you are God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth. Incline your

15 ear, O LORD, and hear; open your eyes, O LORD, and see; hear all the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to mock the living God. Truly, O LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all the nations and their lands, and have hurled their gods into the fire, though they were no gods, but the work of human hands--wood and stone--and so they were destroyed. So now,

20 O LORD our God, save us from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the

earth may know that you alone are the LORD." Then Isaiah son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying: "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Because you have prayed to me concerning King Sennacherib of Assyria, this is the word that the LORD has spoken concerning him: She despises you, she

5 scorns you-- virgin daughter Zion; she tosses her head--behind your back, daughter Jerusalem. Whom have you mocked and reviled? Against whom have you raised your voice and haughtily lifted your eyes? Against the Holy One of Israel! By your servants you have mocked the Lord, and you have said, 'With my many chariots I have gone up the heights of the mountains,

10 to the far recesses of Lebanon; I felled its tallest cedars, its choicest cypresses; I came to its remotest height, its densest forest. I dug wells and drank waters, I dried up with the sole of my foot all the streams of Egypt.'

Have you not heard that I determined it long ago? I planned from days of old what now I bring to pass, that you should make fortified cities crash into

15 heaps of ruins, while their inhabitants, shorn of strength, are dismayed and confounded; they have become like plants of the field and like tender grass, like grass on the housetops, blighted before it is grown. I know your rising up and your sitting down, your going out and coming in, and your raging against me. Because you have raged against me and your arrogance has come

20 to my ears, I will put my hook in your nose and my bit in your mouth; I

will turn you back on the way by which you came. "And this shall be the sign for you: This year eat what grows of itself, and in the second year what springs from that; then in the third year sow, reap, plant vineyards, and eat their fruit. The surviving remnant of the house of Judah shall again take

5 root downward, and bear fruit upward; for from Jerusalem a remnant shall go out, and from Mount Zion a band of survivors. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. "Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the king of Assyria: He shall not come into this city, shoot an arrow there, come before it with a shield, or cast up a siege ramp against it. By the way that he

10 came, by the same he shall return; he shall not come into this city, says the LORD. For I will defend this city to save it, for my own sake and for the sake of my servant David." Then the angel of the LORD set out and struck down one hundred eighty-five thousand in the camp of the Assyrians; when morning dawned, they were all dead bodies. Then King Sennacherib of

15 Assyria left, went home, and lived at Nineveh. As he was worshiping in the house of his god Nisroch, his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer killed him with the sword, and they escaped into the land of Ararat. His son Esarhaddon succeeded him. In those days Hezekiah became sick and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz came to him, and said to

20 him, "Thus says the LORD: Set your house in order, for you shall die; you

shall not recover." Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall, and prayed to the LORD: "Remember now, O LORD, I implore you, how I have walked before you in faithfulness with a whole heart, and have done what is good in your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly. Then the word of the LORD

5 came to Isaiah: "Go and say to Hezekiah, Thus says the LORD, the God of your ancestor David: I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; I will add fifteen years to your life. I will deliver you and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria, and defend this city. "This is the sign to you from the LORD, that the LORD will do this thing that he has promised:

10 See, I will make the shadow cast by the declining sun on the dial of Ahaz turn back ten steps." So the sun turned back on the dial the ten steps by which it had declined. A writing of King Hezekiah of Judah, after he had been sick and had recovered from his sickness: I said: In the noontide of my days I must depart; I am consigned to the gates of Sheol for the rest of my

15 years. I said, I shall not see the LORD in the land of the living; I shall look upon mortals no more among the inhabitants of the world. My dwelling is plucked up and removed from me like a shepherd's tent; like a weaver I have rolled up my life; he cuts me off from the loom; from day to night you bring me to an end; I cry for help until morning; like a lion he breaks

20 all my bones; from day to night you bring me to an end. Like a swallow or

a crane I clamor, I moan like a dove. My eyes are weary with looking
upward. O Lord, I am oppressed; be my security! But what can I say? For
he has spoken to me, and he himself has done it. All my sleep has fled
because of the bitterness of my soul. O Lord, by these things people live,
5 and in all these is the life of my spirit. Oh, restore me to health and make
me live! Surely it was for my welfare that I had great bitterness; but you
have held back my life from the pit of destruction, for you have cast all my
sins behind your back. For Sheol cannot thank you, death cannot praise you;
those who go down to the Pit cannot hope for your faithfulness. The living,
10 the living, they thank you, as I do this day; fathers make known to children
your faithfulness. The LORD will save me, and we will sing to stringed
instruments all the days of our lives, at the house of the LORD. Now Isaiah
had said, "Let them take a lump of figs, and apply it to the boil, so that he
may recover." Hezekiah also had said, "What is the sign that I shall go up
15 to the house of the LORD?" At that time King Merodach-baladan son of
Baladan of Babylon sent envoys with letters and a present to Hezekiah, for
he heard that he had been sick and had recovered. Hezekiah welcomed them;
he showed them his treasure house, the silver, the gold, the spices, the
precious oil, his whole armory, all that was found in his storehouses. There
20 was nothing in his house or in all his realm that Hezekiah did not show

them. Then the prophet Isaiah came to King Hezekiah and said to him,
"What did these men say? From where did they come to you?" Hezekiah
answered, "They have come to me from a far country, from Babylon." He
said, "What have they seen in your house?" Hezekiah answered, "They have
5 seen all that is in my house; there is nothing in my storehouses that I did
not show them." Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD
of hosts: Days are coming when all that is in your house, and that which
your ancestors have stored up until this day, shall be carried to Babylon;
nothing shall be left, says the LORD. Some of your own sons who are born
10 to you shall be taken away; they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king
of Babylon." Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the LORD that you
have spoken is good." For he thought, "There will be peace and security in
my days." Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to
Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is
15 paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A
voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make
straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become
level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be
20 revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD

has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All
people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass
witheres, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word
5 of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion,
herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald
of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is
your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for
him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed
10 his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry
them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep. Who has measured the
waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span,
enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in
scales and the hills in a balance? Who has directed the spirit of the LORD,
15 or as his counselor has instructed him? Whom did he consult for his
enlightenment, and who taught him the path of justice? Who taught him
knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding? Even the nations are
like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as dust on the scales; see, he
takes up the isles like fine dust. Lebanon would not provide fuel enough, nor
20 are its animals enough for a burnt offering. All the nations are as nothing

before him; they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.

To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with him? An idol? --A workman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold, and casts for it silver chains. As a gift one chooses mulberry wood--wood that will not

5 rot-- then seeks out a skilled artisan to set up an image that will not topple.

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them

10 like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on

15 high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my

God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the

20 everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or

grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the
young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the LORD shall renew
their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and
5 not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Listen to me in silence, O
coastlands; let the peoples renew their strength; let them approach, then let
them speak; let us together draw near for judgment. Who has roused a victor
from the east, summoned him to his service? He delivers up nations to him,
and tramples kings under foot; he makes them like dust with his sword, like
10 driven stubble with his bow. He pursues them and passes on safely, scarcely
touching the path with his feet. Who has performed and done this, calling
the generations from the beginning? I, the LORD, am first, and will be with
the last. The coastlands have seen and are afraid, the ends of the earth
tremble; they have drawn near and come. Each one helps the other, saying to
15 one another, "Take courage!" The artisan encourages the goldsmith, and the
one who smooths with the hammer encourages the one who strikes the anvil,
saying of the soldering, "It is good"; and they fasten it with nails so that it
cannot be moved. But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen,
the offspring of Abraham, my friend; you whom I took from the ends of the
20 earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, "You are my

servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off"; do not fear, for I am with
you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help
you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand. Yes, all who are
incensed against you shall be ashamed and disgraced; those who strive
5 against you shall be as nothing and shall perish. You shall seek those who
contend with you, but you shall not find them; those who war against you
shall be as nothing at all. For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand;
it is I who say to you, "Do not fear, I will help you." Do not fear, you
worm Jacob, you insect Israel! I will help you, says the LORD; your
10 Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel. Now, I will make of you a threshing
sledge, sharp, new, and having teeth; you shall thresh the mountains and
crush them, and you shall make the hills like chaff. You shall winnow them
and the wind shall carry them away, and the tempest shall scatter them.
Then you shall rejoice in the LORD; in the Holy One of Israel you shall
15 glory. When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their
tongue is parched with thirst, I the LORD will answer them, I the God of
Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers on the bare heights, and
fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of
water, and the dry land springs of water. I will put in the wilderness the
20 cedar, the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive; I will set in the desert the

cypress, the plane and the pine together, so that all may see and know, all may consider and understand, that the hand of the LORD has done this, the Holy One of Israel has created it. Set forth your case, says the LORD; bring your proofs, says the King of Jacob. Let them bring them, and tell us what

5 is to happen. Tell us the former things, what they are, so that we may consider them, and that we may know their outcome; or declare to us the things to come. Tell us what is to come hereafter, that we may know that you are gods; do good, or do harm, that we may be afraid and terrified.

You, indeed, are nothing and your work is nothing at all; whoever chooses

10 you is an abomination. I stirred up one from the north, and he has come, from the rising of the sun he was summoned by name. He shall trample on rulers as on mortar, as the potter treads clay. Who declared it from the beginning, so that we might know, and beforehand, so that we might say, "He is right"? There was no one who declared it, none who proclaimed,

15 none who heard your words. I first have declared it to Zion, and I give to Jerusalem a herald of good tidings. But when I look there is no one; among these there is no counselor who, when I ask, gives an answer. No, they are all a delusion; their works are nothing; their images are empty wind. Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have

20 put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will

not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

5 Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open

10 the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them. Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise from the end of the

15 earth! Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the coastlands and their inhabitants. Let the desert and its towns lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar inhabits; let the inhabitants of Sela sing for joy, let them shout from the tops of the mountains. Let them give glory to the LORD, and declare his praise in the coastlands. The LORD goes forth like a soldier, like a warrior

20 he stirs up his fury; he cries out, he shouts aloud, he shows himself mighty

against his foes. For a long time I have held my peace, I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor, I will gasp and pant. I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their herbage; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. I will lead the blind

5 by a road they do not know, by paths they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I will do, and I will not forsake them. They shall be turned back and utterly put to shame-- those who trust in carved images, who say to cast images, "You are our gods." Listen, you that

10 are deaf; and you that are blind, look up and see! Who is blind but my servant, or deaf like my messenger whom I send? Who is blind like my dedicated one, or blind like the servant of the LORD? He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. The LORD was pleased, for the sake of his righteousness, to magnify his

15 teaching and make it glorious. But this is a people robbed and plundered, all of them are trapped in holes and hidden in prisons; they have become a prey with no one to rescue, a spoil with no one to say, "Restore!" Who among you will give heed to this, who will attend and listen for the time to come? Who gave up Jacob to the spoiler, and Israel to the robbers? Was it not the

20 LORD, against whom we have sinned, in whose ways they would not walk,

and whose law they would not obey? So he poured upon him the heat of his anger and the fury of war; it set him on fire all around, but he did not understand; it burned him, but he did not take it to heart. But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do

5 not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your

10 ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold;

15 bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth-- everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." Bring forth the people who are blind, yet have eyes, who are deaf, yet have ears! Let all the nations gather together, and let the peoples assemble. Who among them declared this, and foretold to us the

20 former things? Let them bring their witnesses to justify them, and let them

hear and say, "It is true." You are my witnesses, says the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me. I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior. I

5 declared and saved and proclaimed, when there was no strange god among you; and you are my witnesses, says the LORD. I am God, and also henceforth I am He; there is no one who can deliver from my hand; I work and who can hinder it? Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: For your sake I will send to Babylon and break down all the bars,

10 and the shouting of the Chaldeans will be turned to lamentation. I am the LORD, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King. Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the

15 former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for

20 myself so that they might declare my praise. Yet you did not call upon me,

O Jacob; but you have been weary of me, O Israel! You have not brought
me your sheep for burnt offerings, or honored me with your sacrifices. I
have not burdened you with offerings, or wearied you with frankincense. You
have not bought me sweet cane with money, or satisfied me with the fat of
5 your sacrifices. But you have burdened me with your sins; you have wearied
me with your iniquities. I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for my
own sake, and I will not remember your sins. Accuse me, let us go to trial;
set forth your case, so that you may be proved right. Your first ancestor
sinned, and your interpreters transgressed against me. Therefore I profaned the
10 princes of the sanctuary, I delivered Jacob to utter destruction, and Israel to
reviling. But now hear, O Jacob my servant, Israel whom I have chosen!
Thus says the LORD who made you, who formed you in the womb and will
help you: Do not fear, O Jacob my servant, Jeshurun whom I have chosen.
For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I
15 will pour my spirit upon your descendants, and my blessing on your
offspring. They shall spring up like a green tamarisk, like willows by flowing
streams. This one will say, "I am the Lord's," another will be called by the
name of Jacob, yet another will write on the hand, "The Lord's," and adopt
the name of Israel. Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his
20 Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me

there is no god. Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and
set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be. Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not
told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any
5 god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one. All who make
idols are nothing, and the things they delight in do not profit; their witnesses
neither see nor know. And so they will be put to shame. Who would fashion
a god or cast an image that can do no good? Look, all its devotees shall be
put to shame; the artisans too are merely human. Let them all assemble, let
10 them stand up; they shall be terrified, they shall all be put to shame. The
ironsmith fashions it and works it over the coals, shaping it with hammers,
and forging it with his strong arm; he becomes hungry and his strength fails,
he drinks no water and is faint. The carpenter stretches a line, marks it out
with a stylus, fashions it with planes, and marks it with a compass; he
15 makes it in human form, with human beauty, to be set up in a shrine. He
cuts down cedars or chooses a holm tree or an oak and lets it grow strong
among the trees of the forest. He plants a cedar and the rain nourishes it.
Then it can be used as fuel. Part of it he takes and warms himself; he
kindles a fire and bakes bread. Then he makes a god and worships it, makes
20 it a carved image and bows down before it. Half of it he burns in the fire;

over this half he roasts meat, eats it and is satisfied. He also warms himself
 and says, "Ah, I am warm, I can feel the fire!" The rest of it he makes into
 a god, his idol, bows down to it and worships it; he prays to it and says,
 "Save me, for you are my god!" They do not know, nor do they
 5 comprehend; for their eyes are shut, so that they cannot see, and their minds
 as well, so that they cannot understand. No one considers, nor is there
 knowledge or discernment to say, "Half of it I burned in the fire; I also
 baked bread on its coals, I roasted meat and have eaten. Now shall I make
 the rest of it an abomination? Shall I fall down before a block of wood?"
 10 He feeds on ashes; a deluded mind has led him astray, and he cannot save
 himself or say, "Is not this thing in my right hand a fraud?" Remember
 these things, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are my servant; I formed you, you
 are my servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me. I have swept
 away your transgressions like a cloud, and your sins like mist; return to me,
 15 for I have redeemed you. Sing, O heavens, for the LORD has done it; shout,
 O depths of the earth; break forth into singing, O mountains, O forest, and
 every tree in it! For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, and will be glorified in
 Israel. Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb:
 I am the LORD, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens,
 20 who by myself spread out the earth; who frustrates the omens of liars, and

makes fools of diviners; who turns back the wise, and makes their knowledge foolish; who confirms the word of his servant, and fulfills the prediction of his messengers; who says of Jerusalem, "It shall be inhabited," and of the cities of Judah, "They shall be rebuilt, and I will raise up their ruins"; who

5 says to the deep, "Be dry-- I will dry up your rivers"; who says of Cyrus, "He is my shepherd, and he shall carry out all my purpose"; and who says of Jerusalem, "It shall be rebuilt," and of the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid." Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to

10 open doors before him-- and the gates shall not be closed: I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. For the sake of my servant

15 Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. I form light and

20 create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these

things. Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down
righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation may spring up, and let it
cause righteousness to sprout up also; I the LORD have created it. Woe to
you who strive with your Maker, earthen vessels with the potter! Does the
5 clay say to the one who fashions it, "What are you making"? or "Your work
has no handles"? Woe to anyone who says to a father, "What are you
begetting?" or to a woman, "With what are you in labor?" Thus says the
LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and its Maker: Will you question me about
my children, or command me concerning the work of my hands? I made the
10 earth, and created humankind upon it; it was my hands that stretched out the
heavens, and I commanded all their host. I have aroused Cyrus in
righteousness, and I will make all his paths straight; he shall build my city
and set my exiles free, not for price or reward, says the LORD of hosts.
Thus says the LORD: The wealth of Egypt and the merchandise of Ethiopia,
15 and the Sabeans, tall of stature, shall come over to you and be yours, they
shall follow you; they shall come over in chains and bow down to you.
They will make supplication to you, saying, "God is with you alone, and
there is no other; there is no god besides him." Truly, you are a God who
hides himself, O God of Israel, the Savior. All of them are put to shame
20 and confounded, the makers of idols go in confusion together. But Israel is

saved by the LORD with everlasting salvation; you shall not be put to shame
or confounded to all eternity. For thus says the LORD, who created the
heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it;
he did not create it a chaos, he formed it to be inhabited!): I am the LORD,
5 and there is no other. I did not speak in secret, in a land of darkness; I did
not say to the offspring of Jacob, "Seek me in chaos." I the LORD speak
the truth, I declare what is right. Assemble yourselves and come together,
draw near, you survivors of the nations! They have no knowledge-- those
who carry about their wooden idols, and keep on praying to a god that
10 cannot save. Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together!
Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the LORD?
There is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is no
one besides me. Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I
am God, and there is no other. By myself I have sworn, from my mouth has
15 gone forth in righteousness a word that shall not return: "To me every knee
shall bow, every tongue shall swear." Only in the LORD, it shall be said of
me, are righteousness and strength; all who were incensed against him shall
come to him and be ashamed. In the LORD all the offspring of Israel shall
triumph and glory. Bel bows down, Nebo stoops, their idols are on beasts
20 and cattle; these things you carry are loaded as burdens on weary animals.

They stoop, they bow down together; they cannot save the burden, but
themselves go into captivity. Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all the remnant
of the house of Israel, who have been borne by me from your birth, carried
from the womb; even to your old age I am he, even when you turn gray I
5 will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save. To
whom will you liken me and make me equal, and compare me, as though
we were alike? Those who lavish gold from the purse, and weigh out silver
in the scales-- they hire a goldsmith, who makes it into a god; then they fall
down and worship! They lift it to their shoulders, they carry it, they set it in
10 its place, and it stands there; it cannot move from its place. If one cries out
to it, it does not answer or save anyone from trouble. Remember this and
consider, recall it to mind, you transgressors, remember the former things of
old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one
like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things
15 not yet done, saying, "My purpose shall stand, and I will fulfill my
intention," calling a bird of prey from the east, the man for my purpose
from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have
planned, and I will do it. Listen to me, you stubborn of heart, you who are
far from deliverance: I bring near my deliverance, it is not far off, and my
20 salvation will not tarry; I will put salvation in Zion, for Israel my glory.

Come down and sit in the dust, virgin daughter Babylon! Sit on the ground without a throne, daughter Chaldea! For you shall no more be called tender and delicate. Take the millstones and grind meal, remove your veil, strip off your robe, uncover your legs, pass through the rivers. Your nakedness shall

5 be uncovered, and your shame shall be seen. I will take vengeance, and I will spare no one. Our Redeemer--the LORD of hosts is his name-- is the Holy One of Israel. Sit in silence, and go into darkness, daughter Chaldea!

For you shall no more be called the mistress of kingdoms. I was angry with my people, I profaned my heritage; I gave them into your hand, you showed

10 them no mercy; on the aged you made your yoke exceedingly heavy. You said, "I shall be mistress forever," so that you did not lay these things to heart or remember their end. Now therefore hear this, you lover of pleasures, who sit securely, who say in your heart, "I am, and there is no one besides me; I shall not sit as a widow or know the loss of children"-- both these

15 things shall come upon you in a moment, in one day: the loss of children and widowhood shall come upon you in full measure, in spite of your many sorceries and the great power of your enchantments. You felt secure in your wickedness; you said, "No one sees me." Your wisdom and your knowledge led you astray, and you said in your heart, "I am, and there is no one

20 besides me." But evil shall come upon you, which you cannot charm away;

disaster shall fall upon you, which you will not be able to ward off; and
ruin shall come on you suddenly, of which you know nothing. Stand fast in
your enchantments and your many sorceries, with which you have labored
from your youth; perhaps you may be able to succeed, perhaps you may
5 inspire terror. You are wearied with your many consultations; let those who
study the heavens stand up and save you, those who gaze at the stars, and
at each new moon predict what shall befall you. See, they are like stubble,
the fire consumes them; they cannot deliver themselves from the power of
the flame. No coal for warming oneself is this, no fire to sit before! Such to
10 you are those with whom you have labored, who have trafficked with you
from your youth; they all wander about in their own paths; there is no one
to save you. Hear this, O house of Jacob, who are called by the name of
Israel, and who came forth from the loins of Judah; who swear by the name
of the LORD, and invoke the God of Israel, but not in truth or right. For
15 they call themselves after the holy city, and lean on the God of Israel; the
LORD of hosts is his name. The former things I declared long ago, they
went out from my mouth and I made them known; then suddenly I did them
and they came to pass. Because I know that you are obstinate, and your
neck is an iron sinew and your forehead brass, I declared them to you from
20 long ago, before they came to pass I announced them to you, so that you

would not say, "My idol did them, my carved image and my cast image
commanded them." You have heard; now see all this; and will you not
declare it? From this time forward I make you hear new things, hidden
things that you have not known. They are created now, not long ago; before
5 today you have never heard of them, so that you could not say, "I already
knew them." You have never heard, you have never known, from of old
your ear has not been opened. For I knew that you would deal very
treacherously, and that from birth you were called a rebel. For my name's
sake I defer my anger, for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you, so
10 that I may not cut you off. See, I have refined you, but not like silver; I
have tested you in the furnace of adversity. For my own sake, for my own
sake, I do it, for why should my name be profaned? My glory I will not
give to another. Listen to me, O Jacob, and Israel, whom I called: I am He;
I am the first, and I am the last. My hand laid the foundation of the earth,
15 and my right hand spread out the heavens; when I summon them, they stand
at attention. Assemble, all of you, and hear! Who among them has declared
these things? The LORD loves him; he shall perform his purpose on
Babylon, and his arm shall be against the Chaldeans. I, even I, have spoken
and called him, I have brought him, and he will prosper in his way. Draw
20 near to me, hear this! From the beginning I have not spoken in secret, from

the time it came to be I have been there. And now the Lord GOD has sent me and his spirit. Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: I am the LORD your God, who teaches you for your own good, who leads you in the way you should go. O that you had paid attention to my

5 commandments! Then your prosperity would have been like a river, and your success like the waves of the sea; your offspring would have been like the sand, and your descendants like its grains; their name would never be cut off or destroyed from before me. Go out from Babylon, flee from Chaldea, declare this with a shout of joy, proclaim it, send it forth to the end of the

10 earth; say, "The LORD has redeemed his servant Jacob!" They did not thirst when he led them through the deserts; he made water flow for them from the rock; he split open the rock and the water gushed out. "There is no peace," says the LORD, "for the wicked." Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was

15 born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my

20 cause is with the LORD, and my reward with my God." And now the

LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength-- he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of

5 Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is

10 faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you." Thus says the LORD: In a time of favor I have answered you, on a day of salvation I have helped you; I have kept you and given you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages; saying to the prisoners, "Come out," to those who are in darkness, "Show yourselves." They shall feed along

15 the ways, on all the bare heights shall be their pasture; they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them down, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them.

And I will turn all my mountains into a road, and my highways shall be raised up. Lo, these shall come from far away, and lo, these from the north

20 and from the west, and these from the land of Syene. Sing for joy, O

heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the LORD has comforted his people, and will have compassion on his suffering ones. But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me." Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me. Your builders outdo your destroyers, and those who laid you waste go away from you. Lift up your eyes all around and see; they all gather, they come to you. As I live, says the LORD, you shall put all of them on like an ornament, and like a bride you shall bind them on. Surely your waste and your desolate places and your devastated land-- surely now you will be too crowded for your inhabitants, and those who swallowed you up will be far away. The children born in the time of your bereavement will yet say in your hearing: "The place is too crowded for me; make room for me to settle." Then you will say in your heart, "Who has borne me these? I was bereaved and barren, exiled and put away-- so who has reared these? I was left all alone-- where then have these come from?" Thus says the Lord GOD: I will soon lift up my hand to the nations, and raise my signal to the peoples; and they shall bring your sons in their bosom, and your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders. Kings shall be your foster fathers, and

their queens your nursing mothers. With their faces to the ground they shall
 bow down to you, and lick the dust of your feet. Then you will know that I
 am the LORD; those who wait for me shall not be put to shame. Can the
 prey be taken from the mighty, or the captives of a tyrant be rescued? But
 5 thus says the LORD: Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken, and the
 prey of the tyrant be rescued; for I will contend with those who contend
 with you, and I will save your children. I will make your oppressors eat
 their own flesh, and they shall be drunk with their own blood as with wine.
 Then all flesh shall know that I am the LORD your Savior, and your
 10 Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob. Thus says the LORD: Where is your
 mother's bill of divorce with which I put her away? Or which of my
 creditors is it to whom I have sold you? No, because of your sins you were
 sold, and for your transgressions your mother was put away. Why was no
 one there when I came? Why did no one answer when I called? Is my hand
 15 shortened, that it cannot redeem? Or have I no power to deliver? By my
 rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a desert; their fish stink for lack
 of water, and die of thirst. I clothe the heavens with blackness, and make
 sackcloth their covering. The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a
 teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by
 20 morning he wakens-- wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The

Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn
backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those
who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.
The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I
5 have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he
who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up
together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord
GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out
like a garment; the moth will eat them up. Who among you fears the LORD
10 and obeys the voice of his servant, who walks in darkness and has no light,
yet trusts in the name of the LORD and relies upon his God? But all of
you are kindlers of fire, lighters of firebrands. Walk in the flame of your
fire, and among the brands that you have kindled! This is what you shall
have from my hand: you shall lie down in torment. Listen to me, you that
15 pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which
you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to
Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when
I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. For the LORD will
comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her
20 wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and

gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the

5 peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended. Listen to me, you who know righteousness,

10 you people who have my teaching in your hearts; do not fear the reproach of others, and do not be dismayed when they revile you. For the moth will eat them up like a garment, and the worm will eat them like wool; but my deliverance will be forever, and my salvation to all generations. Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD! Awake, as in days of old, the

15 generations of long ago! Was it not you who cut Rahab in pieces, who pierced the dragon? Was it not you who dried up the sea, the waters of the great deep; who made the depths of the sea a way for the redeemed to cross over? So the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and

20 gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. I, I am he who comforts

you; why then are you afraid of a mere mortal who must die, a human
being who fades like grass? You have forgotten the LORD, your Maker, who
stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth. You fear
continually all day long because of the fury of the oppressor, who is bent on
5 destruction. But where is the fury of the oppressor? The oppressed shall
speedily be released; they shall not die and go down to the Pit, nor shall
they lack bread. For I am the LORD your God, who stirs up the sea so that
its waves roar-- the LORD of hosts is his name. I have put my words in
your mouth, and hidden you in the shadow of my hand, stretching out the
10 heavens and laying the foundations of the earth, and saying to Zion, "You
are my people." Rouse yourself, rouse yourself! Stand up, O Jerusalem, you
who have drunk at the hand of the LORD the cup of his wrath, who have
drunk to the dregs the bowl of staggering. There is no one to guide her
among all the children she has borne; there is no one to take her by the
15 hand among all the children she has brought up. These two things have
befallen you--who will grieve with you?-- devastation and destruction, famine
and sword-- who will comfort you? Your children have fainted, they lie at
the head of every street like an antelope in a net; they are full of the wrath
of the LORD, the rebuke of your God. Therefore hear this, you who are
20 wounded, who are drunk, but not with wine: Thus says your Sovereign, the

LORD, your God who pleads the cause of his people: See, I have taken
from your hand the cup of staggering; you shall drink no more from the
bowl of my wrath. And I will put it into the hand of your tormentors, who
have said to you, "Bow down, that we may walk on you"; and you have
5 made your back like the ground and like the street for them to walk on.
Awake, awake, put on your strength, O Zion! Put on your beautiful
garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city; for the uncircumcised and the unclean
shall enter you no more. Shake yourself from the dust, rise up, O captive
Jerusalem; loose the bonds from your neck, O captive daughter Zion! For
10 thus says the LORD: You were sold for nothing, and you shall be redeemed
without money. For thus says the Lord GOD: Long ago, my people went
down into Egypt to reside there as aliens; the Assyrian, too, has oppressed
them without cause. Now therefore what am I doing here, says the LORD,
seeing that my people are taken away without cause? Their rulers howl, says
15 the LORD, and continually, all day long, my name is despised. Therefore my
people shall know my name; therefore in that day they shall know that it is
I who speak; here am I. How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of
the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces
salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift
20 up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the

return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of
 Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed
 Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the
 nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

5 Depart, depart, go out from there! Touch no unclean thing; go out from the
 midst of it, purify yourselves, you who carry the vessels of the LORD. For
 you shall not go out in haste, and you shall not go in flight; for the LORD
 will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard. See, my
 servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very

10 high. Just as there were many who were astonished at him--so marred was
 his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of
 mortals-- so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths
 because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and
 that which they had not heard they shall contemplate. Who has believed what

15 we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For
 he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry
 ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in
 his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by
 others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from

20 whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no

account. Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we

5 like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could

10 have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his

15 offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper. Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because

20 he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet

he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. Sing, O
barren one who did not bear; burst into song and shout, you who have not
been in labor! For the children of the desolate woman will be more than the
children of her that is married, says the LORD. Enlarge the site of your tent,
5 and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; do not hold back;
lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes. For you will spread out to
the right and to the left, and your descendants will possess the nations and
will settle the desolate towns. Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; do
not be discouraged, for you will not suffer disgrace; for you will forget the
10 shame of your youth, and the disgrace of your widowhood you will
remember no more. For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is
his name; the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole
earth he is called. For the LORD has called you like a wife forsaken and
grieved in spirit, like the wife of a man's youth when she is cast off, says
15 your God. For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with great compassion I
will gather you. In overflowing wrath for a moment I hid my face from you,
but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you, says the LORD,
your Redeemer. This is like the days of Noah to me: Just as I swore that
the waters of Noah would never again go over the earth, so I have sworn
20 that I will not be angry with you and will not rebuke you. For the

mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the LORD, who has compassion on you. O afflicted one, storm-tossed, and not comforted, I am about to set your stones in antimony, and lay your

5 foundations with sapphires. I will make your pinnacles of rubies, your gates of jewels, and all your wall of precious stones. All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the prosperity of your children. In righteousness you shall be established; you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you. If anyone

10 stirs up strife, it is not from me; whoever stirs up strife with you shall fall because of you. See it is I who have created the smith who blows the fire of coals, and produces a weapon fit for its purpose; I have also created the ravager to destroy. No weapon that is fashioned against you shall prosper, and you shall confute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This

15 is the heritage of the servants of the LORD and their vindication from me, says the LORD. Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to

20 me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your

ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you

5 shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are

10 not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the

15 eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall

20 come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it

shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not
be cut off. Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for
soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. Happy is the
mortal who does this, the one who holds it fast, who keeps the sabbath, not
5 profaning it, and refrains from doing any evil. Do not let the foreigner joined
to the LORD say, "The LORD will surely separate me from his people"; and
do not let the eunuch say, "I am just a dry tree." For thus says the LORD:
To the eunuchs who keep my sabbaths, who choose the things that please
me and hold fast my covenant, I will give, in my house and within my
10 walls, a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give
them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off. And the foreigners who
join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the
LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane
it, and hold fast my covenant-- these I will bring to my holy mountain, and
15 make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their
sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house
of prayer for all peoples. Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts
of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered. All you
wild animals, all you wild animals in the forest, come to devour! Israel's
20 sentinels are blind, they are all without knowledge; they are all silent dogs

that cannot bark; dreaming, lying down, loving to slumber. The dogs have a
mighty appetite; they never have enough. The shepherds also have no
understanding; they have all turned to their own way, to their own gain, one
and all. "Come," they say, "let us get wine; let us fill ourselves with strong
5 drink. And tomorrow will be like today, great beyond measure." The
righteous perish, and no one takes it to heart; the devout are taken away,
while no one understands. For the righteous are taken away from calamity,
and they enter into peace; those who walk uprightly will rest on their
couches. But as for you, come here, you children of a sorceress, you
10 offspring of an adulterer and a whore. Whom are you mocking? Against
whom do you open your mouth wide and stick out your tongue? Are you
not children of transgression, the offspring of deceit-- you that burn with lust
among the oaks, under every green tree; you that slaughter your children in
the valleys, under the clefts of the rocks? Among the smooth stones of the
15 valley is your portion; they, they, are your lot; to them you have poured out
a drink offering, you have brought a grain offering. Shall I be appeased for
these things? Upon a high and lofty mountain you have set your bed, and
there you went up to offer sacrifice. Behind the door and the doorpost you
have set up your symbol; for, in deserting me, you have uncovered your bed,
20 you have gone up to it, you have made it wide; and you have made a

bargain for yourself with them, you have loved their bed, you have gazed on
 their nakedness. You journeyed to Molech with oil, and multiplied your
 perfumes; you sent your envoys far away, and sent down even to Sheol. You
 grew weary from your many wanderings, but you did not say, "It is useless."
 5 You found your desire rekindled, and so you did not weaken. Whom did you
 dread and fear so that you lied, and did not remember me or give me a
 thought? Have I not kept silent and closed my eyes, and so you do not fear
 me? I will concede your righteousness and your works, but they will not
 help you. When you cry out, let your collection of idols deliver you! The
 10 wind will carry them off, a breath will take them away. But whoever takes
 refuge in me shall possess the land and inherit my holy mountain. It shall be
 said, "Build up, build up, prepare the way, remove every obstruction from
 my people's way." For thus says the high and lofty one who inhabits
 eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, and also
 15 with those who are contrite and humble in spirit, to revive the spirit of the
 humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite. For I will not continually
 accuse, nor will I always be angry; for then the spirits would grow faint
 before me, even the souls that I have made. Because of their wicked
 covetousness I was angry; I struck them, I hid and was angry; but they kept
 20 turning back to their own ways. I have seen their ways, but I will heal

them; I will lead them and repay them with comfort, creating for their
mourners the fruit of the lips. Peace, peace, to the far and the near, says the
LORD; and I will heal them. But the wicked are like the tossing sea that
cannot keep still; its waters toss up mire and mud. There is no peace, says
5 my God, for the wicked. Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice
like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob
their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as
if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the
ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to
10 draw near to God. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble
ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on
your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel
and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a
15 day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to
lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the
LORD? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to
undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break
every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the
20 homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and

not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth
like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall
go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you
shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will
5 say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of
the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and
satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and
10 you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters
never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the
foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the
breach, the restorer of streets to live in. If you refrain from trampling the
sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the
15 sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it,
not going your own ways, serving your own interests, or pursuing your own
affairs; then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride
upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your
ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. See, the Lord's hand
20 is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. Rather, your iniquities

have been barriers between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue mutters wickedness. No one brings suit justly, no one goes to law honestly;

5 they rely on empty pleas, they speak lies, conceiving mischief and begetting iniquity. They hatch adders' eggs, and weave the spider's web; whoever eats their eggs dies, and the crushed egg hatches out a viper. Their webs cannot serve as clothing; they cannot cover themselves with what they make. Their works are works of iniquity, and deeds of violence are in their hands. Their

10 feet run to evil, and they rush to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity, desolation and destruction are in their highways. The way of peace they do not know, and there is no justice in their paths. Their roads they have made crooked; no one who walks in them knows peace.

Therefore justice is far from us, and righteousness does not reach us; we

15 wait for light, and lo! there is darkness; and for brightness, but we walk in gloom. We grope like the blind along a wall, groping like those who have no eyes; we stumble at noon as in the twilight, among the vigorous as though we were dead. We all growl like bears; like doves we moan mournfully. We wait for justice, but there is none; for salvation, but it is far

20 from us. For our transgressions before you are many, and our sins testify

against us. Our transgressions indeed are with us, and we know our
iniquities: transgressing, and denying the LORD, and turning away from
following our God, talking oppression and revolt, conceiving lying words and
uttering them from the heart. Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands
5 at a distance; for truth stumbles in the public square, and uprightness cannot
enter. Truth is lacking, and whoever turns from evil is despoiled. The LORD
saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice. He saw that there
was no one, and was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his
own arm brought him victory, and his righteousness upheld him. He put on
10 righteousness like a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he
put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in fury as
in a mantle. According to their deeds, so will he repay; wrath to his
adversaries, requital to his enemies; to the coastlands he will render requital.
So those in the west shall fear the name of the LORD, and those in the
15 east, his glory; for he will come like a pent-up stream that the wind of the
LORD drives on. And he will come to Zion as Redeemer, to those in Jacob
who turn from transgression, says the LORD. And as for me, this is my
covenant with them, says the LORD: my spirit that is upon you, and my
words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or
20 out of the mouths of your children, or out of the mouths of your children's

children, says the LORD, from now on and forever. Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come

5 to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the

10 nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD. All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; they shall be acceptable on my altar, and I will glorify my

15 glorious house. Who are these that fly like a cloud, and like doves to their windows? For the coastlands shall wait for me, the ships of Tarshish first, to bring your children from far away, their silver and gold with them, for the name of the LORD your God, and for the Holy One of Israel, because he has glorified you. Foreigners shall build up your walls, and their kings shall

20 minister to you; for in my wrath I struck you down, but in my favor I have

had mercy on you. Your gates shall always be open; day and night they shall not be shut, so that nations shall bring you their wealth, with their kings led in procession. For the nation and kingdom that will not serve you shall perish; those nations shall be utterly laid waste. The glory of Lebanon

5 shall come to you, the cypress, the plane, and the pine, to beautify the place of my sanctuary; and I will glorify where my feet rest. The descendants of those who oppressed you shall come bending low to you, and all who despised you shall bow down at your feet; they shall call you the City of the LORD, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel. Whereas you have been

10 forsaken and hated, with no one passing through, I will make you majestic forever, a joy from age to age. You shall suck the milk of nations, you shall suck the breasts of kings; and you shall know that I, the LORD, am your Savior and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob. Instead of bronze I will bring gold, instead of iron I will bring silver; instead of wood, bronze,

15 instead of stones, iron. I will appoint Peace as your overseer and Righteousness as your taskmaster. Violence shall no more be heard in your land, devastation or destruction within your borders; you shall call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise. The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night; but the

20 LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. Your

sun shall no more go down, or your moon withdraw itself; for the LORD
will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.
Your people shall all be righteous; they shall possess the land forever. They
are the shoot that I planted, the work of my hands, so that I might be
5 glorified. The least of them shall become a clan, and the smallest one a
mighty nation; I am the LORD; in its time I will accomplish it quickly. The
spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he
has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the
brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the
10 prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance
of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in
Zion-- to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of
mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called
oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They
15 shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.
Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, foreigners shall till your land and
dress your vines; but you shall be called priests of the LORD, you shall be
named ministers of our God; you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations, and
20 in their riches you shall glory. Because their shame was double, and dishonor

was proclaimed as their lot, therefore they shall possess a double portion;
everlasting joy shall be theirs. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery
and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will
make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known
5 among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them
shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I
will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me
with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
10 and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth
its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the
Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the
nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I
will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation
15 like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings
your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the
LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed
Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be
20 called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights

in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a
 young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom
 rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. Upon your walls,
 O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never
 5 be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest, and give him no rest
 until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth.
 The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not
 again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not
 drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat
 10 it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy
 courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people;
 build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the
 peoples. The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter
 Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his
 15 recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The
 Redeemed of the LORD"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not
 Forsaken." "Who is this that comes from Edom, from Bozrah in garments
 stained crimson? Who is this so splendidly robed, marching in his great
 20 robes red, and your garments like theirs who tread the wine press?" "I have

trodden the wine press alone, and from the peoples no one was with me; I
trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; their juice spattered
on my garments, and stained all my robes. For the day of vengeance was in
my heart, and the year for my redeeming work had come. I looked, but
5 there was no helper; I stared, but there was no one to sustain me; so my
own arm brought me victory, and my wrath sustained me. I trampled down
peoples in my anger, I crushed them in my wrath, and I poured out their
lifeblood on the earth." I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the
praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for
10 us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them
according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For
he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and
he became their savior in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but
his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
15 he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. But they rebelled and
grieved his holy spirit; therefore he became their enemy; he himself fought
against them. Then they remembered the days of old, of Moses his servant.
Where is the one who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of
his flock? Where is the one who put within them his holy spirit, who caused
20 his glorious arm to march at the right hand of Moses, who divided the

waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. Like cattle that go down into the valley, the spirit of the LORD gave them rest. Thus you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name. Look down

5 from heaven and see, from your holy and glorious habitation. Where are your zeal and your might? The yearning of your heart and your compassion? They are withheld from me. For you are our father, though Abraham does not know us and Israel does not acknowledge us; you, O LORD, are our father; our Redeemer from of old is your name. Why, O LORD, do you make us

10 stray from your ways and harden our heart, so that we do not fear you? Turn back for the sake of your servants, for the sake of the tribes that are your heritage. Your holy people took possession for a little while; but now our adversaries have trampled down your sanctuary. We have long been like those whom you do not rule, like those not called by your name. O that you

15 would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence-- as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil-- to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

20 From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any

God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those
who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were
angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all
become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy
5 cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us
away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of
you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the
hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay,
and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be
10 exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now
consider, we are all your people. Your holy cities have become a wilderness,
Zion has become a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation. Our holy and beautiful
house, where our ancestors praised you, has been burned by fire, and all our
pleasant places have become ruins. After all this, will you restrain yourself,
15 O LORD? Will you keep silent, and punish us so severely? I was ready to
be sought out by those who did not ask, to be found by those who did not
seek me. I said, "Here I am, here I am," to a nation that did not call on my
name. I held out my hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in
a way that is not good, following their own devices; a people who provoke
20 me to my face continually, sacrificing in gardens and offering incense on

bricks; who sit inside tombs, and spend the night in secret places; who eat
swine's flesh, with broth of abominable things in their vessels; who say,
"Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am too holy for you." These
are a smoke in my nostrils, a fire that burns all day long. See, it is written
5 before me: I will not keep silent, but I will repay; I will indeed repay into
their laps their iniquities and their ancestors' iniquities together, says the
LORD; because they offered incense on the mountains and reviled me on the
hills, I will measure into their laps full payment for their actions. Thus says
the LORD: As the wine is found in the cluster, and they say, "Do not
10 destroy it, for there is a blessing in it," so I will do for my servants' sake,
and not destroy them all. I will bring forth descendants from Jacob, and
from Judah inheritors of my mountains; my chosen shall inherit it, and my
servants shall settle there. Sharon shall become a pasture for flocks, and the
Valley of Achor a place for herds to lie down, for my people who have
15 sought me. But you who forsake the LORD, who forget my holy mountain,
who set a table for Fortune and fill cups of mixed wine for Destiny; I will
destine you to the sword, and all of you shall bow down to the slaughter;
because, when I called, you did not answer, when I spoke, you did not
listen, but you did what was evil in my sight, and chose what I did not
20 delight in. Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: My servants shall eat, but you

shall be hungry; my servants shall drink, but you shall be thirsty; my
servants shall rejoice, but you shall be put to shame; my servants shall sing
for gladness of heart, but you shall cry out for pain of heart, and shall wail
for anguish of spirit. You shall leave your name to my chosen to use as a
5 curse, and the Lord GOD will put you to death; but to his servants he will
give a different name. Then whoever invokes a blessing in the land shall
bless by the God of faithfulness, and whoever takes an oath in the land shall
swear by the God of faithfulness; because the former troubles are forgotten
and are hidden from my sight. For I am about to create new heavens and a
10 new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But
be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create
Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem,
and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in
it, or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives
15 but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one
who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls
short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall build houses and
inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not
build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the
20 days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long

enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, or bear children
for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD-- and their
descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet
speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion
5 shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent--its food shall be dust! They shall
not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD. Thus says the
LORD: Heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool; what is the
house that you would build for me, and what is my resting place? All these
things my hand has made, and so all these things are mine, says the LORD.
10 But this is the one to whom I will look, to the humble and contrite in spirit,
who trembles at my word. Whoever slaughters an ox is like one who kills a
human being; whoever sacrifices a lamb, like one who breaks a dog's neck;
whoever presents a grain offering, like one who offers swine's blood;
whoever makes a memorial offering of frankincense, like one who blesses an
15 idol. These have chosen their own ways, and in their abominations they take
delight; I also will choose to mock them, and bring upon them what they
fear; because, when I called, no one answered, when I spoke, they did not
listen; but they did what was evil in my sight, and chose what did not
please me. Hear the word of the LORD, you who tremble at his word: Your
20 own people who hate you and reject you for my name's sake have said, "Let

the LORD be glorified, so that we may see your joy"; but it is they who shall be put to shame. Listen, an uproar from the city! A voice from the temple! The voice of the LORD, dealing retribution to his enemies! Before she was in labor she gave birth; before her pain came upon her she

5 delivered a son. Who has heard of such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall a land be born in one day? Shall a nation be delivered in one moment? Yet as soon as Zion was in labor she delivered her children. Shall I open the womb and not deliver? says the LORD; shall I, the one who delivers, shut the womb? says your God. Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad

10 for her, all you who love her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her-- that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast; that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious bosom. For thus says the LORD: I will extend prosperity to her like a river, and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall nurse and be carried

15 on her arm, and dandled on her knees. As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem. You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice; your bodies shall flourish like the grass; and it shall be known that the hand of the LORD is with his servants, and his indignation is against his enemies. For the LORD will come in fire, and his

20 chariots like the whirlwind, to pay back his anger in fury, and his rebuke in

flames of fire. For by fire will the LORD execute judgment, and by his sword, on all flesh; and those slain by the LORD shall be many. Those who sanctify and purify themselves to go into the gardens, following the one in the center, eating the flesh of pigs, vermin, and rodents, shall come to an

5 end together, says the LORD. For I know their works and their thoughts, and I am coming to gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come and shall see my glory, and I will set a sign among them. From them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Put, and Lud--which draw the bow--to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands far away that have not heard of

10 my fame or seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the nations. They shall bring all your kindred from all the nations as an offering to the LORD, on horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and on mules, and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the LORD, just as the Israelites bring a grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD.

15 And I will also take some of them as priests and as Levites, says the LORD. For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, says the LORD; so shall your descendants and your name remain. From new moon to new moon, and from sabbath to sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, says the LORD. And they shall go

20 out and look at the dead bodies of the people who have rebelled against me;

for their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh.*

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