

TEHILLIM

PSALMS

1 Blessed is the man who *shall* not walk in the counsel of the *wrong*,

And *shall* not stand in the path of sinners,

And *shall* not sit in the seat of scoffers,

²But his **delight** is in the **Torah** of אַיָּאֵל,

And he meditates in **His Torah** day and night.

³For he *shall* be as a *tree*

Planted by the rivers of water,
That yields its **fruit** in its season,
And whose leaf *does not* wither,
And *whatever* he does prospers.

⁴The *wrong* are not so,
But are like the chaff which the *wind* blows away.

⁵Therefore the *wrong shall not rise* in the judgment,

Nor *sinner*s in the congregation of the righteous.

⁶For אַיָּאֵל knows the way of the **righteous**,
But the way of the *wrong* comes to naught.

2 *Why* do the *gentiles* rage,
And the peoples meditate *emptiness*?

²The sovereigns of the earth take their stand,

And the rulers take counsel together,
Against אַיָּאֵל and **against** **His** **Messiah** and *say*,

³“**Let** us *tear* apart Their bonds,
And *throw* away Their ropes from us.”

⁴**He** who is sitting in the heavens laughs,
אַיָּאֵל mocks at them.

⁵**Then** **He** speaks to them in **His wrath**,
And troubles them in **His rage**, *saying*,

⁶“**But** I, I have set **My** Sovereign on Tsiyon,

My set-apart mountain.”

⁷“**I** **inscribe** for a law:

אַיָּאֵל to Me, ‘**You** are **My** **Son**,

Today I have brought **You** forth.

⁸“**Ask** of Me and I make the *gentiles*

Your inheritance,

And the ends of the earth

Your possession.

⁹“Break them with a **rod** of iron,
Dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

¹⁰And **now**, be **wise**, O sovereigns;
Be **instructed**, you rulers of the earth.

¹¹Serve אַיָּאֵל with **fear**,
And **rejoice** with *trembling*.

¹²Kiss the **Son**, lest **He** be **enraged**,
And you *perish* in the way,

For soon **His** *wrath* is to be kindled.
Blessed are **all** those taking **refuge** in Him.

3 O אַיָּאֵל, how my adversaries have increased!
Many rising up **against** me.

²Many are saying of me,

“There is no **deliverance** for him in **Elohim**.” Selah.

³ **But** **You**, O אַיָּאֵל, are a shield for me,
My esteem and the **One** lifting up my head.

⁴I cried to אַיָּאֵל with my **voice**,
And **He** heard me from **His** set-apart mountain. Selah.

⁵I, I laid down and slept;
I awoke, for אַיָּאֵל sustained me.

⁶I am not *afraid* of ten thousands of people

Who have set themselves **against** me all around.

⁷Arise, O אַיָּאֵל; **Save** me, O my **Elohim**!

Because You have *smitten* all my enemies on the cheek;
You have broken the *teeth* of the *wrong*.

⁸Deliverance belongs to אַיָּאֵל.
Your blessing is on **Your people**.
 Selah.

4 Answer me when I call,
 O **Elohim** of my **righteousness**!
You gave relief to me when I was in distress;
 Show **favour** to me and **hear** my prayer.

²Til when, O you sons of men,
 Would you turn my **esteem** to shame,
 Would you **love emptiness**, **seek falsehood**? Selah.

³**But know** that אַיָּאֵל has separated a kind one for **Himself**;
 אַיָּאֵל **hears** when I **call** to **Him**.

⁴Tremble and *do not sin*.
 Speak within your **heart** on your bed,
 and be still. Selah.

⁵Offer slaughtering of **righteousness**,
 And **trust** in אַיָּאֵל.

⁶Many are saying, “*Who* would **show us good**?”
 אַיָּאֵל, lift up the **light** of **Your** face upon us.

⁷**You** have put more **gladness** in my heart,
 Than in the season that their grain and **wine** increased.

⁸I *lie* down in **peace** altogether and sleep;
 For **You** alone, O אַיָּאֵל,
 make me dwell in safety.

5 Give ear to my **words**, O אַיָּאֵל,
Consider my meditation.

²Attend to the **voice** of my cry,
My Sovereign and my **Elohim**,
 For unto **You** I pray.

³O אַיָּאֵל, in the morning **You hear** my **voice**;

I present myself to **You** in the morning,

And I look up.

⁴For **You** are not an Ēl taking **delight** in *wrong*,

Nor does *evil* dwell with **You**.

⁵The boasters *do not stand* before **Your** eyes;

You hate all workers of *wickedness*.

⁶**You destroy** those speaking falsehood;

אַיָּאֵל loathes a man of **blood** and *deceit*.

⁷**But** I, I enter **Your** house
 In the greatness of **Your kindness**;
 I bow myself toward **Your** set-apart
 Hēkal in **Your fear**.

⁸O אַיָּאֵל, lead me in **Your** **righteousness** **because** of those watching me;

Make *your way* **straight** before my face.

⁹For there is no stability in their mouth;

Their inward part is destruction;

Their throat is an **open** grave;

They flatter with their tongue.

¹⁰**Declare** them *guilty*, O **Elohim**!
Let them *fall* by their own counsels;
 Thrust them away for their many *transgressions*,

Because they have *rebelled against* **You**.

¹¹**But** let all who take **refuge** in **You** rejoice;

Let them ever shout for joy, **because** **You** shelter them;

And let those who **love Your Name** exult in **You**.

¹²For **You bless** the **righteous**,
 O אַיָּאֵל;

You surround him with favour as with a shield.

6 O אַיָּאֵל, *do not rebuke* me in **Your displeasure**,

Nor **discipline** me in **Your wrath**.

²Show **favour** to me, O אַיָּאֵל,
 for I am fading away;

O אַיָּאָל, **heal** me,
 for my bones have been troubled.
³And my being has been greatly
 troubled;
 And **You**, O אַיָּאָל – til when?
⁴**Return**, O אַיָּאָל, **rescue** my **life**!
 Oh, **save** me for **Your kindness**’ sake!
⁵For in *death* there’s no **remembrance**
 of **You**;
Who gives **You thanks** in the grave?
⁶I have grown *weary* with my
 groaning;
 Every night I *flood* my bed;
 I drench my couch with my tears.
⁷My eye has grown dim **because** of
 grief;
 It grows old **because** of **all** my
 adversaries.
⁸Depart from me, **all** you workers of
wickedness;
 For אַיָּאָל has **heard** the **voice** of
 my *weeping*.
⁹אַיָּאָל has **heard** my pleading;
 אַיָּאָל receives my prayer.
¹⁰**Let all** my enemies be *ashamed* and
 greatly troubled;
 They **turn back suddenly**, ashamed.

7 O אַיָּאָל my **Elohim**,
 in **You** I have taken refuge;
Save me from **all** my pursuers;
 And **deliver** me,
²Lest they *tear* at my throat like a lion,
 Rending in pieces, with no one to
 deliver.
³O אַיָּאָל my **Elohim**, if I have done
 this:
If there is *unrighteousness* in my
 hands,
⁴**If** I have done *evil* to him who was at
 peace with me,
 Or have plundered my enemy without
 cause,
⁵**Let** the enemy pursue me and
 overtake my being,
 And trample my **life** to the ground,
 And lay my **esteem** in the dust. Selah.

⁶Arise, O אַיָּאָל, in **Your** displeasure;
 Lift **Yourself** up *against* the *rage* of
 my adversaries,
 And awake for me!
You shall command judgment!
⁷And let the congregation of the
 peoples **gather** about **You**;
 And over them **return** on high.
⁸אַיָּאָל judges the peoples;
 Judge me, O אַיָּאָל, **according to**
 my **righteousness**,
 And **according** to my integrity
 within me.
⁹Please let the *evil* of the *wrong*
 be ended,
 And **establish** the righteous;
 For the **righteous Elohim** is a trier of
 hearts and kidneys.
¹⁰My shield is upon **Elohim**,
Who saves the upright in heart.
¹¹**Elohim** is a **righteous** judge.
 And **Ēl** is **enraged every day**,
¹²**If** one *does not repent*!
He sharpens **His sword**,
He bends **His bow** and makes it ready,
¹³And **He** has prepared for **Himself**
 instruments of *death*,
He makes **His arrows** hot for pursuers.
¹⁴**See**, he who is *bound* with
wickedness,
 And has conceived *trouble* and
 brought forth *falsehood*,
¹⁵**He** has made a pit and dug it out,
 And falls into the ditch he made!
¹⁶**His trouble** turns back upon his own
 head,
 And his wrongdoing **comes** down on
 the top of his head.
¹⁷I give **thanks** to אַיָּאָל **according**
 to **His righteousness**,
 And **praise** the **Name** of אַיָּאָל
Most High.

8 O אַיָּאָל, our **Master**,
 how excellent is **Your Name**
 in **all** the earth,

You who set **Your** splendour above
the heavens!
²Out of the **mouth** of babes and infants
You have founded strength,
Because of **Your** adversaries,
To put an end to enemy and avenger.
³For **I see You** heavens, the **work** of
Your fingers,
The moon and the stars, which **You**
have **established**.
⁴**What** is man that **You remember**
him?
And the son of man that **You visit**
him?
⁵Yet **You** have made him a *little* less
than **Elohim**,
And have crowned him with **esteem**
and splendour.
⁶**You** made him **rule** over the **works** of
Your hands;
You have put **all** under his feet,
⁷All sheep and oxen,
And also the beasts of the field,
⁸The birds of the heavens,
And the fish of the sea,
Passing through the paths of the seas.
⁹O **אֱלֹהִים**, our **Master**,
How excellent is **Your Name**
in **all** the earth!

9 I praise **You**, O **אֱלֹהִים**,
with **all** my heart;
I **declare all Your wonders**.
²I **rejoice** and exult in **You**;
I sing **praise** to **Your Name**,
O **Most High**.
³**When** my enemies turn back,
They *stumble* and *perish* before **You**.
⁴For **You executed** my **right** and my
cause,
You sat on the throne judging in
righteousness.
⁵**You** have **rebuked** the *gentiles*,
You have **destroyed** the **wrong**,
You have wiped out their **Name**
forever and ever.
⁶The enemy is no more – ruins

everlasting!
And **You** have uprooted the cities;
Even their **remembrance** has
perished.
⁷**But אֱלֹהִים** abides **forever**,
He is preparing **His** throne for
judgment.
⁸And **He** judges the world in
righteousness,
He judges the peoples in straightness.
⁹And **אֱלֹהִים** is a **refuge** for the
crushed one,
A **refuge** in times of *distress*.
¹⁰And those who **know Your Name**
trust in **You**,
For **You** have not *forsaken* those who
seek **You**, O **אֱלֹהִים**.
¹¹Sing praises to **אֱלֹהִים**, who dwells
in Tsiyon!
Declare His deeds among the peoples.
¹²For **He remembers** the seekers of
bloodshed,
He does not forget the cry of the
afflicted.
¹³Show **favour** to me, O **אֱלֹהִים!**
See my *affliction* by those who *hate*
me,
You who lift me up from the gates of
death,
¹⁴So that I **declare all Your praise**
In the gates of the daughter of
Tsiyon.
I **rejoice** in **Your deliverance**.
¹⁵The *gentiles* have sunk down in the
pit which they made;
In the *net* which they hid, their own
foot is caught.
¹⁶**אֱלֹהִים** has made **Himself known**,
He has done right-ruling;
The **wrong** is snared in the **work** of
his own hands.
Meditation. Selah.
¹⁷The **wrong return** to the grave,
All the *gentiles* that *forget Elohim*.
¹⁸For the needy is not **always**
forgotten;
Neither the expectancy of the *poor*
lost **forever**.
¹⁹Arise, O **אֱלֹהִים**,
Do not let man prevail;
Let the *gentiles* be judged before

Your face.

²⁰Put them in fear, O אַיָּאָל,

Let the *gentiles* know
they are *but* men. Selah.

10 Why do you **stand** afar off,
O אַיָּאָל, hiding in times of distress?

²In arrogance the *wrongdoer* hotly
pursues the *poor*;

They are *caught* by the schemes
which they devised.

³For the *wrongdoer* boasted of his
cravings;

And the *greedy* one *cursed* and
despised אַיָּאָל.

⁴In the pride of his face

The *wrongdoer* *does not seek Him*,
In **all** his *thoughts* there is no
Elohim!

⁵**His ways** are **always** prosperous!
Your right-rulings are on high,
out of his sight!

He snorts at **all** his adversaries!

⁶**He** has said in his **heart**,
“I *shall* not be moved;
From generation to generation,
never be in *evil!*”

⁷**His mouth** is filled with cursing and
deceit and oppression;

Under his tongue is *trouble* and
wickedness.

⁸**He** sits in the hiding places of the
villages;

In the **secret** places he *murders* the
innocent;

His eyes are on the lookout for the
helpless.

⁹**He** lies in wait in a **secret** place,
as a lion in his den;

He lies in wait to *catch* the *poor*;
He catches the *poor*, drawing him
into his net.

¹⁰And he crouches, he lies low,
And the helpless *fall* under his
strength.

¹¹**He** has said in his **heart**,

“**Ēl** has *forgotten*, **He** has *hidden His*
face, **He shall** never see.”

¹²Arise, O אַיָּאָל! O **Ēl**, lift up **Your**
hand!

Do not forget the lowly ones.

¹³Why do the *wrong* scorn **Elohim**?
He has said in his **heart**, “It is not
required.”

¹⁴**You** have **seen** it, for **You observe**
trouble and grief,
To **repay** with **Your hand**.

The *poor* commits himself to You;
You are the **Helper** of the fatherless.

¹⁵Break the arm of the *wrong* one and
the *evil* one;
Search out his *wrongness* that would
not be **found** out.

¹⁶אַיָּאָל is Sovereign **forever** and
ever; The *gentiles shall* *perish* from
His land.

¹⁷אַיָּאָל, **You** have **heard** the desire of
the lowly ones;

You prepare their heart;
You incline **Your** ear,

¹⁸To defend the fatherless and the
downtrodden;
So that man who is of the earth no
longer oppresses!

11 In אַיָּאָל I have taken refuge;
Why do you say to me,

“Flee to your mountain like a bird”?

²For look! The *wrong* bend a bow,
They set their arrow on the string,
To shoot in *darkness* at the **upright**
in heart.

³When the foundations are **destroyed**,
What shall the **righteous** do?

⁴אַיָּאָל is in **His** set-apart Hēkal,
The throne of אַיָּאָל is in the
heavens.

His eyes see, **His** eyelids examine
the sons of men.

⁵אַיָּאָל tries the **righteous**,
But His being *shall hate* the *wrong*
And the one who loves *violence*.

⁶Upon the *wrong* **He** rains *snares*,
Fire and sulphur and a scorching *wind*
Are the portion of their **cup**.

⁷For אַיָּאֵל is **righteous**,
He has loved righteousness;
 The **upright shall see His face**.

12 Save, אַיָּאֵל, for the **kind** one
 is no more!

For the **trustworthy** have ceased
 from among the sons of men.

²They **speak falsehood**
 with each other;

They **speak with** flattering lips,
 a double **heart**.

³אַיָּאֵל does *cut off* **all** flattering lips,
 A tongue that speaks swelling **words**,

⁴**Who** have said, “With our tongue
 we do mightily;

Our lips are our own;

Who is master over us?”

⁵“**Because** of the *oppression*
 of the *poor*,

because of the *sighing* of the needy,

I **now** arise,” says אַיָּאֵל,

“I set in safety – he pants for it.”

⁶The **Words** of אַיָּאֵל

are **clean Words**,

Silver tried in a furnace of earth,
 Refined seven times.

⁷**You guard** them, O אַיָּאֵל,

You preserve them from
 this generation **forever**.

⁸The **wrong walk** around on **every** side
when worthlessness is exalted among
 the sons of men.

13 *How* long would **You** *forget* me,
 O אַיָּאֵל? **Forever**?

How long would **You** **hide Your** face
 from me?

²*How* long would I take counsel in my
 being,

Grief in my **heart** day by day?

How long would my enemy be
 exalted over me?

³Look! Answer me, O אַיָּאֵל my

Elohim; enlighten my eyes,

Lest I sleep in death;

⁴Lest my enemy say, “I have prevailed
against him,”

Lest my adversaries **rejoice** when I
 am moved.

⁵**But** I have **trusted** in **Your kindness**;
My heart rejoices in **Your**
deliverance.

⁶I sing to אַיָּאֵל,

Because He has been good to me

14 The *fool* has said in his **heart**,
 “There is no אַיָּאֵל.”

They have done *corruptly*,

They have done an **abominable deed**,

There is no one who does **good**.

²אַיָּאֵל **looked** down from the
 heavens on the sons of mankind,
 To **see** if there is a **wise** one,

seeking אַיָּאֵל.

³They have **all** turned aside,

They have **together** become *filthy*;

No one is doing **good**, not even one.

⁴Have **all** the workers of *wickedness*
 no **knowledge**,

Who eat up my people as they eat
 bread,

And *do not call on אַיָּאֵל*?

⁵There they are in **great fear**,

For אַיָּאֵל is with

the generation of the righteous.

⁶**You** would put to *shame*

the counsel of the *poor*,

But אַיָּאֵל is his refuge.

⁷O that the **deliverance** of Yisra’el

Would be **given** out of Tsiyon!

When אַיָּאֵל turns back

the captivity of **His** people,

Let Ya’aqob **rejoice**, let Yisra’el be
 glad.

15 אַיָּאֵל, who does sojourn in
Your Tent?

Who does dwell in **Your** set-apart
 mountain?

²**He** who walks blamelessly,

And does **righteousness**

and speaks the **truth** in his **heart**.

³He has not *slandered* with his tongue,
He has not done *evil* to his neighbour,
 Nor lifted up a *reproach* against
 his friend;

⁴In whose eyes a reprobate one is
despised,

But he esteems those who fear
 אַיָּאֵל;

He who swears to his own hurt
 and *does not change*;

⁵**He** has not put out his silver
 at interest,

And has not taken a bribe
against the innocent.

He who does these is never moved.

16 Guard me, O Ēl,

For I have taken **refuge** in **You**.

²I have said to אַיָּאֵל,

“**You** are אַיָּאֵל,

I have no **good** beside **You**.”

³As for the set-apart ones who are on
 the earth, They are the excellent ones,
 in whom is **all** my delight.

⁴The sorrows of those who run after
 another one are increased;

I *would not* **pour out** their drink
 offerings of **blood**,

Nor take up their names on my lips.

⁵אַיָּאֵל is the portion of my
 inheritance and my cup;

You uphold my **lot**.

⁶*Boundary* lines have fallen to me in
 pleasant places;

Indeed, a **good inheritance** is mine.

⁷I **bless** אַיָּאֵל who has **given** me
 counsel;

My kidneys also **instruct** me in the
 nights.

⁸I have set אַיָּאֵל **always** before me;
Because **He** is at my **right**
 hand I am not *shaken*.

⁹Therefore my **heart** was glad,
 and my esteem rejoices;

My *flesh* also dwells in safety.

¹⁰For *you do not* leave my being in the
 grave,

Neither let **Your kind One** see
corruption.

¹¹**You** show me the path of **life**;
 In **Your** presence is **joy** to satisfaction;
 At **Your right hand** are pleasures
forever.

17 Hear righteousness, אַיָּאֵל,

Listen to my cry;

Give ear to my prayer,

From lips without *deceit*.

²**Let** my **right-ruling** go out from
Your presence;

Let **Your** eyes see what is **straight**.

³**You** have examined my heart;

You have **visited** me in the night;

You have tried me –

You find I have not schemed;

My **mouth** *would not transgress*.

⁴As for the **deeds** of men –

By the **Word** of **Your** lips,

I have kept myself from the paths of
 the destroyer.

⁵My steps have held fast to **Your**
 paths,

My feet have not slipped.

⁶I have called upon **You**, for **You**
 answer me, O Ēl;

Incline **Your** ear to me, **hear** my
 speech.

⁷**Let** **Your** **kindness** be distinguished,
You who **save** by **Your right hand**
 those who take **refuge**

From those who rise up.

⁸**Guard** me as the apple of **Your** eye.

Hide me under the shadow of

Your wings,

⁹From the face of the *wrong* who
 ravage me,

From my deadly enemies who
 surround me.

¹⁰They are enclosed in their own fat,
 They **speak** *proudly*
 with their mouths,

¹¹They have **now** surrounded us in our
 steps,

They set their eyes to *cast us* to the

ground,
 12Like a lion who is eager to *tear* his
 prey,
 And as a young lion crouching in
 cover.
 13Arise, O אַיָּאֵל,
 Confront him, **cause** him to bend;
 Deliver my being from the **wrong** by
Your sword,
 14From men by **Your hand**, O אַיָּאֵל,
 From men of the world whose portion
 is in **this life**,
 And **You** fill their bellies with **Your**
 treasure,
 They are **satisfied** with children,
 And **shall** leave their riches to their
 babes.
 15As for me, let **Me** see **Your** face in
righteousness;
 I am **satisfied** to see **Your** appearance
 when I awake.

18 I love you, O אַיָּאֵל

My **strength**.
 2אַיָּאֵל is my **rock** and my
stronghold and my **deliverer**;
 My El is my **rock**, I take **refuge** in
Him;
 My **shield** and the **horn** of my
deliverance, my **high tower**.
 3I call upon אַיָּאֵל, the **One** to
 be **praised**,
 And I am **saved** from my enemies.
 4The cords of *death* surrounded me,
 And the floods of
 Belya'al made me *afraid*.
 5The cords of the grave were **all**
 around me;
 The *snares* of *death* were before me.
 6In my *distress* I called upon אַיָּאֵל,
 And to my **Elohim** I cried;
He heard my **voice** from His Hēkal,
 And my cry went before **Him**,
 into **His ears**.
 7And the earth *shook* and trembled;
 Even the foundations of the mountains

were *troubled*
 And they shook, **because** **He** was
wroth.
 8Smoke went up from **His** nostrils,
 And *consuming fire* from **His** mouth;
 Coals were kindled by it.
 9And **He** bowed the heavens and came
 down,
 And thick *darkness* was under **His**
 feet.
 10And **He** rode upon a kerub and flew;
He flew upon the wings of the wind.
 11**He** made *darkness* **His** covering;
 Around **Him** **His** booth,
 Darkness of waters, thick clouds
 of the skies.
 12From the brightness before **Him**,
His thick clouds passed, *hail* and
 coals of *fire*.
 13And אַיָּאֵל thundered in the
 heavens,
 And the **Most High** sent forth **His**
voice,
 Hail and coals of *fire*.
 14And **He** sent out **His** arrows and
scattered them,
 And much lightning and confused
 them.
 15And the channels of waters were
 seen,
 And the foundations of the world were
 uncovered
 At **Your** rebuke, O אַיָּאֵל,
 At the blast of the breath of **Your**
 nostrils.
 16**He** sent from above, **He** took me;
He drew me out of many waters.
 17**He** delivered me from my **strong**
 enemy,
 And from those *hating* me,
 For they were stronger than I.
 18They confronted me in the **day of** my
calamity,
But אַיָּאֵל was my support.
 19And **He** brought me out into a large
 place;

He delivered me
 for **He delighted** in me.
²⁰אָפַּל rewarded me according to
 my righteousness;
 According to the cleanness of my
 hands **He repaid** me.
²¹For I have **guarded** the ways of
 אָפַּל,
 And have not acted wrongly *against*
 my **Elohim**.
²²For **all His right-rulings** are before
 me, And I *did not* turn from **His**
laws.
²³And I am **perfect** before **Him**,
 And I **guard** myself from my
 crookedness.
²⁴And אָפַּל repays me according to
 my righteousness,
 According to the cleanness of my
 hands before **His** eyes.
²⁵With the **kind You show Yourself**
 kind;
 With the **perfect one You show**
Yourself perfect;
²⁶With the **clean You show Yourself**
 clean;
 And with the *crooked You show*
Yourself twisted.
²⁷For **You save** the *afflicted* people,
But bring down those whose eyes are
 haughty.
²⁸For **You Yourself light** my lamp;
 אָפַּל my **Elohim** makes my
darkness light.
²⁹For with **You** I run *against* a band,
 And with my **Elohim** I leap over a
 wall.
³⁰The **Él – His way** is perfect;
 The **Word** of אָפַּל is proven;
He is a shield to **all** who take **refuge**
 in **Him**.
³¹For who is Eloah, besides אָפַּל?
 And who is a rock, *except* our
Elohim?
³²It is **Él** who girds me with strength,
 And makes my **way perfect**,
³³Making my feet like the feet of deer,

And sets me on my *high places*,
³⁴**Teaching** my hands for battle,
 So that my arms *shall* bend a bow of
 bronze.
³⁵And **You** give me the shield of **Your**
deliverance;
 And **Your right hand** supports me,
 And **Your** lowliness makes me great.
³⁶**You** enlarge my step under me; And
 my feet *shall* not slip.
³⁷I pursue my enemies and overtake
 them;
 And *do not turn back* til they are
 destroyed.
³⁸I *crush* them and they are *unable* to
 rise;
 They *fall* under my feet.
³⁹And **You** gird me with strength for
 battle;
 Cause my adversaries to bow under
 me.
⁴⁰And **You** have made my enemies
 turn their backs,
 As for those hating me, I *cut* them off.
⁴¹They cry – but no one is there to
 save,
 To אָפַּל – but **He** answers them not.
⁴²And I beat them as dust before the
 wind;
 I *empty* them out like dirt in the
 streets.
⁴³**You deliver** me from the strivings of
 the people,
You set me at the head of the nations;
 A people I have not **known** serve me.
⁴⁴As soon as they **hear** of me they
obey me;
 The foreigners submit to me.
⁴⁵The foreigners fade away,
 And **come** frightened from their
 strongholds.
⁴⁶אָפַּל lives! And **blessed** is my
Rock!
And exalted is the Elohim of my
deliverance,
⁴⁷The **Él** who avenges me,
 And **He** humbles the peoples under

me;

⁴⁸My deliverer from my enemies.

You lift me up above those who rise

against me;

You deliver me from a man of
violence.

⁴⁹Therefore I give **thanks** to **You**,

O אַיָּאָל, among nations,

And I sing **praise** to **Your Name**,

⁵⁰Making **great** the **deliverance** of **His**
sovereign,

And showing **kindness** to **His**
anointed,

To Dawiḏ and his seed, **forever**.

19 The heavens are **proclaiming**
the **esteem** of Ēl; And the expanse
is **declaring** the **work** of **His hand**.

²Day to day pours forth speech, And
night to night **reveals knowledge**.

³There is no speech and there are no
words,

Their **voice** is not **heard**.

⁴Their line has gone out through **all** the
earth,

And their **words** to **the end** of the
world.

In them **He** set up a tent for the sun,

⁵And it is like a bridegroom **coming**
out of his room,

It **rejoices** like a **strong** man to run the
path.

⁶Its rising is from one end of the
heavens,

And its circuit to the other end;

And naught is *hidden* from its heat.

⁷The **Torah** of אַיָּאָל is **perfect**,
bringing back the being;

The **witness** of אַיָּאָל is
trustworthy, making **wise** the simple;

⁸The orders of אַיָּאָל are **straight**,
rejoicing the heart;

The **command** of אַיָּאָל is clear,
enlightening the eyes;

⁹The **fear** of אַיָּאָל is **clean**,
standing **forever**;

The **right-rulings** of אַיָּאָל are **true**,
They are **righteous** altogether,

¹⁰More desirable than gold,

Than much fine gold;

And sweeter than honey and the
honeycomb.

¹¹Also, **Your** servant is **warned** by
them, In **guarding** them there is
great reward.

¹²*Who discerns* mistakes?

Declare me **innocent** from those that
are secret,

¹³Also keep **Your** servant back from
presumptuous ones,

Do not let them **rule** over me.

Then shall I be **perfect** and **innocent**
of **great transgression**.

¹⁴**Let** the **words** of my **mouth** and the
meditation of my **heart**

Be pleasing before **You**,

O אַיָּאָל, my rock and my redeemer.

20 אַיָּאָל does answer you in
the **day** of distress!

The **Name** of the **Elohim** of Ya'aqob
does set you on high!

²**He** does send you help from the set
apart place,

And does uphold you from Tsiyon!

³**He** does **remember** **all** your
offerings, And does **accept** your
burnt offering! Selah.

⁴**He** does give you **according** to your
heart,

And fills **all** your plans!

⁵We sing of **Your deliverance**,

And in the **Name** of our **Elohim** we
set up a banner!

אַיָּאָל does fill **all** your requests!

⁶**Now** I **know** that אַיָּאָל *shall save*
His Anointed;

He answers him from **His** set-apart
heavens

With the saving might of **His right**
hand.

⁷Some **trust** in chariots and some in horses,

But we *remember* the **Name** of אַיָּאֵל our **Elohim**.

⁸They, they have bowed down and fallen;

But we have risen and are **established**.

⁹Save, אַיָּאֵל!

Let the Sovereign answer us in the day we call.

21 The sovereign **rejoices** in

Your

strength, O אַיָּאֵל;

And how greatly he exults in **Your deliverance!**

²**You** have **given** him the desire of his heart,

And **You** have not withheld the request of his lips. Selah.

³For **You** put before him the **blessings of goodness;**

You set a crown of fine gold on his head.

⁴**He** asked **life** from **You** and **You** gave it to him –

Length of days **forever** and **ever**.

⁵Through **Your deliverance** his **esteem** is great;

You have laid excellency and splendour on him.

⁶For **You** have made him most **blessed forever;**

You have made him **glad** with the **joy** of **Your** presence.

⁷For the sovereign is **trusting** in אַיָּאֵל,

And through the **kindness** of the **Most High** he is not moved.

⁸**Your hand** reaches **all Your** enemies; **Your right hand** reaches those who *hate You*.

⁹**You** make them as a furnace of *fire* in the **time** of **Your** presence;

אַיָּאֵל does swallow them up in **His wrath**,

And *fire* does *consume* them.

¹⁰**You** *destroy* their **fruit** from the earth,

And their seed from among the sons of men.

¹¹For they held out *evil* *against* You; They devised a plot; they *do not* prevail.

¹²For **You** make them turn their back, **When You** aim with **Your** bowstring toward their faces.

¹³Be exalted, O אַיָּאֵל, in **Your** strength!

We sing and we **praise Your** might.

22 My Ĕl, My Ĕl, why have **You forsaken Me** –

Far from saving **Me**, *far from* the **words** of **My** groaning?

²O **My Elohim**, I **call** by day, but **You** *do not* answer;

And by night, but I find no rest.

³Yet **You** are set-apart, Enthroned on the praises of Yisra'el.

⁴Our fathers **trusted** in You; They **trusted** and **You delivered** them.

⁵They cried to **You** and were **delivered;**

They **trusted** in **You** and were not ashamed.

⁶**But** I am a worm and no man; A *reproach* of men and *despised* by the people.

⁷All those who **see Me** *mock* Me; They shoot out the lip, they *shake* the head, *saying*,

⁸"He **trusted** in אַיָּאֵל, let **Him** rescue Him;

Let Him deliver **Him**, seeing **He** has **delighted** in **Him!**"

⁹For **You** are the **One** who took **Me** out of the womb; Causing **Me** to **trust** while on **My** mother's breasts.

¹⁰I was *cast* upon **You** from birth. From **My** mother's belly **You** have been **My** Ĕl.

¹¹**Do not** be far from **Me**,
For *distress* is near;
For there is none to help.

¹²Many bulls have surrounded Me;
Strong ones of Bashan have encircled **Me**.

¹³They have opened their mouths
against Me,

As a raging and roaring lion.

¹⁴I have been **poured out** like water,
And **all My** bones have been spread
apart;

My **heart** has become like wax;
It has melted in the **midst** of **My**
inward parts.

¹⁵My strength is dried like a potsherd,
And **My** tongue is cleaving to **My**
jaws;

And to the dust of *death* **You** are
appointing **Me**.

¹⁶For dogs have surrounded Me;
A crowd of *evil* ones have encircled **Me**,

Piercing **My** hands and **My** feet;

¹⁷I count **all My** bones.

They look, they stare at **Me**.

¹⁸They divide **My** garments among
them,
And for **My** raiment they *cast* lots.

¹⁹**But You**, O אַיָּאָל, *do not* be far
off;

O **My** Strength, hasten to help **Me!**

²⁰Deliver **My** life from the *sword*,
My only **life** from the **power** of the
dog.

²¹**Save Me** from the **mouth** of the lion,
And from the horns of the wild beasts!
You have answered **Me**.

²²I make **known Your Name** to **My**
brothers;

In the **midst** of the assembly I **praise**
You.

²³**You** who **fear** אַיָּאָל, **praise Him!**
All you seed of Ya'aqob, **esteem Him**,
And **fear Him**, all you seed of
Yisra'el!

²⁴For **He** has not *despised*

Nor *hated* the *affliction* of the *afflicted*;
Or has **He** *hidden His* face from **Him**;
But when **He** cried to **Him**, **He** heard.

²⁵From **You** is **My** praise in the **great**
assembly;

I pay **My** vows before those who **fear**
Him.

²⁶The meek ones do eat and are
satisfied;

Let those who **seek Him** praise
אַיָּאָל.

Let your **heart** live forever!

²⁷**Let** all the ends of the earth
Remember and turn to אַיָּאָל,

And **all** clans of the nations

Bow themselves before **You**.

²⁸For the **reign** belongs to אַיָּאָל,
And **He** is ruling over the nations.

²⁹All the fat ones of the earth
Shall eat and bow themselves;
All who go down to the dust bow
before **Him**,

Even he who *did not* keep **alive** his
own **life**.

³⁰A seed **shall** serve **Him**.

It is **declared** of אַיָּאָל to the **coming**
generation.

³¹They **shall** come and **declare His**
righteousness

To a people *yet* to be born,
For **He** **shall** do it!

23 אַיָּאָל is my shepherd;

I *do not* lack.

²**He** makes me to *lie* down in green
pastures;

He leads me beside still waters.

³**He** turns back my being;

He leads me in paths of **righteousness**
For **His Name's** sake.

⁴**When** I walk through
the valley of the shadow of *death*,
I **fear** no *evil*.

For **You** are with me;

Your rod and **Your** staff,
they comfort me.

⁵**You** spread before me a table in the face of my enemies;
You have **anointed** my head with oil;
 My **cup** runs over.
⁶Only **goodness** and **kindness** follow me
 All the days of my **life**;
 And I *shall* dwell in the **House** of
 אַיָּאֵל, To the length of days!

24 The earth belongs to אַיָּאֵל,
 And **all** that fills it –
 The world and those who dwell in it.
²For **He** has founded it upon the seas,
 And upon the waters **He** does
establish it.
³*Who* does go up into the mountain of
 אַיָּאֵל?
 And who does **stand** in **His** set-apart
 place?
⁴**He** who has **innocent** hands and a
clean heart,
Who did not bring his **life** to *naught*,
 And *did not* swear deceptively.
⁵**He** receives a **blessing** from אַיָּאֵל,
 And **righteousness** from the **Elohim**
 of his **deliverance**.
⁶This is the generation of those who
 seek Him;
 Ya'aqob, who **seek Your** face. Selah.
⁷Lift up your heads, O you gates! And
 be lifted up, you **everlasting doors!**
 Let the Sovereign of **esteem** come in.
⁸*Who* is this Sovereign of esteem?
 אַיָּאֵל **strong** and mighty,
 אַיָּאֵל mighty in battle.
⁹Lift up your heads, O you gates!
 Even lift up, you **everlasting doors!**
 Let the Sovereign of **esteem** come in.
¹⁰*Who* is this Sovereign of esteem?
 אַיָּאֵל of hosts, **He** is the Sovereign
 of esteem! Selah.

25 To **You**, O אַיָּאֵל, lift up my
 being.

²O my **Elohim**, in **You** I have put my
 trust;
Let me not be ashamed;
Let not my enemies exult over me.
³Indeed, let no one who waits on **You**
 be ashamed;
Let those who are treacherous without
 cause be ashamed.
⁴**Show me Your** ways, O אַיָּאֵל;
Teach me **Your** paths.
⁵Lead me in **Your truth** and **teach** me,
 For **You** are the **Elohim** of my
deliverance;
 On **You** I wait **all** the day.
⁶**Remember**, O אַיָּאֵל, **Your**
compassion and **Your** kindnesses,
 For they are from **everlasting**.
⁷*Do not remember* the *sins* of my
 youth and my *transgressions*;
 According to **Your kindness**
remember me,
 For **Your goodness**' sake, O אַיָּאֵל.
⁸**Good** and **straight** is אַיָּאֵל;
 Therefore **He** teaches
sinners in the way.
⁹**He** guides the meek ones in
 right-ruling,
 And **He** teaches
 the meek ones **His** way.
¹⁰All the paths of אַיָּאֵל
 are **kindness** and **truth**,
 To those who **guard**
His covenant and **His** witnesses.
¹¹For **Your Name**'s sake, O אַיָּאֵל,
You shall pardon my *crookedness*,
 though it is great.
¹²*Who*, then, is the man that *fears*
 אַיָּאֵל?
He teaches him in the way he should
 choose.
¹³**His life** dwells in **good**, And his
 seed inherits the earth.
¹⁴The **secret** of אַיָּאֵל is with those
 who **fear Him**,
 And **He** makes **His covenant** known
 to them.
¹⁵My eyes are ever toward אַיָּאֵל,

For **He** brings my feet out of the net.

¹⁶Turn **Your** face to me and **show** me favour,

For I am lonely and *afflicted*.

¹⁷The *distresses* of my **heart** have enlarged;

Oh, bring me out of my *distresses*!

¹⁸Look on my *affliction* and my toil,
And **forgive all** my *sins*.

¹⁹See how many
my enemies have become;

And they *hate* me
with a *violent* hatred.

²⁰Oh, **guard** my **life** and **deliver** me;

Let me not be ashamed,
for I have taken **refuge** in **You**.

²¹**Let** integrity and straightness
guard me,

For I have waited for **You**.

²²Redeem Yisra'el, O **Elohim**, Out of
all his *distresses*!

26 Rule me **rightly**, O אַיָּאָל,
For I have walked in my
integrity. And I have **trusted** in
אַיָּאָל, without wavering.

²Examine me, O אַיָּאָל and prove
me; Try my kidneys and my **heart**.

³For **Your kindness** is before my eyes,
And I have walked in **Your truth**.

⁴I have not sat with men of *falsehood*,
Nor do I enter with pretenders.

⁵I have *hated* the assembly of
evil doers,
And I *do not* sit with the *wrong*.

⁶I wash my hands in innocence;
And I **walk** around **Your** altar,
O אַיָּאָל,

⁷To **raise a voice** of **thanksgiving**,
And to **declare all Your wonders**.

⁸אַיָּאָל, I have **loved**
the abode of **Your** house,
And the place
where **Your esteem** dwells.

⁹**Do not gather** my being
together with sinners,

Nor my **life** with bloodthirsty men,

¹⁰In whose hands is a plot,

And their **right hand**

is filled with bribes.

¹¹**But** as for me,

I **walk** in my integrity;

Redeem me and **show** me favour.

¹²My foot **shall stand** on a level place;

In the assemblies I **bless** אַיָּאָל.

27 אַיָּאָל is my **light** and my
deliverance;

Whom should I **fear**?

אַיָּאָל is the refuge of my **life**;

Whom should I **dread**?

²**When evil-doers come against** me

To eat up my *flesh*,

My adversaries and my enemies,

They **shall stumble** and fall.

³Though an army encamps **against** me,

My **heart does not fear**;

Though battle **comes up against** me,

Even then I would be **trusting**.

⁴One matter I asked of אַיָּאָל—

this I seek:

To dwell in the House of אַיָּאָל

All the days of my **life**,

To **see** the pleasantness of אַיָּאָל,

And to **inquire** in **His** Hēkal.

⁵For in the **day of evil** **He** hides me in

His booth;

In the covering of **His Tent** **He** hides
me;

On a rock **He** raises me up.

⁶And **now** my head is lifted up above
my enemies **all** around me;

And I offer in **His Tent** with shouts of
joy;

I sing, yea, I sing praises to אַיָּאָל.

⁷**Hear**, O אַיָּאָל, when I cry with my
voice!

And **show** me **favour** and answer me.

⁸To my **heart** **You** have said, “**Seek**
My face.” **Your** face, אַיָּאָל, I seek.

⁹*Do not* hide **Your** face from me;
Do not turn **Your** servant away in
 displeasure; **You** have been my help;
Do not leave me nor *forsake* me,
 O **Elohim** of my **deliverance**.
¹⁰*When* my father and my mother have
forsaken me,
Then אַיָּאֵל does take me in.
¹¹**Teach** me **Your** way, O אַיָּאֵל,
 And lead me in a **smooth** path,
because of my enemies.
¹²*Do not* give me over
 To the desire of my adversaries;
 For *false witnesses* have risen
against me,
 And they breathe out cruelty to me.
¹³*What* if I had not **believed**
 To see the **goodness** of אַיָּאֵל
 In the land of the **living**!
¹⁴Wait on אַיָּאֵל, be **strong**,
 And let **Him** strengthen your heart!
 Wait, I say, on אַיָּאֵל!

28 I cry to **You**, O אַיָּאֵל,
 my Rock: *Do not* be *deaf* to me!
 For if **You** are *silent* to me,
 I **shall** be like those
 who go down to the pit.
²**Hear** the **voice** of my prayers
 when I cry to **You**,
When I lift up my hands
 Toward **Your Set-apart**
 Speaking Place.
³*Do not* draw me away with the **wrong**
 And with the workers of *wickedness*,
Who speak peace to their neighbours,
But evil is in their **hearts**.
⁴Give to them **according** to their
deeds,
 And **according** to the *evil* of their
 practices;
 Give to them **according**
 to the **work** of their hands;
 Bring back to them what they deserve.
⁵**Because** they *do not heed*
 the **works** of אַיָּאֵל,
 Nor the **works** of **His** hands,

He throws them down,
 And *does not* build them up.
⁶**Blessed** be אַיָּאֵל,
Because He has heard the **voice** of
 my prayers!
⁷אַיָּאֵל is my strength and my shield;
My heart has trusted in Him,
 and I have been helped;
 Therefore my **heart** exults,
 And with my song I **thank Him**.
⁸אַיָּאֵל is the strength of **His** people,
 And **He** is the stronghold of
deliverance of **His** anointed.
⁹**Save Your people** and **bless Your**
 inheritance;
 And be their Shepherd and bear
 them up **forever**.

29 Ascribe to אַיָּאֵל, O you sons
 of the mighty,
 Ascribe to אַיָּאֵל **esteem** and
 strength.
²Ascribe to אַיָּאֵל the **esteem** of **His**
Name;
 Bow yourselves to אַיָּאֵל in the
 splendour of set-apartness.
³The **voice** of אַיָּאֵל is over the
 waters; The **El** of **esteem** thunders;
 אַיָּאֵל is over many waters.
⁴The **voice** of אַיָּאֵל is with power,
 The **voice** of אַיָּאֵל is with
 greatness.
⁵The **voice** of אַיָּאֵל is breaking the
 cedars,
 אַיָּאֵל is breaking the cedars of
 Lebanon in pieces.
⁶And **He** makes them skip like a calf,
 Lebanon and Siryon like a young
 wild ox.
⁷The **voice** of אַיָּאֵל *strikes with*
 flashes of lightning.
⁸The **voice** of אַיָּאֵל *shakes* the
 wilderness;
 אַיָּאֵל *shakes* the Wilderness of
 Qadēsh.
⁹The **voice** of אַיָּאֵל *twists* the oaks
 And strips the forests bare.

And in **His** Hēkal everyone says,
“Esteem!”

¹⁰ אַיָּאָל sits enthroned over the flood;
אַיָּאָל is enthroned as Sovereign
forever.

¹¹ אַיָּאָל gives strength to **His** people;
אַיָּאָל blesses **His** people with peace

30 I exalt You, O אַיָּאָל,
for you have drawn me up,
And have not let my enemies
rejoice over me.

² אַיָּאָל my Elohim, I have cried to
You and **You** have **healed** me.

³ אַיָּאָל, **You** brought me up
from the grave;

You have kept me **alive**,
from going down into the pit.

⁴ Sing **praise** to אַיָּאָל,
You **kind** ones of **His**,
And give **thanks** at the **remembrance**
of **His** Set-apartness.

⁵ For **His** *displeasure* is for a moment,
His **delight** is for **life**;

Weeping might **last** for the night,
But **joy** comes in the morning.

⁶ As for me, I have said in my ease,
“Never would I be shaken!”

⁷ אַיָּאָל, in **Your** **good** pleasure
You have made my mountain
to **stand** strong;

You hid **Your** face and I was troubled.

⁸ I *cried out* to **You**, O אַיָּאָל;
And to אַיָּאָל I prayed:

⁹ “**What** **gain** is there in my **blood**,
When I go down to the pit?
Would dust **praise** **You**?
Would it **declare** **Your** **truth**?”

¹⁰ “**Hear**, O אַיָּאָל and **show** me
favour; אַיָּאָל, be my helper!”

¹¹ **You** have turned my *mourning* into
dancing for me;
You have *torn* off my sackcloth and
girded me with **gladness**,

¹² So that **esteem** might **praise** **You**
and not be silent.

O אַיָּאָל my Elohim, I **thank** **You**
forever.

31 In **You**, O אַיָּאָל, I have taken
refuge;

Let me never be ashamed;
Deliver me in **Your** **righteousness**.

² Incline **Your** ear to me,
Deliver me **speedily**;
Be a rock of **refuge** to me,
A house of defence to **save** me.

³ For **You** are my rock and my
stronghold;
For **Your** **Name’s** sake lead me and
guide me.

⁴ Bring me out of the *net* which they
have *hidden* for me,
For **You** are my stronghold.

⁵ Into **Your** **hand** I *commit* my spirit;
You have redeemed me, O אַיָּאָל
Ĕl of **truth**.

⁶ I have *hated* those who **observe**
lying vanities;

But I **trust** in אַיָּאָל.

⁷ I exult and **rejoice** in **Your** **kindness**,
For **You** have **seen** my *affliction*;
You have **known** the *distresses* of my
life,

⁸ And **You** have not shut me up into the
hand of the enemy.

You have set my feet in a large place.

⁹ Show me **favour**, O אַיָּאָל, for I am
in distress;

My eye, my being and my body have
become old with *grief*!

¹⁰ For my **life** is *consumed* in *sorrow*,
And my years in *sighing*;
My strength fails **because** of my
crookedness,

And my bones have become old.

¹¹ I am a *reproach* among **all** my
adversaries,

But most of **all** among my neighbours,
And a *dread* to my friends;

Those who **see** me outside *flee* from me.

¹²I have been *forgotten* like someone dead from the heart;

I have been like a missing vessel.

¹³For I **hear** the *evil* report of many;

Fear is from **all** around;

When they take counsel **together** *against* me,

They *plot* to take away my **life**.

¹⁴**But** I, I have put my **trust** in **You**,
O **אֱלֹהִים**;

I have said, "**You** are my **Elohim**."

¹⁵My times are in **Your** hand;
Deliver me from the **hand** of my enemies,

And from those who pursue me.

¹⁶Make **Your** face shine upon **Your** servant;

Save me in **Your** **kindness**.

¹⁷**Do not** let me be ashamed,
O **אֱלֹהִים**,

For I have called upon You;

Let the *wrong* be ashamed;

Let them be silenced in the grave.

¹⁸**Let** lips of *falsehood* be stilled,
Which **speak** recklessly *against* the **righteous**,

With pride and scorn.

¹⁹**How** great is **Your** **goodness**,
Which **You** have laid up for those **fearing** **You**,

Which **You** have prepared

for those taking **refuge** in **You**

In the **sight** of the sons of men!

²⁰In the secrecy of **Your** presence
You shall hide them from the plots of man;

You shelter them in a booth from the strife of tongues.

²¹ **Blessed** be **אֱלֹהִים**,

For **He** has made marvellous **His** **kindness** to me in a **strong** city!

²²And I, I have said in my haste, "I am *cut off* from before **Your** eyes,"

Yet **You** **heard** the **voice** of my

prayers

When I *cried out* to **You**.

²³**Love** **אֱלֹהִים**, all you **His** **kind** ones!
For **אֱלֹהִים** guards the **trustworthy** ones,

And exceedingly **repays** the doer of pride.

²⁴Be **strong** and let **Him** strengthen your **heart**,

All you who are waiting for **אֱלֹהִים**.

32 **Blessed** is he whose *transgression* is **forgiven**,
Whose sin is covered.

² **Blessed** is the man to whom **אֱלֹהִים** imputes no *crookedness*,

And in whose spirit there is no *deceit*.

³**When** I kept silent, my bones became old

Through my groaning **all** the day.

⁴For day and night **Your** **hand** was heavy upon me;

My sap was turned into the droughts of summer. Selah.

⁵I **acknowledged** my *sin* to **You**,
And my *crookedness* I *did not* hide.

I have said, "I confess my transgressions to **אֱלֹהִים**,"

And **You** forgave the *crookedness* of my *sin*. Selah.

⁶Therefore, let **every** **kind** one pray to **You**

While **You** might be found;

Even in a *flood* of **great** waters
They *would not* reach him.

⁷**You** are my hiding place;

You **preserve** me from distress;

You surround me with songs of **deliverance**. Selah.

⁸**Let Me** **instruct** you and **teach** you in the **way** you should go;

Let Me counsel, **My** eye be on you.

⁹**Do not** be like the horse, like the mule,

With no **understanding**,

with bit and bridle,

Else they *do not come near* you.”

¹⁰Many are the sorrows of the wrong;
But as for the one **trusting** in אַיָּאָל,

Kindness surrounds him.

¹¹Be **glad** in אַיָּאָל and exult,
you righteous;

Shout for joy **all** you **upright** in
heart!

33 Shout for **joy** in אַיָּאָל, you
righteous!

Praise is fitting for the straight!

²Praise אַיָּאָל with the lyre;

Sing to **Him** with an instrument of ten
strings.

³Sing to **Him** a new song;

Play sweetly with a shout of joy.

⁴For the **Word** of אַיָּאָל is **straight**,
And **all His works** are in **truth**,

⁵Loving **righteousness** and
right-ruling;

The earth is filled with the **kindness**
of אַיָּאָל.

⁶By the **Word** of אַיָּאָל the heavens
were made,

And **all** their host by the **Spirit of His**
mouth,

⁷Gathering the waters of the sea
together as a heap;

Laying up the deep in storehouses.

⁸**Let all** the earth **fear** אַיָּאָל;

Let all the inhabitants of the world
stand in awe of **Him**.

⁹For **He** spoke and it came to be;
He commanded and it stood fast.

¹⁰אַיָּאָל brings the counsel of the
nations to naught;

He thwarts the plans of the peoples.

¹¹The counsel of אַיָּאָל stands
forever,

The plans of **His heart** to **all**
generations.

¹²**Blessed** is the nation whose **Elohim**
is אַיָּאָל,

The people whom **He** has **chosen** as
His own inheritance.

¹³אַיָּאָל has **looked** from the
heavens;

He has seen all the sons of men.

¹⁴**He looked** from **His dwelling place**

On **all** the inhabitants of the earth –

¹⁵**He** who fashions the **hearts** of **all**,
He who **understands** **all** their works.

¹⁶The sovereign is not **saved** by the
multitude of an army;

A mighty man is not **delivered** by
great strength.

¹⁷A horse is a vain means of safety;
Neither does it **rescue** any by its **great**
power.

¹⁸**See**, the eye of אַיָּאָל is on those
fearing Him,

On those waiting for **His kindness**,

¹⁹To **deliver** their being from *death*,
And to keep them **alive** during scarcity
of food.

²⁰Our being has longed for אַיָּאָל;
Our help and our shield is **He**.

²¹For our **heart** does **rejoice** in **Him**,
For we have put our **trust** in **His set**
apart **Name**.

²²**Let Your kindness**, O אַיָּאָל, be
upon us, Even as we wait for **You**.

34 I bless אַיָּאָל at **all** times;
His praise is continually in my
mouth.

²My being makes its boast in אַיָּאָל;
Let the humble **hear** and be glad.

³Oh, make אַיָּאָל **great** with me,
And let us **exalt His Name** together.

⁴I sought אַיָּאָל and **He** answered
me,

And **delivered** me from **all** my *fears*.

⁵They **looked** to **Him** and were
enlightened,

And their faces were not ashamed.

⁶This *poor* one *cried out* and אַיָּאָל
heard him,

And **saved** him out of **all** his
distresses.

⁷The messenger of אַיָּאָל encamps
all around those who **fear Him**,
And rescues them.

⁸Oh, taste and **see** that אַיָּאָל is **good**;
Blessed is the man that
takes **refuge** in Him!

⁹**Fear** אַיָּאָל, you **His set-apart** ones,
For there is no lack
to them who **fear Him**!

¹⁰Young lions have lacked

and been hungry;

But those who seek אַיָּאֵל
lack not any good matter.

¹¹**Come**, you children, **listen** to me;
Let me teach you the **fear** of אַיָּאֵל.

¹²**Who** is the man who desires **life**,
Who loves many days, **in order to see**
good?

¹³Keep your tongue from *evil*,
And your lips from speaking *deceit*.

¹⁴Turn away from *evil* and do **good**;
Seek peace and pursue it.

¹⁵The eyes of אַיָּאֵל
are on the **righteous**,
And **His ears** unto their cry.

¹⁶The face of אַיָּאֵל is
against evil-doers,
To *cut off* their **remembrance** from
the earth.

¹⁷The *righteous* cried out and אַיָּאֵל
heard,
And **delivered** them out of **all** their
distresses.

¹⁸אַיָּאֵל is **near**
to the *broken-hearted*,
And **saves** those
whose spirit is crushed.

¹⁹Many are the *evils* of the righteous,
But אַיָּאֵל delivers
him out of them **all**.

²⁰**He** is **guarding** **all** his bones;
Not one of them is broken.

²¹*Evil* does *slay* the *wrong*,
And those who *hate* the **righteous**
are *guilty*.

²²אַיָּאֵל redeems the lives
of **His** servants,
And none of those taking **refuge**
in Him are *guilty*.

35 אַיָּאֵל,

strive with those who *strive* with me;
Fight *against* those who *fight against*
me.

²Take hold of shield and armour,
And rise for my help.

³And draw out spear and lance,
To meet those who pursue me.
Say to my **life**, "I am your
deliverance."

⁴**Let** those be *ashamed* and blush

Who seek my **life**;

Let those be turned back and abashed

Who plot *evil* to me.

⁵**Let** them be as chaff before the wind,
With a messenger of אַיָּאֵל
driving on.

⁶**Let** their **way** be dark and slippery,
With a messenger of אַיָּאֵל
pursuing them.

⁷For without **cause**
they hid their *net* for me;
Without **cause** they dug *a pit* for my
life.

⁸**Let ruin** **come** upon him unawares,
And let his *net* that he hid **catch**
himself;

Let him *fall* in it, into *ruin*.

⁹**But** let my own being exult in אַיָּאֵל
Let it rejoice in **His deliverance**.

¹⁰**Let all** my bones say, "אַיָּאֵל,
who is like **You**,
Delivering the *poor*
from one stronger than he,
And the *poor* and the needy from him
who robs him?"

¹¹Ruthless **witnesses** rise up;
They **ask** me that which I **knew** not.

¹²They reward me *evil* for **good**,
bereaving my **life**.

¹³**But** I, when they were *sick*,
I put on sackcloth;

I humbled my being with fastings;
And my prayer would **return** to my
own bosom.

¹⁴I walked about as though he were my
friend or brother;

I bowed down mourning, as one
mourning for a mother.

¹⁵**But** they rejoiced at my *stumbling*
And gathered together;

The smiters gathered *against* me,
And I *did not know* it;

They tore in pieces without ceasing,
¹⁶With *unclean* ones, *mockers* at feasts,
Gnashing at me with their *teeth*.

¹⁷אַיָּאֵל, how long would **You** look
on?

Rescue my being from their
destructions,

My only **life** from the lions.

¹⁸I give **You thanks** in the **great**
assembly;

I **praise You** among a mighty people.

¹⁹**Let** not my *lying* enemies **rejoice** over me;

Or those who *hate* me without **cause** wink their eyes.

²⁰For they *do not speak* peace, **But** they devise **words** of *deceit* Against the **peaceable** ones of the land.

²¹And they **open** their **mouth** wide *against* me, They said, “Aha, aha! Our eyes have seen it.”

²²This **You** have **seen**, O אַיָּאֵל; **Do not** be silent.

O אַיָּאֵל, *do not* be far from me.

²³Stir up **Yourself** and awake to my **right-ruling** –

To my **cause**, my **Elohim** and my Master.

²⁴Rule me **rightly**, O אַיָּאֵל my **Elohim**, According to **Your righteousness**; And let them not **rejoice** over me.

²⁵**Let** them not say in their **hearts**, “Aha, our desire!” **Let** them not say, “We have swallowed him up.”

²⁶**Let** those who are rejoicing at my *evil* Be *ashamed* and abashed altogether; **Let** those who are exalting themselves over me

Be clad in *shame* and *humiliation*.

²⁷**Let** those who **delight** in my **righteous** cause

Shout for **joy** and be glad, And let them **always** say, “**Let** אַיָּאֵל be made great, **Who** is desiring the **peace** of **His** servant.”

²⁸And my tongue *shall speak* of **Your righteousness**, **Your** praise, All day long.

36 Transgression speaks to the *wrong* within his heart; **Fear** of **Elohim** is not before his eyes. ²For he flatters himself in his own eyes, To find his *crookedness* to be *hated*.

³The **words** of his **mouth** are *wickedness* and *deceit*; He has ceased to be **wise**, to do **good**.

⁴He plots *wickedness* on his bed; He sets himself in a **way** that is not **good**; He *does not despise evil*.

⁵O אַיָּאֵל, **Your kindness** is in the heavens, And **Your** trustworthiness reaches to the clouds.

⁶**Your righteousness** is like the mighty mountains; **Your right-rulings** are a **great** deep; O אַיָּאֵל, **You save** man and beast. ⁷**How precious** is **Your kindness**, O **Elohim!**

And the sons of men take **refuge** in the shadow of **Your** wings.

⁸They are filled from the fatness of **Your** house,

And **You** give them drink from the river of **Your** pleasures.

⁹For with **You** is the fountain of **life**; In **Your light** we see **light**.

¹⁰Draw out **Your kindness** to those who know **You**, And **Your righteousness** to the **upright** in **heart**.

¹¹**Let** not the foot of pride **come** *against* me, And the **hand** of the *wrong* **drive** me away.

¹²There the workers of *wickedness* have fallen;

They have been *overthrown* And have been *unable* to rise.

37 *Do not* fret **because** of *evil-doers*, **Do not** be envious of the workers of *unrighteousness*. ²For they soon *wither* like grass, And fade like green plants. ³Trust in אַיָּאֵל and do **good**; Dwell in the earth and feed on steadfastness.

⁴And **delight** yourself in אַיָּאֵל, And let **Him** give you the desires of your **heart**.

⁵Commit *your way* to אַיָּאֵל,
And **trust** in **Him** and **He** does it.

⁶And **He shall** bring forth your
righteousness as the **light**,
And your **right-ruling** as midday.

⁷Rest in אַיָּאֵל and wait patiently for
Him;

Do not fret **because** of him
who prospers in *his way*,
Because of the man doing *wicked*
devices.

⁸Abstain from *displeasure*
and *forsake wrath*;

Do not fret, also to do *evil*.

⁹For *evil-doers* are *cut off*;

But those who wait on אַיָּאֵל,
They **shall** inherit the earth.

¹⁰Yet a **little while** and the **wrong** is no
more;

And you **shall** look on his place,
But it is not.

¹¹**But** the meek ones **shall** inherit the
earth,

And **delight** themselves in plenty of
peace.

¹²The **wrong** plots
against the **righteous**,
And gnashes his *teeth* at him.

¹³אַיָּאֵל laughs at him,
For **He sees** that his day is **coming**.

¹⁴The **wrong** have drawn the *sword*
And have bent their bow,
To **cause** the *poor* and needy to fall,
To *slay* those who **walk** straightly.

¹⁵Their *sword* does enter into their
own heart,
And their bows are broken.

¹⁶Better is the *little* of the **righteous**
one,

Than the riches of many *wrongdoers*.

¹⁷For the arms of the *wrongdoers* are
broken,

But אַיָּאֵל sustains the righteous.

¹⁸אַיָּאֵל **knows** the days of the
perfect,

And their **inheritance** is **forever**.

¹⁹They are not *ashamed* in a **time** of
evil,

And in the days of *scarcity of food*
they are satisfied.

²⁰**But** the *wrongdoers shall* perish;
And the enemies of אַיָּאֵל,

Like the splendour
of the meadows they vanish,
Like smoke they vanish away.

²¹The **wrongdoer**
is borrowing and does not repay,
But the **righteous** one
shows **favour** and gives.

²²For **His blessed** ones
inherit the earth,
But those *cursed* by **Him** are *cut off*.

²³The steps of a man are ordered by
אַיָּאֵל,

And **He** delights in his **way**.

²⁴Though he falls, he is not *cast* down,
For אַיָּאֵל is supporting his **hand**.

²⁵I have been young and **now** I am
old;

Yet I have not **seen** the **righteous**
forsaken,

Or his seed begging bread.

²⁶All day long he is showing **favour**
and lending;

And his seed is for a **blessing**.

²⁷Turn away from *evil* and do **good**;
And dwell **forever**.

²⁸For אַיָּאֵל loves right-ruling,
And *does not forsake His kind* ones;
They **shall be guarded forever**,
But the seed of the *wrongdoers* is *cut*
off.

²⁹The **righteous shall** inherit the earth,
And dwell in it **forever**.

³⁰The **mouth** of the **righteous**
speaks **wisdom**,

And his tongue talks of right-ruling.

³¹The **Torah** of his **Elohim**
is in his heart;
His steps *do not* slide.

³²The **wrong** one is watching
for the **righteous**,
And is **seeking** to *slay* him.

³³אַיָּאֵל *does not* leave him
in his hand,
Or let him be **declared wrong**
when he is judged.

³⁴Wait on אַיָּאֵל and **guard His way**,
And **He shall exalt** you
to inherit the earth –
When the *wrongdoers* are *cut off*,
you shall **see** it.

³⁵I have **seen** the *wrongdoer*
in **great power**,

And spreading himself
like a native green *tree*.

³⁶Yet he passed away and **see**,
he was not;
And I sought him,
but he was not found.

³⁷**Watch the perfect**
and **observe** the straight;
For the **latter** end of each is peace.

³⁸**But the transgressors shall be**
destroyed together;
The **latter** end of the *wrong*
shall be cut off.

³⁹**But the deliverance**
of the **righteous** is from אַיָּאֵל,
Their strength in **time** of *distress*.

⁴⁰And אַיָּאֵל does help them and
deliver them;
He delivers them from
the *wrongdoers* and **saves** them,
Because they took **refuge** in **Him**.

38 O אַיָּאֵל, *do not rebuke* me
in **Your** *wrath*,

Nor chastise me
in **Your** hot displeasure!

²For **Your** arrows have *pierced* me,
And **Your hand** comes down on me.

³There is no soundness in my *flesh*
because of **Your** *rage*,

Nor **peace** in my bones
because of my *sin*.

⁴For my *crookednesses*
have passed over my head;
Like a heavy *burden*, too *heavy* for me.

⁵My *wounds* have become
stinky, festering **because** of my folly.

⁶I have been bent down;
I have been bowed down very much;
All day long I have gone mourning.

⁷For my loins have become
filled with burning,
And there is no soundness in my *flesh*.

⁸I have become weak and greatly
crushed;

I howled from the groaning of my

heart.

⁹אַיָּאֵל, **all** my desire is before You;
And my *sighing* has not
been hid from **You**.

¹⁰My **heart** is throbbing,
my strength has *forsaken* me;
The **light** of my eyes
also is not with me.

¹¹My **loved** ones and my friends
stand back from my *plague*,
And my neighbours **stand** far away.

¹²And those **seeking** my **life**
lay a snare;
And those **seeking** my *evil*
have spoken of *destruction*,
And utter *deceit* **all** day long.

¹³**But** I, as one deaf, *do not* hear;
And as a *dumb* one who
does not **open** his **mouth**.

¹⁴I am like a man who *does not* hear;
And who has no rebukes in his **mouth**.

¹⁵For on **You**, O אַיָּאֵל,
I have waited;
You do answer, O אַיָּאֵל my **Elohim**.

¹⁶For I said, "Otherwise
they would rejoice over me,
When my foot slips they would **exalt**
themselves over me."

¹⁷For I am **ready** to fall,
And my pain is **always** with me.

¹⁸For I confess my *crookedness*;
I am sorry over my *sin*.

¹⁹**But** my enemies are alive;
They have become strong;
And those hating me *falsely* are many.

²⁰And those who **repay** *evil* for **good**,
They *oppose* me, **because** I follow
what is **good**.

²¹**Do not** forsake me, O אַיָּאֵל;
O my **Elohim**, be not far from me!

²²Hasten to help me,
O אַיָּאֵל, my **deliverance**!

39 I have said,
"Let me **guard** my **ways**
Against *sinning* with my tongue;
Let me **guard** my **mouth**

with a muzzle,
While the *wrongdoer* is before me.”

²I became *dumb*, keeping still;
I was silent, from **good**;

And my pain was stirred.

³My **heart** was hot within me;
While I was meditating,
the *fire burned*.

Then I spoke with my tongue:

⁴“**אָיָהּ**, let me **know** my end,
And the measure of my days,
what it is,

Let me know how short-lived I am.

⁵“**See, You** have made my days as
handbreadths,

And my **lifetime** is as non-existence
before You;

Only, *all men* standing, are **all** breath.
Selah.

⁶“As but a shadow each one walks;
They busy themselves, only in vain;
He heaps up *wealth*,

But knows not who gathers them.

⁷“And **now**, **אָיָהּ**, what do I wait
for?

My expectancy is in **You**.

⁸“Deliver me from **all** my
transgressions;

Do not make me the *reproach* of the
foolish.

⁹“I was *dumb*, I *did not* **open** my
mouth,

Because it was **You** who did it.

¹⁰“Turn aside **Your** stroke from me;
I am overcome by the **blow** of **Your**
hand.

¹¹“**When You** chastise man for
crookedness with reproofs,

You consume what he loves, like a
moth;

All men are but a breath. Selah.

¹²“**Hear** my prayer, O **אָיָהּ**,
And give ear to my cry;

Do not be *silent* at my tears;

For I am a stranger with **You**,
A sojourner, as **all** my fathers were.

¹³“Look away from me,
That I might brighten up,

Before I go away and am no more.”

40 I waited, waited for **אָיָהּ**;
And **He** inclined to me and **heard**
my cry.

²And **He** drew me
Out of the pit of *destruction*,
Out of the muddy clay,
And **He** set my feet upon a rock,
He is establishing my steps.

³**Then He** put a new song in my
mouth;
Praise to our **Elohim**;
Many do **see** it and **fear**,
And **trust** in **אָיָהּ**.

⁴ **Blessed** is that man who has made
אָיָהּ his **trust**,
And has not turned to the *proud*,
And those turning aside to *falsehood*.

⁵O **אָיָהּ** my **Elohim**, many are the
wonders

Which **You** have done and **Your**
purposes toward us;
There is no one to compare with You;
I **declare** and speak:

They are too many to be numbered.

⁶Slaughtering and meal offering **You**
did not desire;

You have opened my ears;
Burnt offering and *sin* offering **You**
did not **ask** for.

⁷**Then** I said, “**See**, I have come;
In the **scroll** of the **Book** it is
prescribed for me.

⁸I have **delighted** to do **Your** pleasure,
O my **Elohim**,

And **Your Torah** is within my **heart**.”

⁹I have **proclaimed** the the **besorah** of
righteousness,

In the **great** assembly;
See, I *do not* restrain my lips,
O **אָיָהּ**, **You know**.

¹⁰I *did not* conceal **Your**
righteousness within my heart;
I have **declared Your** trustworthiness

and **Your deliverance**;
 I *did not* hide **Your kindness**
 and **Your truth**
 From the **great** assembly.
¹¹**Do not** withhold **Your compassion**
 from me, O אַיָּאָל;
Let Your kindness and **Your truth**
 always **watch** over me.
¹²For *evils* without number have
 surrounded me;
 My *crookednesses* have overtaken me,
 And I have been *unable* to see;
 They became more than the hairs of
 my head;
 And my **heart** has failed me.
¹³Be **pleased**, O אַיָּאָל, to **deliver** me;
 O אַיָּאָל, hasten to help me!
¹⁴**Let** those who **seek**
 to *destroy* my **life**
 Be *ashamed* and abashed altogether;
Let those who are desiring my *evil*
 Be *driven* back and put to *shame*.
¹⁵**Let** those who say to me, “Aha,aha!”
 Be appalled at their own *shame*.
¹⁶**Let all** those who **seek You**
 Rejoice and be **glad** in You;
Let those who **love Your deliverance**
 always say, “אַיָּאָל be exalted!”
¹⁷**But** I am *poor* and needy;
Let אַיָּאָל think upon me.
You are my help and my deliverer;
 O my **Elohim**, *do not* delay!

41 Blessed is he
 who considers the *poor*;
 אַיָּאָל does **deliver**
 him in a day of *evil*.
²אַיָּאָל does **guard**
 him and keep him alive;
He is blessed on the earth,
 And *you do not* **hand** him over
 To the desire of his enemies.
³אַיָּאָל sustains him on his sickbed;
 In his *weakness* on his bed
You bring a change.
⁴As for me, I said, “O אַיָּאָל,

show me favour;
Heal me,
 for I have *sinned* against You.”
⁵My enemies **speak evil** of me,
 “*When* he dies
 his name *shall perish*.”
⁶And when one **comes** to visit,
 he speaks falsely;
His heart gathers *wickedness* to itself;
He goes out, he speaks of it.
⁷All who *hate* me whisper
together against me;
 They *plot evil* to me, *saying*,
⁸“A matter of Beliya'al
 is **poured out** on him,
 That when he lies down,
 he *would not* rise again.”
⁹Even my own friend in whom
 I **trusted**, who ate my bread,
 Has lifted up his heel against me.
¹⁰**But You, אַיָּאָל, show** me **favour**
 and **raise** me up,
 And let me **repay** them.
¹¹By this I **know**
 that **You** did **delight** in me,
Because my enemy
does not shout for **joy** over me.
¹²And I, **You** uphold me
 in my integrity,
 And set me before **Your face forever**.
¹³**Blessed** be אַיָּאָל **Elohim**
 of Yisra'el
 From **everlasting** to **everlasting!**
 Amēn and Amēn.

42 As a deer longs
 for the water streams,
 So my being longs for **You**,
 O **Elohim**.
²My being thirsts for **Elohim**,
 for the living **Ēl**.
When shall I enter in to appear before
Elohim?
³My tears have been my food
 day and night,
 While they say to me **all day**,

“Where is your **Elohim**?”
 4These I **remember** and **pour out**
 my being within me.
 For I used to pass
 along with the throng;
 I went with them
 to the House of **Elohim**,
 With the **voice** of **joy** and praise,
 A multitude keeping a festival!
 5**Why** are you depressed, O my being?
 And *why* are you restless within me?
 Wait for **Elohim**:
 for I *shall* yet **thank** Him,
 For the **deliverance** of **His** face!
 6O my **Elohim**,
 my being is depressed within me;
 Therefore I **remember**
 You from the land of the Yardēn,
 And from the heights of Hermon,
 From Mount Mits’ar.
 7Deep calls to deep at the sound of
Your waterfalls;
 All **Your** waves
 and breakers passed over me.
 8By day אַיָּאֵל
commands His kindness,
 And by night **His** song is with me;
 A prayer to the Ēl of my **life**.
 9I say to Ēl my Rock,
 “**Why** have **You** *forgotten* me?
Why do I go *mourning because*
 of the oppression of the enemy?”
 10My enemies have reproached me,
 Like a crushing of my bones,
 While they say to me **all day long**,
 “Where is your **Elohim**?”
 11**Why** are you depressed, O my being?
 And why are you restless within me?
 Wait for **Elohim**: for I *shall* yet **thank**
 Him, the **deliverance** of my face,
 And my **Elohim**.

43 Rule me **rightly**, O **Elohim**,
 And plead my **cause**
against a nation without **kindness**.
 Oh, **deliver** me from a man of *deceit*

and *unrighteousness*!
 2For **You** are the **Elohim** of my
 strength.
Why have **You** *rejected* me?
Why do I go *mourning because* of the
oppression of the enemy?
 3Send forth **Your light** and **Your**
truth!
Let them lead me **let** them bring me
 to **Your** set-apart mountain
 And to **Your** dwelling places.
 4That I might **come to** the altar of
Elohim,
 To Ēl, the **joy** of my delight,
 And **praise You** with the lyre,
 O **Elohim**, my **Elohim**.
 5**Why** are you depressed, O my being?
 And why are you restless within me?
 Wait for **Elohim**: for I *shall* yet **thank**
 Him, the **deliverance** of my face,
 And my **Elohim**.

44 O **Elohim**, we have **heard**
 with our **ears**,
 Our fathers have related to us,
 2**You** drove out the nations
 with **Your** hand,
But them **You** planted.
You *afflicted* peoples and **sent** them
 out.
 3For not by their own *sword*
 did they possess the land,
 Neither did their own arm **save** them;
But it was **Your right hand** and
Your arm and the light of **Your** face,
Because You **delighted** in them.
 4**You Yourself** are my Sovereign,
 O **Elohim**;
Command deliverances for Ya’aqob.
 5Through **You** we push our enemies;
 Through **Your Name** we tread down
 those who rise up *against* us.
 6For I *do not trust* in my bow,
 And my *sword does not save* me.
 7For **You** have **saved** us from our
 enemies,
 And have put to *shame* those who
hated us.
 8In **Elohim** we *shall* **boast all day**
 long,
 And **praise Your Name** forever.

Selah.

⁹Yet **You** have *rejected* us and put us to shame,
And *you do not* go with our armies.

¹⁰**You** make us **turn back** from the adversary,
And those who *hate* us have plundered us.

¹¹**You** do give us as sheep to be eaten,
And **You** have *scattered* us among the *gentiles*.

¹²**You** sell **Your people** for no value,
And have set no high price on them.

¹³**You** make us a *reproach* to our neighbours,
A *scorn* and a *mockery* to those round about us.

¹⁴**You** make us a proverb among the nations,
A *shaking* of the head among the peoples.

¹⁵My *reproach* is **always** before me,
And the *shame* of my face has covered me,

¹⁶**Because** of the **voice** of the *slanderer* and blasphemer,
Because of the enemy and avenger.

¹⁷All this has **come** upon us;
But we have not *forgotten You*,
Neither have we been *false* to **Your covenant**.

¹⁸Our **heart** has not turned back,
Neither has our step swerved from **Your way**,

¹⁹Yet **You** have crushed us in the place of jackals,
And covered us with the shadow of *death*.

²⁰**If** we have *forgotten* the **Name** of our **Elohim**,
Or **stretched** out our hands to a foreign *mighty one*,

²¹Would **Elohim** not **search** this out?
For **He** knows the **secrets** of the **heart**.

²²**But** for **Your** sake we are *killed* all day long;
Reckoned as sheep for the slaughter.

²³Awake! **Why** do **You** sleep,
O אַיָּאֵל? Arise! **Do not** *reject* us **forever**.

²⁴**Why** do **You** hide **Your** face,
Ignoring our *affliction* and our oppression?

²⁵For our being is bowed down to the dust;
Our body cleaves to the earth.

²⁶Arise, be our help and **redeem** us for **Your kindness**' sake.

45 My **heart** is overflowing with a goodly word;
I address my **works** to the Sovereign;
My tongue is the pen of a speedy **writer**.

²**You** are more handsome than the sons of men;

Favour has been poured upon **Your** lips;

Therefore **Elohim** has **blessed You forever**.

³Gird **Your sword** upon **Your** thigh,
O **Mighty One**,

Your excellency and **Your** splendour.

⁴And ride prosperously in **Your** splendour,

On the matter of **truth** and humility, **righteousness**;

And let **Your right hand** lead **You** to **awesome** matters .

⁵**Your** arrows are sharp In the **heart** of the Sovereign's enemies –
Peoples *fall* under **You**.

⁶**Your** throne, O **Elohim**, is **forever** and ever;

The sceptre of **Your reign** Is a sceptre of straightness.

⁷**You** have **loved righteousness** and *hated wrongness*;

Therefore **Elohim**, **Your Elohim**, has anointed **You**

With the oil of **gladness** more than **Your** companions.

⁸All **Your** garments are myrrh and aloes, cassia;
 Out of the palaces of ivory,
 Stringed instruments have made **You** glad.
⁹Daughters of sovereigns are among **Your precious** ones;
 At **Your right hand** stands the sovereignty in gold from Ophir.
¹⁰**Listen**, O daughter and **see**,
 And incline your ear,
 And *forget* your own people and your father's house;
¹¹And let the Sovereign **delight** in your loveliness;
Because He is your **Master** – bow yourself to **Him**.
¹²And the daughter of Tsor with a gift,
 The rich among the people **seek** your favour.
¹³The daughter of the Sovereign is **all** esteemed within *the palace*;
 Her dress is embroidered with gold.
¹⁴She is brought to the Sovereign in embroidered work;
 Maidens, her companions **following** her,
 Are brought to **You**.
¹⁵They are brought with **gladness** and rejoicing;
 They enter the Sovereign's palace.
¹⁶Instead of **Your** fathers are **Your** sons,
Whom You appoint princes in **all** the earth.
¹⁷I **cause Your Name** to be **remembered** in **all** generations;
 Therefore the people **praise You** forever and ever.

46 Elohim is our **refuge** and strength,

A help in *distress*, soon found.

²Therefore we *do not* **fear**, Though the earth reels
 And mountains topple into the **heart**

of the seas.

³**Let** its waters *rage*, foam;
Let mountains *shake* with its swelling.
 Selah.

⁴A river whose streams Make **glad** the city of **Elohim**,
 The set-apart dwelling of the Most High.

⁵**Elohim** is in her **midst**, she *does not* topple;
Elohim does help her when morning turns.

⁶The *gentiles shall* **rage**,
 Reigns *shall* topple;
He shall give forth **His voice**,
 The earth melts.

⁷אֲיָאֵל of hosts is with us;
 The **Elohim** of Ya'aqob is our refuge.
 Selah.

⁸**Come, see the works** of אֲיָאֵל,
 The **ruins He** has wrought on the earth,

⁹Causing **all** *fighting* to cease,
 Unto **the end** of the earth.

He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;

He burns the chariot with *fire*.

¹⁰Be still and **know** that I am **Elohim**;
 I am exalted among nations,
 I am exalted in the earth!

¹¹אֲיָאֵל of hosts is with us;
 The **Elohim** of Ya'aqob is our refuge.
 Selah.

47 Oh, clap your hands,
all you peoples!

Shout to **Elohim** with a **voice** of singing!

²For אֲיָאֵל **Most High** is awesome;
 A **great** Sovereign over **all** the earth.

³**He** subdues peoples under us,
 And nations under our feet.

⁴**He chooses** our **inheritance** for us,
 The excellence of Ya'aqob whom **He** loves. Selah.

⁵**Elohim shall** go up with a shout,
 אֲיָאֵל with the sound of a ram's

horn.

⁶Sing praises to **Elohim**, sing praises!
Sing praises to our Sovereign, sing
praises!

⁷For **Elohim** is Sovereign of **all** the
earth;

Sing praises with **understanding**.

⁸**Elohim shall reign** over the nations;
Elohim shall sit on **His** set-apart
throne.

⁹Nobles of peoples **shall be** gathered
together,
The people of the **Elohim** of Abraham.
For the shields of the earth
belong to **Elohim**
He shall be greatly exalted.

48 Great is אַיָּאֵל and greatly to
be **praised**

In the city of our **Elohim**,
His set-apart mountain.

²Pretty on high,
The **joy** of **all** the earth,
Is Mount Tsiyon on the sides of the
north,

The city of the **great** Sovereign.

³**Elohim** is in her citadels;
He is known as her refuge.

⁴For look, the sovereigns met,
They passed by together.

⁵They **saw**, so they marvelled;
They were *alarmed*, they hastened
away.

⁶Trembling took hold of them there,
Pain, as of a woman in labour,

⁷With an east *wind* **You break** the
ships of Tarshish.

⁸As we have **heard**, so we have **seen**
In the city of אַיָּאֵל of hosts,

In the city of our **Elohim**,
Elohim establishes her **forever**.

Selah.

⁹We have thought, O **Elohim**, of **Your**
kindness,

In the **midst** of **Your** Hēḱal.

¹⁰According to **Your Name**,
O **Elohim**,

So is **Your praise** to the ends of the
earth;

Your right hand is filled with
righteousness.

¹¹**Let** Mount Tsiyon **rejoice**,
Let the daughters of Yahudāh exult,
Because of **Your right-rulings**.

¹²Walk about Tsiyon,
And go **all** around her.

Count her towers;
¹³Set your **heart** upon her rampart;
Go through her citadels;

So that you report it to the **coming**
generation.

¹⁴For this **Elohim** is our **Elohim**,
Forever and ever;
He Himself leads us, Even to death.

49 **Hear** this, **all** you peoples;
Give ear, **all** you inhabitants of the
world,

²Both sons of mankind and sons of
man,
Rich and *poor* together.

³My **mouth** speaks **wisdom**,
And the meditation of my **heart** brings
understanding.

⁴I incline my ear to a parable;
I expound my riddle on the lyre.

⁵**Why** should I **fear** in the days of *evil*,
When the *crookedness* of my
supplinters surrounds me?

⁶Those who are **trusting** in their riches
And who are boasting in their **great**
wealth?

⁷A brother *does not redeem* anyone at
all,

Neither give to **Elohim** a ransom for
him;

⁸For the redemption of their lives is
costly,

And it **shall** cease **forever**;

⁹That he should still **live forever**,
And not **see** the Pit.

¹⁰For he sees **wise** men *die*,
The **foolish** and the ignorant
both *perish*,

And **shall** leave their wealth to others.

¹¹Their *graves* are their houses,
forever;

Their dwelling places, to **all**
generations;

They **call** *their* lands after
their own names.

¹²**But** man *does not* remain in esteem,
He is like the beasts that *perish*.

¹³This **way** of theirs is folly to them,
Yet their **followers** are pleased with
their **words**. Selah.

¹⁴Like sheep they **shall be** laid in the
grave;

Death shall shepherd them;
And the **upright rule** over them
in the morning;

And their form is *consumed* in the
grave,

Far from their dwelling.

¹⁵**But Elohim** does **redeem** my being
From the **power** of the grave,
For **He** does receive me. Selah.

¹⁶**Do not** be *afraid* when a man
becomes rich,

When the wealth of his house
increases;

¹⁷For when he dies he takes none of it;
His wealth *does not* go down
after him.

¹⁸Though while he lived
he **blessed** himself,

And though they **praise** you when you
do well for yourself,

¹⁹**He** has to go to the generation
of his fathers;

They never **see** the **light**.

²⁰Man, who is rich,
Yet *does not* understand,

Shall be like the beasts,
They **shall perish**.

50

Ēl Elohim אֱלֹהִים **shall**

speak, and **He shall call** the earth
From the rising of the sun to its going
down.

²From Tsiyon, the perfection of

loveliness,

Elohim shall shine forth.

³Our **Elohim** comes and is not *silent* –
A *fire* consumes before **Him**,
And it **shall be very** stormy **all** around
Him.

⁴**He** calls to the heavens from above,
And to the earth, to **rightly rule His**
people:

⁵**Gather My kind ones together**
to **Me**,

Those who have made a **covenant**
with **Me** by slaughtering.”

⁶**Then** the heavens **declared His**
righteousness,

For **Elohim Himself** is Judge. Selah.

⁷**Hear, O My people** and I speak,
O Yisra’ēl and I **witness** *against* you:

I am **Elohim**, your **Elohim**!

⁸**I do not reprove** you for your
slaughterings,

And your burnt offerings are
continually before **Me**.

⁹**I do not** take a bull from your house,
Nor goats out of your pens.

¹⁰**For every** beast
of the forest is **Mine**,
The cattle on a thousand hills.

¹¹**I know all** the birds of the
mountains,
And **all** moving in **My** field
are **Mine**.

¹²**If** I were hungry,
I *would not* **speak** to you;

For the world is **Mine**,
and **all** that fills it.

¹³**Do** I eat the *flesh* of bulls,
Or drink the **blood** of goats?

¹⁴**Offer thanksgiving** to **Elohim**,
And pay your vows to the **Most High**.

¹⁵**And call** upon **Me** in the **day of**
distress –

Let Me rescue you and you
esteem Me.”

¹⁶**But** to the *wrong* **Elohim** said,
“**What right** have you
to recite **My laws**,

Or take **My covenant** in your **mouth**,

¹⁷“While you *hated instruction*
And **cast My Words** behind you?
¹⁸“*When* you **saw** a thief,
you were pleased with him,
And you take part with adulterers.
¹⁹“**You** let your **mouth** loose to *evil*,
And your tongue frames *deceit*.
²⁰“You sit, **speak *against*** your brother;
You *slander* your own mother’s son.
²¹“You have done this and I
kept silent;
You have thought that I
was **altogether** like you –
I **rebuke** you, and set it **in order**
before your eyes.
²²“Understand this please,
you who forget Eloah,
Lest I *tear* you in pieces,
With no one to deliver:
²³“*Whoever* offers **praise** esteems Me;
And to him who prepares a **way**,
I **show** the **deliverance** of **Elohim**.”

51 Show me **favour**,
O **Elohim**,
According to **Your kindness**;
According to the greatness
of **Your compassion**,
Blot out my *transgressions*.
²Wash me **completely** from my guilt,
And **cleanse** me from my *sin*.
³For I **know** my *transgressions*,
And my *sin* is ever before me.
⁴Against **You, You** alone,
have I *sinned*,
And done *evil* in **Your** eyes;
That **You** might be proven **right**
in **Your words**;
Be clear when **You** judge.
⁵**See**, I was brought forth in
crookedness,
And in *sin* my mother conceived me.
⁶**See, You** have desired **truth** in the
inward parts,
And in the *hidden* part **You** make me
know **wisdom**.
⁷Cleanse me with hyssop and I am

clean;
Wash me and I am whiter than snow.
⁸**Let** me **hear joy** and **gladness**,
Let the bones **You** have crushed
rejoice.
⁹Hide **Your** face from my *sins*,
And *blot* out **all** my *crookedness*.
¹⁰Create in me a **clean heart**,
O **Elohim**,
And renew a steadfast spirit
within me.
¹¹**Do not cast** me away from **Your**
presence,
And *do not* take **Your Set-apart**
Spirit from me.
¹²Restore to me the **joy**
of **Your deliverance**,
And uphold me, **Noble Spirit!**
¹³**Let** me **teach transgressors**
Your ways,
So that *sinner*s **turn back** to **You**.
¹⁴Deliver me from blood-guilt,
O **Elohim**,
Elohim of my **deliverance**,
Let my tongue sing aloud of **Your**
righteousness.
¹⁵O אַיָּאֵל, **open** my lips,
And that my **mouth**
declare Your praise.
¹⁶For *you do not* desire slaughtering,
or I would give it;
You do not delight in burnt offering.
¹⁷The slaughterings of **Elohim** are a
broken spirit,
A **heart** broken and crushed,
O **Elohim**,
These *you do not* despise.
¹⁸**Do good** in **Your good** pleasure
to Tsiyon;
Build the walls of Yerushalayim.
¹⁹**Then** You would **delight**
in slaughterings of **righteousness**,
In burnt offering and **complete** burnt
offering;
Then young bulls would be offered on
Your altar.

52 *Why* do you boast in *evil*,
 O mighty man?
 The **kindness** of Ēl is **all** day long!
²Your tongue devises **destruction**,
 Like a sharp razor, working *deceit*.
³You **loved** *evil* more than **good**,
 Lying more than speaking
righteousness. Selah.
⁴You **loved all** *devouring words*,
 O tongue of *deceit*.
⁵Let Ēl also *break* you down **forever**,
 Take you and *pluck* you
 out of your tent.
 And **He shall** uproot you
 From the land of the **living**. Selah.
⁶And let the **righteous see** and **fear**,
 And laugh at him, *saying*,
⁷“See the man who *did not* make
Elohim his strength,
But trusted in his many riches,
 Being **strong** in his *destruction*.”
⁸**But** I am like a green olive *tree*
 In the House of **Elohim**,
 I have **trusted** in the **kindness**
 of **Elohim forever** and **ever**.
⁹I **thank You** forever,
Because You have done it;
 In the presence of **Your kind** ones
 I wait on **Your Name**, for it is **good**.

53 The *fool* has said in his **heart**,
 “There is no **Elohim**.”
 They have done *corruptly*,
 And they have done **abominable**
unrighteousness; No one does **good**.
²**Elohim** looked down from the
 heavens on the children of men,
 To **see** if there is a **wise** one,
seeking Elohim.
³They have **all** turned aside;
 They have **together** become *filthy*;
 No one is doing **good**, not even one.
⁴Have the workers of *wickedness*
 no **knowledge**,
Who eat up my people
 as they eat bread,
 And **do not call on Elohim**?
⁵There they are in **great fear**,

Where no **fear** was,
 For **Elohim shall** scatter the bones
 Of him who encamps *against* you.
You shall put them to shame,
 For **Elohim** has *rejected* them.
⁶O that the **deliverance** of Yisra’ēl
 Would be **given** out of Tsiyon!
When Elohim turns back
 the captivity of **His** people,
Let Ya’aqob rejoice,
 let Yisra’ēl be glad.

54 O **Elohim**, save me by **Your**
Name,
 And **rightly** rule me by **Your** might.
²**Hear** my prayer, O **Elohim**;
 Give ear to the **words** of my **mouth**.
³For strangers have risen
 up *against* me,
 And cruel men have sought
 after my **life**;
 They have not set **Elohim**
 before them. Selah.
⁴**See**, **Elohim** is my helper;
 אַיָּאֵל is with those
 who sustain my **life**.
⁵**He repays** *evil* to my enemies.
 Cut them off in **Your truth**.
⁶Voluntarily I slaughter to You;
 I **praise Your Name**,
 O אַיָּאֵל, for it is **good**.
⁷For **He** has **delivered** me
 out of **all** distress;
 And my eye has **looked**
 upon my enemies.

55 Give ear to my prayer,
 O **Elohim**,
 And **do not** hide **Yourself** from
 my plea.
²Give **heed** to me and answer me;
 I *wander* and moan in my complaint,
³**Because** of the noise of the enemy,
Because of the outcry of the *wrong*;
 For they bring down *wickedness*
 upon me,
 And in *wrath* they *hate* me.
⁴My **heart** is pained within me,

And the frights of *death*
 have fallen upon me.
⁵**Fear** and *trembling* have
come upon me,
 And shuddering covers me.
⁶And I said, “**Who** would give me
 wings like a dove!
 I would fly away and be at rest.
⁷“**See**, I would *wander* far off,
 I would **lodge** in the **wilderness**.
 Selah.
⁸“I would hasten my **escape**
 From the raging *wind* and storm.”
⁹Confuse, O אַיָּאֵל, divide their
 tongues,
 For I **saw** *violence* and strife
 in the city.
¹⁰Day and night they go around
 it on its walls;
 Wickedness and *trouble* are also
 in the **midst** of it.
¹¹Covetings are in its **midst**;
 Oppression and *deceit* do not
 vanish from its streets.
¹²It is not an enemy who
reproaches me – That I could bear;
 Nor one who *hates* me who is making
 himself **great** *against* me –
Then I could hide from him.
¹³**But** it was you, a man my equal,
My companion and my friend.
¹⁴We took **sweet** counsel together,
 We walked to the House of **Elohim** in
 the throng.
¹⁵**Let** *death* **come** upon them;
Let them go down into the grave **alive**,
 For *evil* is in their dwellings,
 in their **midst**.
¹⁶I, I **call** upon **Elohim**,
 And אַיָּאֵל **saves** me.
¹⁷Evening and morning and at noon
 I complain and moan,
 And **He** **hears** my **voice**.
¹⁸**He** has redeemed my **life** in **peace**
 From the battle *against* me,
 For there were many *against* me.
¹⁹Ēl, even **He** who sits
enthroned from of old,
 Does **hear** and *afflict* them – Selah –

Those with whom there
 are no changes,
 Those who *do not* **fear Elohim**.
²⁰**He** has put forth his hands
against those
Who were at **peace** with him;
He has broken his **covenant**.
²¹**His** **mouth** was smoother than curds,
 Yet in his **heart** is fighting;
His **words** were softer than oil,
But they are drawn **swords**.
²²Cast your *burden* on אַיָּאֵל,
 And let **Him** sustain you;
He never allows the **righteous** to be
 shaken.
²³For **You**, O **Elohim**,
 do bring them down
 To the pit of destruction;
 Men of **blood** and *deceit*
do not reach half their days;
But I, I **trust** in **You**.

56 Show me **favour**, O **Elohim**,
 For man would swallow me up;
 Fighting **all** day long,
 he oppresses me.
²My enemies would swallow
 me up **all** day long,
 For many are *fighting* *against* me,
 O **Most High**.
³In the day I am *afraid*, I **trust** in **You**.
⁴In **Elohim**, whose **Word** I praise,
 In **Elohim** I have **trusted**;
 I *do not* **fear**;
What could *flesh* do to me?
⁵All day long they *twist* my **words**;
 All their *thoughts* are *against* me
 for *evil*.
⁶They stir up *strife*, they hide,
 They **watch** my steps,
 As they *lie* in wait for my **life**.
⁷**Because** of *wickedness*,
cast them out.
 Put down the peoples in *displeasure*,
 O **Elohim**!
⁸**You** have counted my wanderings;

You put my tears into **Your** bottle;

Are they not in **Your** book?

⁹My enemies **turn back**

in the day I call;

This I **know**,

because Elohim is for me.

¹⁰In **Elohim**, whose **Word** I praise,

In אַיָּאֵל, whose **Word** I praise,

¹¹In **Elohim** I have **trusted**;

I *do not* **fear**;

What could man do to me?

¹²On me, O **Elohim**, are **Your** vows;

I render praises to **You**,

¹³For **You** have **delivered**

my **life** from *death*,

My feet from *stumbling*,

That I might **walk** before **Elohim**,

In the **light** of the **living**!

57

Show me **favour**,

O **Elohim**, **show** me favour!

For in **You** my being is taking refuge;

And in the shadow of **Your** wings

I take refuge,

Until **destruction** passes by.

²I cry out to the **Most High Elohim**,

To El who is perfecting

all matters for me.

³**He** **sends** from the heavens

and **saves** me;

He *reproaches* the one who would

swallow me up. Selah.

Elohim sends forth **His** **kindness** and

His **truth**.

⁴My being is in the **midst** of lions;

I *lie* among those who breathe *fire*,

Whose **teeth** are spears and arrows,

And their tongue is a sharp *sword*.

⁵Be exalted, O **Elohim**, above

the heavens;

Let **Your** **esteem** be above

all the earth.

⁶They have prepared a *net*

for my footsteps;

My being was bowed down;

They have dug a pit before me;

They fell into the **midst** of it! Selah.

⁷My **heart** is firm, O **Elohim**,

My **heart** is firm; I sing and praise.

⁸Awake, my esteem!

Awake, harp and lyre!

I awake the dawn.

⁹I **praise** **You** among the peoples,

O אַיָּאֵל;

I sing to **You** among the nations.

¹⁰For **Your** **kindness** is **great** up to the

heavens,

And **Your** **truth** unto the clouds.

¹¹Be exalted above the heavens,

O **Elohim**;

Let Your esteem be above all the earth.

58

Would you indeed **speak** **righteousness**, in silence?

Do you **judge** straightly,

you sons of men?

²No, in **heart** you **work**

unrighteousness;

On earth you weigh out the *violence* of your hands.

³The **wrong** have been estranged from the womb;

These who **speak** lies go *astray* from birth.

⁴Their **poison** is like the **poison**

of a snake;

Like a *deaf* cobra that stops its ear,

⁵So as not to **hear** the **voice**

of whisperers,

Or a skilled caster of spells.

⁶O **Elohim**, *break* their **teeth**

in their mouth!

Break out the fangs of the young lions,

O אַיָּאֵל!

⁷**Let** them melt, let them vanish as

water;

Let **Him** aim **His** arrows that they be

cut down;

⁸Like a snail which melts away as it

moves,

Like a woman's stillbirth,

Let them not see the sun!
 9Before your pots feel the thorns,
 Whether green or ablaze,
 He sweeps them away.
 10The righteous rejoices when he has
 seen the vengeance,
 He washes his feet in the blood of the
 wrong,
 11And man says,
 “Truly, the righteous are rewarded;
 Truly, there is an Elohim judging in
 the earth.”

59 Deliver me from my enemies,

O my Elohim; Set me on high
 from those who rise up *against* me.

2Deliver me from the workers
 of wickedness,

And save me from men of blood.

3For look, they have lain in wait
 for my life;

Mighty men assemble *against* me,
 For no transgression or sin of mine,

O אַיָּאֵל,

4For no guilt of mine!

They run and prepare themselves.
 Awake to help me and see!

5And You, אַיָּאֵל Elohim of hosts,
 Elohim of Yisra'el,

Awake to punish all the gentiles;
 Show no favour to any wicked
 traitors. Selah.

6They return at evening,
 They howl like a dog and go around
 the city.

7See, they belch out with their mouth,
 Swords are in their lips,

For who is listening?

8But You, אַיָּאֵל, laughs at them,
 You mock all the gentiles.

9O my Strength, I wait for You;
 For Elohim is my strong tower,
 My Elohim of kindness.

10Elohim does go before me,
 He lets me look upon my enemies.

11Do not slay them,

lest my people forget;
 Scatter them by Your power,
 And bring them down,
 O אַיָּאֵל our shield.

12The sin of their mouth is the words
 of their lips,
 And they are captured in their pride,
 And for the cursing and lying they
 utter.

13Bring them to an end in wrath,
 Bring them to an end,
 That they be no more;

And let them know
 That Elohim is ruling in Ya'aqob
 To the ends of the earth. Selah.

14And at evening they return,
 They howl like a dog,
 And go around the city.

15They wander up and down for food,
 And whine if they are not satisfied.

16And I, I sing of Your power;
 And in the morning

I sing aloud of Your kindness;
 For You have been my strong tower
 And a refuge in the day of my
 distress.

17O my Strength, to You I sing praises;
 For Elohim is my strong tower,
 My Elohim of kindness.

60 O Elohim, You have rejected
 us;

You have broken us;
 You have been displeased;
 Turn back to us!

2You have made the earth tremble;
 You have broken it;
 Heal its breaches, for it is shaken.

3You have let Your people see
 hardship;
 You have made us drink the wine
 of trembling.

4You have given a banner to those
 who fear You,
 That it might be lifted up
 Because of the truth. Selah.

⁵That those **You love** might be rescued,
Save with Your right hand
 and answer me.

⁶**Elohim** has **spoken** in **His**
 set-apartness,
 “I exult, I portion out Shekem
 And measure out the Valley of
 Sukkoth.

⁷“Gil’ad is **Mine** and Menashsheh is
Mine,

And Ephrayim is the defence
 of **My** head,
 Yahudah is **My** lawgiver.

⁸“Mo⁷ab is **My** wash-pot,
 Over Edom I **cast My** shoe,
 Shout loud, O Philistia,
because of Me.”

⁹**Who** would bring me to
 the **strong** city?
Who shall lead me to Edom?

¹⁰Have not **You, O Elohim,**
rejected us?
 And *you do not* go out, O **Elohim,**
 With our armies!

¹¹Give us help from *distress*,
 For the help of man is naught.
¹²In **Elohim** we do **mightily** and

He treads down our adversaries!

61 Hear my cry, O **Elohim,**
Listen to my prayer.

²From **the end** of the earth I **call** unto
 You,
When my **heart** is faint;
 Lead me to the rock that is higher
 than I.

³For **You** have been my refuge,
 A **strong** tower in the face of the
 enemy.

⁴**Let** me dwell in **Your Tent forever,**
Let me take **refuge** in the shelter of
Your wings. Selah.

⁵For **You, O Elohim,**
 have **heard** my vows;
You have **given** me the **inheritance**

Of those who **fear Your Name.**

⁶**You** add days to the days
 of the sovereign,
His years as many generations.
⁷Let him dwell **forever** before **Elohim.**
Prepare kindness and **truth** to
 preserve **Him!**

⁸So I sing **praise** to **Your Name**
forever when I pay my vows day by day.

62 My being finds rest in
Elohim alone;

From **Him** is my **deliverance.**

²**He** alone is my rock and my
deliverance, my **strong** tower;
 I am not greatly *shaken.*

³**How** long would you assail a man?

You *crush* him, **all** of you,

Like a leaning wall, a tottering fence.

⁴They *plotted* to topple him from his
 high position;

They **delight** in lies;

They **bless** with their **mouth,**

But in their **heart** they *curse.* Selah.

⁵My being, find rest in **Elohim** alone,
Because my expectation is from **Him.**

⁶**He** alone is my rock and my
deliverance, my **strong** tower;
 I am not *shaken.*

⁷My **deliverance** and my **esteem**
depend on **Elohim;**

The rock of my strength, my **refuge** is
 in **Elohim.**

⁸Trust in **Him** at **all** times, you people;
 Pour out your **heart** before Him;

Elohim is a **refuge** for us. Selah.

⁹Sons of Adam are but a breath,
 Sons of men are a lie;

If weighed in the scales,
 They are **altogether** lighter than
 breath.

¹⁰**Do not trust** in oppression.
 And *do not* become vain in robbery;

If riches increase,

Do not set your **heart** on them.

¹¹**Elohim** has **spoken** once,

Twice I have **heard** this:
That strength belongs to **Elohim**.
¹²And **kindness** is **Yours**, O אַיָּאֵל;
For **You** reward each one **according**
to his work.

63 O **Elohim**, **You** are my Ĕl;
I **earnestly seek** You;
My being has thirsted for You;
My flesh has longed for **You**
In a dry and thirsty land without water.
²Therefore I have had a **vision** of **You**
In the set-apart place,
To **see Your power** and **Your** esteem.
³**Because Your kindness** is better
than **life**,
My lips do **praise You**.
⁴Therefore I **bless You** while I live;
In **Your Name** I lift up my hands.
⁵My being is **satisfied** as with marrow
and fat,

And my **mouth** praises **You** with
singing lips.
⁶**When I remember You** on my bed,
I meditate on **You** in the night
watches.

⁷For **You** have been my help,
And in the shadow of **Your** wings I
sing.

⁸My being has closely **followed** You;
Your right hand did uphold me.

⁹Those who seek to destroy my life,
Go into the lower parts of the earth.

¹⁰They are handed over
To the **power** of the sword;
They become a portion for jackals.

¹¹**But** let the sovereign **rejoice** in
Elohim;

Let everyone who swears by **Him**
exult;

For the **mouth** of those speaking lies
are *stopped*.

64 Hear my **voice**, O **Elohim**, in
my meditation;
Guard my **life** from the *threats* of the

enemy.

²Hide me from the **secret** plans of the
evil-doers,

From the tumult of the workers of
wickedness,

³**Who** sharpen their tongue
like a *sword*,

And aim their arrows, a *bitter word*,

⁴To shoot in ambush at someone
blameless,

They shoot at him **suddenly** and *do not fear*.

⁵They arm themselves with an *evil*
word;

They talk of hiding *snares*;

They have said, "**Who** sees them?"

⁶They **search** out *unrighteousnesses*,
"We have **perfected** a well searched
out plan."

For the inward part of man and **heart**,
are deep.

⁷**But Elohim** does shoot at them with
an arrow;

Their *wounds shall be* sudden.

⁸And they **cause** one to *stumble*,
Their own tongue is *against* them;
All who **see** them *flee* away.

⁹And *all men fear*,

And **declare** the **work** of **Elohim**.

And they *shall wisely* consider
What He has done.

¹⁰The **righteous rejoice** in אַיָּאֵל,
And *shall* take **refuge** in **Him**,

And **all** the **upright** in **heart** praise
Him.

65 To **You**, stillness, praise,
in Tsiyon, O **Elohim**;
And to **You** a vow is paid.

²To **You** who **hears** all prayer,
all *flesh* comes.

³Crooked matters were mightier than I;
As for our *transgressions*,

You do cover them.

⁴**Blessed** is the one **You** choose,
And bring **near** to dwell in **Your**

courts.

We are **satisfied** with the **goodness** of
Your house,

You set-apart Hēkal.

⁵By **awesome deeds** in **righteousness**
You answer us,

O **Elohim** of our **deliverance**,

The Trust of **all** the ends of the earth,
And the distant seas;

⁶**Who established** the mountains by
His strength,

Being girded with might;

⁷**Who** stills the roaring of the seas,
The roaring of their waves,

And the uproar of the peoples.

⁸And they who dwell in the farthest
parts,

Are *afraid* of **Your** signs;

You make the outgoings of the
morning and **evening** rejoice.

⁹**You** have **visited** the earth
and watered it,

You greatly enrich it;

The river of **Elohim** is filled with
water;

You provide their grain,

For so **You** have prepared it.

¹⁰Its ridges have been filled,
Its furrows have been deepened,

You make it soft with showers,

You **bless** its growth.

¹¹**You** have crowned the year with
Your **goodness**,

And **Your** paths drip with fatness.

¹²The pastures of the wilderness drip,
And the hills are girded with rejoicing.

¹³The meadows are dressed in flocks,
And valleys are covered with grain;
They shout for **joy** and sing.

66 Shout with **joy** to **Elohim**,

All the earth!

²Sing out the splendour of **His** **Name**;
Make **His** **praise** esteemed.

³Say to **Elohim**, "**How** **awesome** are
Your works!

Through the greatness of **Your** **power**
Your enemies pretend obedience to
You.

⁴"All the earth bow to **You**,

They sing praises to **You**,

They **praise** **Your** **Name**." Selah.

⁵Come and **see** the **works** of **Elohim**,
Awesome acts toward the sons of men.

⁶**He** has turned the sea into dry land,
They went through the river on foot.

There we rejoiced in **Him**,

⁷**Who** rules by **His** **power** forever;

His eyes keeping **watch** on the
gentiles;

Let the *rebellious* not **exalt**
themselves.

Selah.

⁸Bless our **Elohim**, you peoples!

And sound **His** **praise** abroad,

⁹**Who** keeps us in **life**,

And *does not* allow our feet to be
moved.

¹⁰For **You**, O **Elohim**, have proved us;

You have refined us as silver is
refined.

¹¹**You** brought us into the net;

You laid *affliction* on our loins.

¹²**You** have let men ride at our head;

We went through *fire* and through
water;

But **You** brought us out to plenty.

¹³I enter **Your** house with burnt
offerings;

I **complete** my vows to **You**,

¹⁴That which my lips have uttered

And my **mouth** spoke in my *distress*.

¹⁵Burnt offerings of fatlings I offer to
You,

With the incense of rams;

I offer bulls with goats. Selah.

¹⁶**Come, hear, all** you who **fear**
Elohim,

And I relate what **He** has done for my
being.

¹⁷I called to **Him** with my **mouth**,
And **praise** was in my tongue.

¹⁸**If** I have **seen** *wickedness* in my
heart,

אָז אַל *would not hear.*

¹⁹ Truly, Elohim has **heard** me;
He has **given heed** to the **voice** of my
prayer.

²⁰ **Blessed** be Elohim,
Who has not turned away my prayer,
Nor **His kindness** from me!

67 Elohim does **favour** us and
bless us,

Cause **His** face to shine upon us. Selah.

²For *your way* to be **known** on earth,
Your deliverance among **all** nations.

³Let the peoples **praise You**,
O Elohim,

Let **all** the peoples **praise You**.

⁴Let the nations be **glad** and sing
for joy!

For **You judge** the peoples **uprightly**,
And lead the nations on earth. Selah.

⁵Let the peoples **praise You**,
O Elohim;

Let **all** the peoples **praise You**.

⁶The earth **shall** give her increase;
Elohim, our own **Elohim**, blesses us!

⁷**Elohim** blesses us! And **all** the ends
of the earth **fear Him!**

68 Elohim arises,
His enemies are *scattered*.

And those who **hate Him**
flee before Him!

²As smoke is *driven* away,
You drive them away;

As wax melts before the *fire*,
The **wrong** *perish* before **Elohim**.

³**But** the **righteous** are glad, They
exult before **Elohim**.

And they **rejoice** with **gladness**.

⁴Sing to **Elohim**, sing praises to **His**
Name.

Raise up a highway for **Him**
Who rides through the deserts,

By **His Name** Yah,
And exult before **Him**.

⁵Father of the fatherless,
And Right-ruler of widows,

Is **Elohim** in **His** set-apart dwelling.

⁶**Elohim** makes a home for the lonely;
He brings out into prosperity
Those who are *bound* with chains;
Only the *rebellious shall* dwell in a
dry land.

⁷O **Elohim**, when **You** went out before
Your people,

When You stepped through the
wilderness, Selah.

⁸The earth *shook* and the heavens
dropped before **Elohim**,

This Sinai, *shook* before **Elohim**, the
Elohim of Yisra'el.

⁹You, O **Elohim**, **sent** a shower
of plenty,

You confirmed Your inheritance,
When it was *weary*.

¹⁰**Your** flock dwelt in it;

You provided from **Your goodness** for
the *poor*, O **Elohim**.

¹¹ **אָז אַל** gave the word;

The women who **proclaimed** it was a
great company:

¹²“Sovereigns of armies **flee** in haste!
And she who remains at home divides
the spoil.”

¹³**If** you *lie* down among the
sheepfolds,

The wings of a dove are covered with
silver,

And her feathers with yellow gold.

¹⁴**When** the Almighty *scattered*
sovereigns in it,

It did snow in Tsalmon.

¹⁵A mountain of **Elohim** is the
mountain of Bashan;

A mountain of peaks is the mountain
of Bashan.

¹⁶O mountain of peaks, why do you
gaze in *envy*

At the mountain which **Elohim**
desired to dwell in;

אָז אַל even dwells *there forever*.

¹⁷The chariots of **Elohim** are twenty
thousand,

Thousands of thousands;

אֲיָאֵל came from Sinai

Into the **Set-apart Place**.

¹⁸**You** have ascended on high,

You have led captivity captive,

You have received gifts among men,

And even the *rebellious*,

That Yah **Elohim** might dwell *there*.

¹⁹ **Blessed** be אֲיָאֵל,

Day by day **He** bears our *burden*,

The Ēl of our **deliverance!** Selah.

²⁰Our Ēl is the Ēl of **deliverance**;

And to אֲיָאֵל, the **Master**, belong

escapes from *death*.

²¹Indeed, **Elohim** smites the head of

His enemies,

The hairy scalp of him who walks

about in **His** guilt.

²²אֲיָאֵל said, "I bring back from

Bashan,

I bring back from the depths of

the sea,

²³"So that you plunge your foot

in blood;

That the tongues of your dogs

Have their portion from the enemies."²⁷

²⁴They have **seen Your** goings,

O **Elohim**,

The goings of my Ēl, my Sovereign,

Into the set-apart place.

²⁵The singers went in front,

The players on instruments after them;

Among them were the maidens

playing tambourines.

²⁶Bless **Elohim** in the assemblies,

אֲיָאֵל, from the fountain of Yisra'el.

²⁷There is Binyamin, the smallest, their

ruler,

The leaders of Yahudaḥ, their

company,

The leader of Zebulun, the leader of

Naphtali.

²⁸**Your Elohim** has **commanded** your

strength, be strong!

O **Elohim**, this **You** have worked out

for us!

²⁹**Because** of **Your** Hēḱal at

Yerushalayim,

Sovereigns bring presents to **You**.

³⁰Rebuke the wild beasts of the reeds,

The herd of bulls, with the calves of

the peoples,

Each one humbling himself with

pieces of silver.

Scatter the peoples who **delight** in

conflicts!

³¹Ambassadors **come out of**

Mitsrayim;

Kush stretches out her hands to

Elohim.

³²Sing to **Elohim**, you reigns

of the earth,

Praises to אֲיָאֵל, Selah.

³³To **Him** who rides on the ancient

highest heavens!

See, He sends out His voice,

a mighty **voice**.

³⁴Ascribe strength to **Elohim**;

His excellence is over Yisra'el,

And **His** strength is in the clouds.

³⁵O **Elohim**, **awesome** from **Your** set

apart places,

The Ēl of Yisra'el **is He**

Who gives strength and **power** to

His people. **Blessed** be **Elohim!**

69 Save me, O **Elohim!**

For waters have **come** up to my neck.

²I have sunk in deep mud,

And there is no place to stand;

I have **come** into deep waters,

And the floods overflow me.

³I am worn out from my crying;

My throat is dry; *My* eyes grow dim

As I wait for my **Elohim**.

⁴Those who *hate* me without a **cause**

Are more than the hairs of my head;

They are mighty who would *destroy*

me,

My lying enemies;

What I *did not steal*, I restored.

⁵O **Elohim**, **You Yourself** know my

foolishness;

And my *guilt* has not been *hidden*
from **You**.

⁶**Let** not those who wait for **You**,

O **Master** אַיָּאֵל of hosts,

Be *ashamed* **because** of me;

Let not those who **seek You**

Be humbled **because** of me,

O **Elohim** of Yisra'el.

⁷**Because** I have borne *reproach*
for **Your** sake;

Shame has covered my face.

⁸I have become a stranger

to my brothers,

And a foreigner to my mother's
children;

⁹**Because** **ardour** for **Your** house has
eaten me up,

And the *reproaches* of those who
reproach You have fallen on me.

¹⁰And I wept in my being with fasting,
And it became my *reproach*.

¹¹And when I put on sackcloth,

I became a proverb to them.

¹²They who sit in the gate talk about
me,

And I am the song of the drunkards.

¹³**But** as for me, my prayer is to **You**,
O אַיָּאֵל,

At an **acceptable time**, O **Elohim**.
In the greatness of **Your kindness**,
Answer me in the **truth** of **Your**
deliverance.

¹⁴Rescue me out of the mire,
And let me not sink.

Let me be rescued from those who
hate me,

And out of the deep waters.

¹⁵**Let** not a *flood* of waters
overflow me,

Nor let the deep swallow me up,
Nor let the pit shut its **mouth** on me.

¹⁶Answer me, O אַיָּאֵל, for **Your**
kindness is **good**.

According to the greatness of **Your**
compassion, turn to me.

¹⁷And *do not* hide **Your** face from
Your servant,

For I am in distress;

Answer me **speedily**.

¹⁸Draw **near** to my being, **redeem** it;

Ransom me **because** of my enemies.

¹⁹**You Yourself** know my reproach,

And my *shame* and my confusion;

My adversaries are **all** before **You**.

²⁰Reproach has broken my **heart** and I
am sick;

I **looked** for sympathy,

but there was none;

And for comforters, but I **found** none.

²¹And they gave me gall for my food,

And for my thirst they gave me
vinegar to drink.

²²**Let** their table before them become a
snare,

And a *trap* to those at ease.

²³**Let** their eyes be darkened,
so as not to see;

And make their loins *shake*
continually.

²⁴Pour out **Your** *wrath* upon them,
And let **Your** *burning displeasure*
overtake them.

²⁵**Let** their encampments be deserted;

Let no one dwell in their tents.

²⁶For they *persecute* him whom **You**
have smitten,

And talk about the pain of those
You have wounded.

²⁷Add *crookedness* to their
crookedness,

And let them not enter into
Your **righteousness**.

²⁸**Let** them be blotted out
of the **book** of the **living**,

And not be **written** with the righteous.

²⁹**But** I am *poor* and in pain;

Let Your deliverance, O **Elohim**,
set me up on high.

³⁰I **praise** the **Name** of **Elohim**
with a song,

And I make **Him** great
with **thanksgiving**.

³¹And this **pleases** אַיָּאֵל
more than an ox,

A bull with horns *and* hooves.

³²The humble *shall* see, they **rejoice**,
You who **seek Elohim** and your
hearts live.

³³For אַיָּאֵל *hears* the *poor*,

And **He** *shall* not *despise* **His** captives.

³⁴**Let** the heavens and earth
praise Him,

The seas and **all** that moves in them.

³⁵For **Elohim shall save** Tsiyon
And build the cities of Yahudah.

And they **shall** dwell there
and possess it,

³⁶And the seed of **His** servants inherit
it and those who **love His Name**
dwell in it.

70 O **Elohim**, deliver me!

Hasten to my help, O אַיָּהּ!

²Let those who **seek** my **life**
Be ashamed and abashed,

Let those who are desiring my **evil**
Be turned back and humiliated.

³Let those who say, "Aha, aha!"
Be turned back **because** of their
shame.

⁴Let **all** those who **seek You**
Rejoice and be **glad** in You;
And let those who **love Your**
deliverance always say,

"Let **Elohim** be made **great!**"

⁵**But** I am *poor* and needy;
Hasten to me, O **Elohim!**

You are my help and my deliverer;
O אַיָּהּ, *do not* delay.

71 In **You**, O אַיָּהּ,

I have taken refuge;

Let me never be ashamed.

²In **Your righteousness** deliver and
rescue me;

Incline **Your** ear to me and **save** me.

³Be to me a rock to dwell in,
To go into continually.

You have **given** the **command**
to **save** me,

For **You** are my rock
and my stronghold.

⁴Rescue me, O my **Elohim**,
Out of the **hand** of the **wrong**,
Out of the **hand** of the **unrighteous**
and **cruel**.

⁵For **You** are my expectation,
Master אַיָּהּ,

my **Trust** from my youth.

⁶Upon **You** I have leaned
from my birth;

You took me out of my mother's
womb.

My **praise** is continually of **You**.

⁷I have become as a **wonder** to many,
But You are my **strong** refuge.

⁸My **mouth** is filled *with* **Your** praise,
Your splendour, **all** the day.

⁹**Do not** cast me off in the **time**
of old age,

When my strength fails,
do not forsake me.

¹⁰For my enemies have **spoken**
against me.

And those who **watch** for my **life**
Have taken counsel together,

¹¹Saying, "**Elohim** has **forsaken** him;
Pursue and take him, for there is no
one to deliver."

¹²O **Elohim**, *do not* be far from me;
My Elohim, hasten to my help!

¹³Let those who are adversaries of
my **life**

Be ashamed and *consumed and*
Let those who **seek** my **evil**
Be covered with *reproach* and
confusion.

¹⁴**But** I continually wait,
And **shall praise You** more and more.

¹⁵My **mouth** recounts **Your**
righteousness

Your deliverance **all** the day,

Though I *do not know* *their* numbers.

¹⁶I **come** in the might of the **Master**
אַיָּהּ; I make mention of

Your righteousness, **Yours** alone.

¹⁷**Elohim**, **You** have **taught** me from
my youth;

And to this day I **declare Your**
wonders.

¹⁸And also when I am old and grey,
O **Elohim**, *do not forsake* me,

Until I **declare Your** strength to a
generation,

Your might to **all** those who are to
come.

¹⁹For **Your righteousness**, O Elohim,
is most high,

You who have done **great deeds**.

O Elohim, who is like **You**?

²⁰**You** who have shown me **great** and
evil distresses,

Revive me again and bring me up
again

From the depths of the earth.

²¹**You** increase my greatness,
And comfort me on **every** side.

²²Also with the lyre I **praise You**

For **Your** trustworthiness,

O my **Elohim!**

I sing to **You** with the lyre,

O **Set-apart One** of Yisra'el.

²³My lips shout for **joy** when I sing to
You,

Even my being, which You have
redeemed.

²⁴My tongue, too, utters **Your**
righteousness all day long;

For those who have been **seeking**
my *evil*

Have been put to shame and

Have become abashed.

72 O Elohim, give the sovereign

Your right-rulings,

And **Your righteousness** to the

Son of a sovereign.

²**Let Him rule Your people** with
righteousness,

And **Your poor** with right-ruling.

³**Let the mountains bring peace** to the
people,

And the hills, by **righteousness**.

⁴**Let Him rightly rule the poor** of the
people,

Save the children of the needy,

And *crush* the oppressor.

⁵**Let them fear You** with the sun,
shining

And before the moon, in **all**
generations.

⁶**Let Him come** down like rain upon
the mown grass,

Like showers, watering the earth.

⁷**Let the righteous flourish in His**
days,

With plenty of peace,

Til the moon is no more.

⁸And let **Him rule** from sea to sea,
And from the River to the ends of the
earth.

⁹**Let** those dwelling in the desert bow
before **Him**,

And **His** enemies lick the dust.

¹⁰**Let** the sovereigns of Tarshish and of
the isles bring presents;

The sovereigns of Sheḅa and Seḅa
offer gifts.

¹¹And let **all** sovereigns bow down
before **Him**,

All nations **serve Him**.

¹²For **He** delivers the needy when he
cries,

And the *poor*, who has no helper.

¹³**He** spares the *poor* and needy,
And **He saves** the lives of the needy.

¹⁴**He** redeems their **life** from
oppression and from *violence*;
And their **blood** is **precious** in **His**
eyes.

¹⁵And **He shall live**,

And the gold of Sheḅa be **given** to
Him,

And prayer be made for **Him**
continually;

Let Him be blessed all day long.

¹⁶**Let** there be plenty of grain in the
earth,

On the top of the mountains,

Let its **fruit** wave like Lebanon,

And those of the city flourish like
grass of the earth.

¹⁷**Let His Name** be **forever**,

His Name continue before the sun;

And let them **bless** themselves in Him;

Let all nations call Him blessed.

¹⁸**Blessed** be אַיָּאֵל Elohim,
Elohim of Yisra'el,

He alone is doing wonders!

¹⁹And **bleſſed** be His eſteemed Name forever!

And let **all** the earth

Be filled with His eſteem.

Amēn and Amēn.

²⁰The prayers of Dawiḍ the ſon of Yiſhai are ended.

73 Elohim is truly good to

Yiſraʿēl,

To thoſe whoſe heart is clean.

²But as for me, my feet had almoſt ſtumbled,

My ſteps had nearly ſlipped.

³For I was envious of the boaſters,

When I ſaw the peace of the *wrong* doers.

⁴For *death* has no pangs for them, And their ſtrength is firm.

⁵They are not in *trouble* as other men, And they are not *plagued* like other men.

⁶So pride is their necklace, The garment of *violence* covers them.

⁷Their eyes bulge from fatneſs; Their **heart** overflows with imaginations.

⁸They *mock* and **ſpeak** in the *evil* of oppreſſion;

They **ſpeak** loftily.

⁹They have ſet their **mouth** *againſt* the heavens,

And their tongue walks through the earth, *ſaying*:

¹⁰“Therefore **His** people **return** here, And waters of a filled *cup* are drained by them!”

¹¹And they have ſaid, “**How** could Ēl know?

And is there **knowledge** in the Moſt High?”

¹²**See**, theſe are the *wrong*,

And **always** at eaſe,

They have amasſed wealth!

¹³Indeed, in vain have I **cleansed** my heart,

And waſhed my hands in innocence.

¹⁴For I am *plagued* **all** day long, And my *reproof* is **every** morning.

¹⁵**If** I had ſaid, “**Let me ſpeak** thus,” **See**, I would have *deceived*

A generation of **Your** children.

¹⁶Yet, when I tried to **underſtand** this, It was labour to my eyes –

¹⁷Until I went into the ſet-apart place of Ēl; **Then** I perceived their end.

¹⁸Indeed, **You** ſet them in ſlippery places;

You make them *fall* to ruins.

¹⁹**How ſuddenly** they are *ruined*!

Completely ſwept away through deſtructions.

²⁰אֵיךָ, when **You** awake

You deſpiſe their *image*,

As one does a **dream** after waking.

²¹For my **heart** was in a ferment, And I was *pierced* in my kidneys.

²²I was *ſtupid* and ignorant, I was like a beaſt toward **You**.

²³Yet I am **always** with **You**, **You** took hold of my **right hand**.

²⁴**You** lead me by **Your** counſel, And afterward receive me unto eſteem.

²⁵**Whom** do I have in the heavens? And I have deſired no one beſides

You on earth.

²⁶My *fleſh* and my **heart** *ſhall* waſte away,

But Elohim is the rock of my **heart** And my portion **forever**.

²⁷For look, thoſe who are far from **You** periſh;

You *ſhall* **cut off** all thoſe

Who go *whoring* away from **You**.

²⁸**But** as for me, it is **good** to be **near** Elohim.

I have made my **refuge** in the **Maſter**

אֵלֹהִים, To **declare** all **Your** works.

74 O Elohim, why do **You** forever *reject* us?

Why does **Your** *diſpleaſure* ſmoke Againſt the ſheep of **Your** paſture?

²**Remember Your** congregation.

You did purchase of old,
The tribe of **Your** inheritance.

You did redeem,
This Mount Tsiyon where **You** have
dwelt.

³Lift up **Your** steps to the endless
ruins;
The enemy has done **all evil** in
the set-apart place.

⁴**Your** adversaries have roared
In the **midst** of **Your** meeting places;
They have set up their own **signs** as
signs.

⁵It seems as if one had lifted up
Axes among the thick trees.

⁶And **now all** its *carved work*,
They have broken down with axe and
hammer.

⁷They have set *fire* to **Your** set-apart
place,
They have *profaned* the dwelling place
of **Your Name** to the ground.

⁸They said in their **hearts**,
“**Let** us suppress them altogether.”
They *burned all* the meeting places of
E^l in the land.

⁹We *do not see* our **signs**,
There is no longer a **prophet**,
Nor any among us who **knows**
how long.

¹⁰O **Elohim**, how long would the
adversary reproach?
Would the enemy *despise Your Name*
forever?

¹¹**Why** do **You** hold back **Your hand**,
even **Your right hand**?
From the **midst** of **Your** bosom – end
it!

¹²For **Elohim** is my Sovereign from of
old,
Working **deliverance** in the **midst** of
the earth.

¹³**You** divided the sea by **Your** might;
You broke the heads of the sea
serpents in the waters.

¹⁴**You** broke the heads of Liwiathan in
pieces,

You made him food for the people
Living in the wilderness.

¹⁵**You** did cleave **open** the fountain and
the flood,

You did dry up mighty rivers.

¹⁶The day is **Yours**, the night
is **Yours** too,

You have **established** the **light** and the
sun.

¹⁷**You** have set **all** the borders of the
earth,

You have made summer and winter.

¹⁸**Remember** this: the enemy has
reproached אַיָּאֵל,

And a *foolish* people has *despised*
Your Name.

¹⁹**Do not** give the being of **Your** turtle
dove to the wild beast!

Do not forget the **life** of **Your** *afflicted*
ones **forever**.

²⁰Look to the covenant,
For the dark places of the earth are
filled

With haunts of *violence*.

²¹**Let** not the crushed one **return**
ashamed!

Let the *poor* and needy **praise Your**
Name.

²²Arise, O **Elohim**, plead **Your** own
cause,

Remember how the *foolish* man
reproaches You daily.

²³**Do not forget** the **voice** of **Your**
enemies,

The uproar of those rising up *against*
You increases continually.

75 We *shall* give **thanks** to **You**,
O **Elohim**, we *shall* give thanks!
And **Your Name** is **near!**
Your wonders shall be declared!

²⁴**When** I *seize* the **appointed time**,
It is I who **judge** in **uprightness** .

³⁴The earth and **all** its inhabitants
are melted;

It is I who set its columns firm. Selah.
⁴⁶“I said to the boasters, ‘**Do not** boast,’
 And to the **wrong**, ‘**Do not** lift
 up the horn.

⁵⁶“**Do not** lift up your horn on high
 (You **speak** with a stiff neck).”

⁶For exaltations are neither from the
 east,

Nor from the west nor from the
 wilderness.

⁷**But Elohim** is the **Judge** – **He** puts
 down one and exalts another.

⁸For a **cup** is in the **hand** of אַיָּאֵל,
 And the **wine shall** foam;

It is filled with a mixture,
 And **He** pours it out.

All the **wrong** of the earth drink,
 Draining it to the dregs.

⁹**But** I, I **declare forever**,
 I sing praises to the **Elohim** of
 Ya’aqob.

¹⁰“And **all** the horns of the **wrong** I **cut**
 off;

The horns of the **righteous** are lifted
 up.”

76 In Yahudah **Elohim** is **known**;
His Name is **great** in Yisra’el.

²And **His** booth is in Shalēm,
 And **His** dwelling place in Tsiyon.

³There **He** broke the arrows of the
 bow,

The shield and the *sword* and the
 battle-axe. Selah.

⁴**You** are resplendent,
 More excellent than mountains of
 prey.

⁵The stout-hearted have been stripped;
 They slept their sleep;
 And none of the mighty men have
 found their hands.

⁶At **Your** rebuke, O **Elohim** of
 Ya’aqob,
 Both the rider and horse lay
 stunned.

⁷**You, You** are to be **feared**;

And who would **stand** in **Your**
 presence *When You are displeased*?

⁸From **heaven You shall** **cause**
 judgment to be **heard**;

The earth **shall** **fear** and **shall** **be** still,

⁹**When Elohim** arises to right-ruling,
 To **save all** the meek of the earth.

Selah.

¹⁰For the *wrath* of mankind praises
You,

With the remainder of *wrath You* gird
Yourself!

¹¹Make vows to אַיָּאֵל your **Elohim**,
 and pay them.

Let all who are around **Him** bring
 presents to the **One** to be **feared**.

¹²**He** *cuts* off the spirit of leaders,
He is **awesome** to the sovereigns of
 the earth!

77 My voice is to **Elohim**,
 and I cry; **My voice** is to **Elohim** and
He **listened** to me.

²In the **day** of my *distress* I sought
 אַיָּאֵל;

My hand was **stretched** out in the
 night

And it *did not* cease,

My being *refused* to be comforted.

³I **remembered** **Elohim** and groaned;
 I complained and my spirit grew faint.
 Selah.

⁴**You** ceased the watches of my eyes,
 I was too *troubled* to speak.

⁵I have thought about the days of old,
 The years long past.

⁶I **remember** my song in the night,
 I meditate within my **heart**,
 And my spirit searches **diligently**.

⁷Would אַיָּאֵל **reject forever**,
 And never again be pleased?

⁸Has **His** **kindness** ceased **forever**,
 Has the **promise** failed for **all**
 generations?

⁹Has **El** *forgotten* to **show** favour?
 Has **He** shut up **His** **compassions** in
 displeasure? Selah.

¹⁰And I said, “This is my grief:
That the **right hand** of the
Most High has *changed*.”

¹¹I **remember** the **deeds** of Yah,
For I **remember Your wonders** of
old.

¹²And I *shall* meditate on **all Your**
work,
And talk of **Your deeds**.

¹³**Your way, O Elohim**, is in
Set-apartness;

Who is a **great Ėl** like **Elohim**?

¹⁴**You** are the Ėl who does **wonders**;
You have made **known Your** strength
among the peoples.

¹⁵By **Your** arm **You** have redeemed
Your people,
The sons of Ya’aqoḅ and Yosēph.
Selah.

¹⁶The waters **saw You, O Elohim**;
The waters **saw You**, they were *afraid*;
The depths also trembled.

¹⁷The clouds **poured out** water;
The heavens rumbled;
Also, **Your** arrows flashed back and
forth.

¹⁸The **voice of Your thunder** rolled
along;
Lightnings lit up the world;
The earth *trembled* and shook.

¹⁹**Your way** was in the sea,
And **Your** path in the **great** waters,
And **Your** footsteps were not **known**.

²⁰**You** did lead **Your people** like a
flock
By the **hand** of Mosheh and Aharon.

78 My people, give ear to my
Torah,
Incline your **ears** to the **words** of
my **mouth**.

²¹I **open** my **mouth** in a parable;
I utter riddles of old,

³Which we have **heard and known**,
For our fathers have related
them to us.

⁴We *do not* hide *them* from their
children,

Relating to the generation to **come** the
praises of אַיָּאֵל,
And **His** strength and **His wonders**
which **He** has done.

⁵For **He** raised a **witness** in Ya’aqoḅ,
And set a **Torah** in Yisra’ēl,

Which **He commanded** our fathers,
To **teach** them to their children;

⁶That it might be **known** to a
generation to come,
To children who would be born,
To rise up and relate *them* to their
children,

⁷And place their **trust** in **Elohim**, And
not *forget* the **works** of Ėl,
But watch over **His commands**,

⁸And not be like their fathers,
A *stubborn and rebellious*
generation,

A generation which *did not* **prepare**
its **heart**,

Whose spirit was not steadfast to Ėl.

⁹The children of Ephrayim, armed
bowmen,
Turned back in the **day of** battle.

¹⁰They *did not* **guard** the **covenant** of
Elohim and

They *refused* to **walk** in **His Torah**,

¹¹And they *forgot* **His deeds**
And **His wonders** which **He** had
shown them.

¹²**He** did **wonders** in the **sight** of their
fathers,

In the land of Mitsrayim, in the field
of Tso’an.

¹³**He** split the sea and **caused** them to
pass through,

And **He** made the waters **stand** up like
a heap,

¹⁴And led them with the cloud by day,
And **all** the night with a **light** of *fire*.

¹⁵**He** split the rocks in the wilderness,
And made them drink, as from the
great depths,

¹⁶And brought forth streams from
the rock,

And **caused** waters to **come** down

as rivers.
¹⁷Yet they *sinned* still more
against Him
 To *rebel against* the **Most High**
 in the desert.
¹⁸And they tried Ĕl in their **heart**
 By **asking** food **according** to their
 desire.
¹⁹And they spoke *against Elohim*.
 They said, "Is Ĕl able to set a table
 in the wilderness?"
²⁰"Look, **He struck** the rock,
 So that the waters gushed out,
 And the streams overflowed.
 Is **He** able to give **bread** also?
 Would **He** provide meat for **His**
 people?"
²¹Therefore אַיָּאֵל heard and **He**
 was *wroth*;
 So a *fire* was kindled *against* Ya'aqob,
 And *displeasure* also came up *against*
 Yisra'el,
²²**Because** they *did not believe*
 in **Elohim**,
 Neither did they **trust**
 in **His deliverance**.
²³Yet **He** had **commande**
 the clouds above,
 And opened the **doors** of the heavens,
²⁴And **He** rained down manna
 on them to eat,
 And **He** gave them the grain
 of the heavens.
²⁵Men ate **bread** of the mighty;
He sent them **provisions** to
 satisfaction.
²⁶**He** made an east *wind blow*
 in the heavens;
 And by **His power** **He** brought
 in the south wind.
²⁷And **He** rained meat on them
 like the dust,
 And winged birds like the sand
 of the seas,
²⁸And let them *fall* in the **midst**
 of **His camp**,
 All around **His Dwelling Place**.

²⁹So they ate and were **completely**
 satisfied,
 For **He** brought them what
 they desired.
³⁰They had not turned away from their
 desire,
 Their food was still in their mouths,
³¹**When** the *wrath* of **Elohim** came
against them,
 And **He** slew among their fat ones,
 And **He struck** down the choice ones
 of Yisra'el.
³²In spite of **all** this they still *sinned*,
 And *did not believe* in **His wonders**.
³³So **He** ended their days in a breath,
 And their years in trouble.
³⁴**When** **He** slew them, then they
 sought Him,
 And they returned and did **earnestly**
 seek Ĕl.
³⁵And they **remembered** that **Elohim**
 was their rock,
 And the **Most High** Ĕl their redeemer.
³⁶**But** they flattered **Him** with their
 mouth,
 And they *lied* to **Him** with their
 tongue,
³⁷For their **heart** was not steadfast
 with Him,
 And they were not **true** to **His**
covenant.
³⁸**But He**, the **compassionate One**,
 Pardoned *crookedness*,
 And *did not destroy* them.
 And many a **time** **He** turned **His**
displeasure away,
 And *did not stir up all His wrath*.
³⁹For **He** **remembered** that they were
 but *flesh*,
 A passing breath that *does not return*.
⁴⁰**How** often they *rebelled against Him*
 in the wilderness,
 And *grieved Him* in the desert!
⁴¹And again and again they tried Ĕl,
 And *provoked* the **Set-apart One** of
 Yisra'el.

⁴²They *did not remember His hand*,
The day when **He** redeemed them
from the adversary,

⁴³**How He** worked **His signs** in
Mitsrayim,

And **His wonders** in the field of
Tso'an.

⁴⁴**He** turned their rivers into **blood**,
And they *could not* drink their streams.

⁴⁵**He sent** among them swarms of flies
which devoured them,

And frogs which *destroyed* them,

⁴⁶And gave their crops to the
caterpillar,

And their labour to the locust.

⁴⁷**He destroyed** their vines with hail,
And their sycamore trees with frost,

⁴⁸And gave their beasts over to the
hail, And their livestock to bolts of *fire*.

⁴⁹**He sent** on them the *burning* of **His**
displeasure,

Wrath and *rage* and *distress*,

A deputation of messengers of *evils*.

⁵⁰**He** made a path for **His** displeasure;
He did not spare their being
from *death*,

But gave their **life** over to the *plague*.

⁵¹And **He smote all** the first-born in
Mitsrayim,

The **first-fruits** of strength in the tents
of Ham,

⁵²**Then** made **His** own people go forth
like sheep,

And led them in the wilderness
like a flock.

⁵³And **He** led them on safely,
And they *did not fear*,

But the sea covered their enemies.

⁵⁴And **He** brought them to the border
of **His** set-apart place,

This mountain which **His right hand**
had gained,

⁵⁵And drove out nations before them,
And allotted them a measured
inheritance,

And made the tribes of Yisra'el dwell

in their tents.

⁵⁶Yet they tried and *rebelled*
Against the **Most High Elohim**,
And *did not guard His witnesses*,

⁵⁷**But** they turned back
And *acted* treacherously like their
fathers;

They twisted like a treacherous bow.

⁵⁸For they **enraged Him** with their
high places,

And moved **Him** to *jealousy* with their
carved images.

⁵⁹**When Elohim** heard this,

He was *wroth*,

And greatly *despised* Yisra'el,

⁶⁰And **He** left the **Dwelling Place**
of Shiloh,

The **Tent** which **He** had set up
among men.

⁶¹And **He** gave **His** strength into
captivity,

And **His** comeliness into the **hand** of
the adversary.

⁶²And **He** gave **His** people over to the
sword,

And **He** was *wroth* with **His**
inheritance.

⁶³**His** young men were *consumed* by
fire,

And **His** maidens were not **praised**.

⁶⁴**His** priests fell by the *sword*,
And their widows *could not* weep.

⁶⁵**Then אַיָּאֵל** awoke as one asleep,
As a mighty man who shouts **because**
of **wine**.

⁶⁶And **He smote His** adversaries
backward,

He put them to an **everlasting**
reproach.

⁶⁷**Then He rejected** the tent of Yosēph,
And *did not* choose the tribe of
Ephrayim,

⁶⁸**But chose** the tribe of Yahudāh,
Mount Tsiyon, which **He loved**.

⁶⁹And **He** built **His** set-apart place like
the heights,

Like the earth **He** founded it **forever**.

⁷⁰And **He chose** Dawid **His** servant,
 And took him from the sheepfolds;
⁷¹**He** brought him in from tending
 the ewes,
 To shepherd Ya'aqob **His** people,
 And Yisra'el **His** inheritance.
⁷²And he shepherded them
 According to the integrity of his **heart**,
 And led them by the **skill** of his hands.

79 O **Elohim**, the *gentiles* have
come into **Your** inheritance;
 They have *defiled*
Your set-apart Hēḱal;
 They turned Yerushalayim into ruins.
²They have **given** the *dead* bodies of
Your servants
 As food for the birds of the heavens,
 The *flesh* of **Your kind** ones to the
 wild beast of the earth.
³They have **poured out** their **blood**
 Like water **all** around Yerushalayim,
 With no one to bury *them*.
⁴We have become a *reproach* to our
 neighbours,
 A *scorn* and a *mockery* to those who
 are around us.
⁵**How** long, O אַיָּאֵל,
 Would **You** be **enraged forever**?
 Would **Your jealousy** burn like *fire*?
⁶Pour out **Your wrath** on the *gentiles*
Who have not **known You**,
 And on reigns that have not called on
Your Name.
⁷For they have devoured Ya'aqob,
 And laid *waste* his pasture.
⁸**Do not remember** *against* us
 The *crookednesses* of the fathers!
Let Your compassion speedily
 meet us,
 For we have been greatly weakened.
⁹Help us, O **Elohim** of our
deliverance,
 For the sake of the **esteem** of **Your**
Name.
Deliver us and cover over our sins,
 For **Your Name's** sake!

¹⁰**Why** should the *gentiles* say,
 "Where is their **Elohim**?"
Let the **vengeance** of the outpoured
 blood of **Your** servants
 Be **known** among the *gentiles*,
 Before our eyes.
¹¹**Let** the groaning of the prisoner
come before **You**.
 According to the greatness
 of **Your** arm
Preserve those **appointed** to *death*.
¹²And **repay** to our neighbours
 sevenfold
 Their reproach, into their bosom,
 With which they have reproached **You**,
 O אַיָּאֵל.
¹³And we, **Your people** and the sheep
 of **Your** pasture,
 We give **thanks** to **You forever**;
 From generation to generation we
 show forth **Your** praise.

80 Give ear, O Shepherd of
 Yisra'el,
Who lead Yosēph like a flock;
Who dwell between the keruḅim,
 shine forth!
²Before Ephrayim, Binyamin and
 Menashsheh,
 Stir up **Your** might,
 And **come** and **save** us!
³Cause us to turn back, O **Elohim**,
 And **cause Your** face to shine,
 That we might be **saved**!
⁴O אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** of hosts,
How long **shall You** be *wroth*
 Against the prayer of **Your people**?
⁵**You** have **caused** them to eat the
bread of tears,
 And have **caused** them to drink
 With tears, a **third time**.
⁶**You** have made us a strife to our
 neighbours,
 And our enemies laugh among
 themselves.

⁷Turn us back, O **Elohim** of hosts,
And **cause Your** face to shine,
That we might be **saved!**
⁸**You** brought a **vine** out of Mitsrayim;
You drove out the nations,
and planted it.
⁹**You** cleared a place for it,
And **caused** it to take deep root,
And it filled the land.
¹⁰Hills were covered with its shadow,
And the mighty cedars with its twigs.
¹¹She spread her branches to the Sea,
And her shoots to the River.
¹²**Why** have **You** broken down her
hedges,
So that **every** passer-by *plucked* her
fruit?
¹³The boar out of the forest ravages it,
And the wild beast of the field
devours it.
¹⁴**Return**, we *beg You*,
O **Elohim** of hosts;
Look down from **heaven** and **see**,
And **visit** this vine,
¹⁵And the stock which **Your right**
hand has planted,
And the **Son** whom **You** made **strong**
for **Yourself**.
¹⁶It is *burned* with *fire*, it is *cut down*;
They *perish* at the *rebuke*
of **Your** face.
¹⁷**Let Your hand** be upon the **One**
at **Your right hand**,
Upon the **Son** of Aḏam whom **You**
made **strong** for **Yourself**,
¹⁸And we *shall* not backslide from
You.
Revive us and let us **call** upon **Your**
Name.
¹⁹Turn us back, O אַיָּאֵל
Elohim of hosts, and **cause Your** face
to shine,
That we might be **saved!**

81 Shout for **joy** to **Elohim** our
strength;

Raise a shout to the **Elohim** of
Ya'aqob.
²Lift up a song and beat
the tambourine,
The pleasant lyre and with the harp.
³Blow the ram's horn at the **time** of the
New Moon,
At the full moon, on our **festival** day.
⁴For this is a **law** for Yisra'el,
And a **right-ruling** of the **Elohim** of
Ya'aqob.
⁵**He appointed** it in Yehosēph for a
witness,
When He went throughout the land of
Mitsrayim;
I **heard** a **language** that I *did not*
know.
⁶He *says*, "I removed his shoulder
from the burden;
His hands were freed from the baskets.
⁷"You called in *distress* and I rescued
you;
I answered you in the covering of
thunder;
I proved you at the waters of Meribah.
Selah.
⁸"**Hear**, O **My people** and let **Me**
warn you,
O Yisra'el, if you would **listen** to **Me!**
⁹"**Let** there be no *strange mighty one*
among you,
And *do not* bow down to a foreign
mighty one.
¹⁰"I am אַיָּאֵל your **Elohim**,
Who brought you out of the land of
Mitsrayim;
Open your **mouth** wide and I fill it.
¹¹"**But My people** *did not listen* to **My**
voice,
And Yisra'el *would not* submit to **Me**.
¹²"So I gave them over to their own
stubborn heart,
To **walk** in their own counsels.
¹³"O, if **My people** had **listened** to
Me,
Yisra'el would **walk** in **My** ways,
¹⁴"I would subdue their enemies at
once,

And turn **My hand** *against* their adversaries!

¹⁵“Those who *hate* אַיָּאָל would cringe before Him;

And their **time** of punishment be **forever**.

¹⁶“He would feed them with the finest of wheat;

And with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.”

82 Elohim stands in the congregation of Ēl;

He judges in the **midst** of the **Elohim**.

²**How** long would you **judge** perversely,

And **show** partiality to the *wrong*?
Selah.

³Give **right-ruling** to the *poor* and fatherless,

Do right to the *afflicted* and needy.

⁴Rescue the *poor* and needy;
Deliver them from the **hand** of the *wrong*.

⁵They *do not know*, nor do they understand,

They **walk** about in *darkness*.

All the foundations of the earth are shaken.

⁶I, I said, “**You are Elohim**,
And **all** of you are sons
of the **Most High**.

⁷“**But** as men you *die*,
And *fall* as one of the heads.”

⁸Arise, O **Elohim**, **judge** the earth,
For **You shall possess all** the nations.

83 O Elohim,

do not remain silent!

Do not be speechless,
And *do not* be still, O Ēl!

²For look, **Your** enemies make an uproar,

And those hating **You** have lifted up their head.

³They craftily *plot against*

Your people,

And conspire *against* **Your** treasured ones.

⁴They have said, “**Come**,

And let us wipe them out as a nation,

And let the name of Yisra’ēl be

remembered no more.”

⁵For they have *conspired together*
with one heart;

They have made a **covenant against**
You –

⁶The tents of Eđom and the
Yishma’ēlites,

Mo’ab and the Haġarites,

⁷Gebał and Ammon and Amalēq,
Philistia with the inhabitants of Tsor,

⁸Ashshur also has joined with them,

They have helped the children of Lot.
Selah.

⁹**Do** to them as to Miđyan,
As to Sisera,

As to Yabin at the wadi Qishon,

¹⁰**Who** *perished* at Ēndor,

Who became as *dung* for the ground.

¹¹Make their nobles like Orēḅ
and like Ze’ēḅ,

And **all** their princes like Zebaḅ
and Tsalmunna,

¹²**Who** have said, “**Let** us take
possession of the pastures of **Elohim**
For ourselves.”

¹³O my **Elohim**, make them
as whirling dust,

As stubble before the wind!

¹⁴As a *fire* consumes a forest,

And as a *flame* sets mountains on *fire*,

¹⁵So pursue them with **Your**
whirlwind,

And frighten them with **Your** storm.

¹⁶Fill their faces with shame,

And let them **seek Your Name**,
O אַיָּאָל.

¹⁷**Let** them be *ashamed* and *alarmed*
forever;

And let them become abashed and
perish,

¹⁸And let them **know** that **You**,
Whose Name is אַיָּאָל,

You alone are the **Most High**

over **all** the earth.

84 *How* lovely are **Your** dwelling places, O אַיָּאֵל of hosts!

²My being has longed and even fainted, for the courts of אַיָּאֵל;
My **heart** and my *flesh* cry out for the living **Él**.

³Even the sparrow has **found** a home,
And the swallow a nest for herself,
Where she has put her young ones –
Your altars, O אַיָּאֵל of hosts,
My Sovereign and my **Elohim**.

⁴**Blessed** are those who dwell in **Your** house,
They are ever praising **You**. Selah.

⁵**Blessed** is the man whose strength is in **You**,

Your Highways are in their **heart**.

⁶Passing through the valley of *weeping* they make it a fountain;
The **Teacher** also covers it with **blessings**.

⁷They go from strength to strength,
Appearing before **Elohim** in Tsiyon.

⁸O אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** of hosts, **hear** my prayer;

Give ear, O **Elohim** of Ya'aqob! Selah.

⁹O **Elohim**, **see** our shield,
And look upon the face of **Your** **anointed**.

¹⁰For a day in **Your** courts
Is better than a thousand *days*.

I have **chosen** rather to be a
Doorkeeper in the House
of my **Elohim**,

Than to dwell in the tents of the *wrong*.

¹¹For אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** is a sun and a shield;

אַיָּאֵל gives **favour** and esteem;
He withholds no **good** matter
From those who **walk** blamelessly.

¹²O אַיָּאֵל of hosts, **blessed** is the man who **trusts** in **You**!

85 אַיָּאֵל, **You shall** take pleasure in **Your** land;
You shall turn back the captivity of Ya'aqob.

²**You shall** take away the *crookedness* of **Your** people;

You shall cover **all** their *sin*. Selah.

³**You shall** withdraw **all** **Your** *wrath*;
You shall turn from **Your** *fierce displeasure*.

⁴Turn back to us, O **Elohim** of our **deliverance**,
And **cause** **Your** vexation toward us to cease.

⁵Would **You** be **enraged** with us **forever**?

Would **You** draw out **Your** *displeasure*
From generation to generation?

⁶Would **You** not **revive** us again,
For **Your** people to **rejoice** in **You**?

⁷Show us **Your** *kindness*, O אַיָּאֵל,
And give us **Your** **deliverance**.

⁸**Let** me **hear** what **Él** אַיָּאֵל speaks,
For **He** speaks **peace** to **His** people
And to **His** **kind** ones;

And let them not turn again to *folly*.

⁹**Truly**, **His** **deliverance** is **near**
to those who **fear** **Him**,

For **esteem** to dwell in our land.

¹⁰**Kindness** and **truth** *shall* **meet**,
Righteousness and **peace** *shall* **kiss**.

¹¹**Truth** sprouts forth from the earth,
And **righteousness** looks down
from heaven,

¹²Indeed, אַיָּאֵל gives what is **good**,
And our land yields its increase.

¹³**Righteousness** goes before **Him**,
And prepares a **way** for **His** footsteps.

86 Incline **Your** ear, O אַיָּאֵל,
answer me, for I am *poor* and needy.

²**Guard** my being, for I am **dedicated**;
You are my **Elohim**;

Save **Your** servant who is **trusting** in **You**!

³Show **favour** to me, O אַיָּאֵל,
For I cry to **You** all day long.

⁴Bring **joy** to the being of **Your**

servant,

For to **You**, O אַיָּאָל, I lift up my being.

⁵For **You**, אַיָּאָל, are good and ready to forgive,

And great in kindness to all those who call upon **You**.

⁶Give ear, O אַיָּאָל, to my prayer; And listen to the voice of my pleadings.

⁷In the day of my *distress*

I call upon You,

For **You** answer me.

⁸There is none like You among the *mighty ones*, O אַיָּאָל; And like **Your works** there are none.

⁹Let all nations **You** have made come and bow themselves before **You**, O אַיָּאָל,

And give esteem to **Your Name**.

¹⁰For **You** are great and are doing wonders;

You are Elohim, **You** alone.

¹¹Teach me **Your way**, O אַיָּאָל;

Let me walk in **Your truth**;

Unite my heart to fear **Your Name**.

¹²I praise **You**, O אַיָּאָל my Elohim, with all my heart,

And I esteem **Your Name** forever.

¹³For **Your kindness** is great toward me,

And **You** have delivered my being From the depths of the grave.

¹⁴O Elohim, the *proud* have risen *against* me,

And a band of dreaded men have sought my life,

And have not set **You** before them.

¹⁵But **You**, O אַיָּאָל,

Are a compassionate Ēl and showing favour,

Patient and great in kindness and truth.

¹⁶Turn to me and show favour to me!

Give **Your** strength to **Your** servant, And save the son of **Your** female servant.

¹⁷Show me a sign for good,

And let those hating me see it and be

ashamed,

For **You**, אַיָּאָל, have helped me and comforted me.

87 His foundation is

In the set-apart mountains.

²אַיָּאָל loves the gates of Tsiyon More than all the dwellings of Ya'aqob.

³Esteemed matters are spoken of you, O city of Elohim: Selah.

⁴"I mention Rahab and Babel to those who know Me;

See, O Philistia and Tsor, with Kush, 'This and that one was born there.'"

⁵And of Tsiyon it is said,

"Each one was born in her; For the Most High Himself does establish her."

⁶אַיָּאָל does write,

In the register of the peoples, "This one was born there." Selah.

⁷And the singers and the players on instruments –

All my fountains, are in you.

88 אַיָּאָל, Elohim of my deliverance,

By day I have cried out,

In the night also before **You**,

²Let my prayer come before **You**,

Incline **Your** ear to my cry.

³For my being is filled with evils,

And my life draws near to the grave.

⁴I have been reckoned among those *Who* go down to the pit;

I have become like a man who has no strength,

⁵Released among the *dead*,

Like slain ones lying in the grave,

Whom You have remembered no more,

And who have been cut off from **Your** hand.

⁶**You** have put me in the lowest pit, In dark places, in the depths.

⁷**Your** wrath has rested heavily upon

me,
 And **You** have *afflicted* me with **all Your** breakers. Selah.
⁸**You** have put away my friends far from me;
You have made me an **abomination** to them;
 I am shut in and *do not* go out;
⁹My eye grows dim **because** of affliction.
 אָיָהּ, I have called upon **You**, **all** day long;
 I have **stretched** out my hands to **You**.
¹⁰Would **You** **work wonders** for the dead?
 Would the *dead* rise to **praise You**? Selah.
¹¹Is **Your kindness** declared in the grave?
Your trustworthiness in the place of destruction?
¹²Are **Your wonders** known in the dark?
 And **Your righteousness** in the land of no **remembrance**?
¹³**But** I, unto **You** I have cried, O אָיָהּ,
 And in the morning my prayer **comes** before **You**.
¹⁴אָיָהּ, why do **You** *reject* me?
Why do **You** hide **Your** face from me?
¹⁵I am *afflicted* and dying from childhood;
 I have borne frightening matters from **You**;
 I am in despair.
¹⁶**Your fierce** *wrath* has gone over me;
Your onslaughts have *cut* me off.
¹⁷They surrounded me like water **all** day long;
 They close in upon me altogether.
¹⁸**You** have put **loved** one and companion far from me,
 Darkness is my close friend!

89 I sing of the **kindnesses** of אָיָהּ forever;
 With my **mouth** I make **known Your** trustworthiness to **all** generations.
²For I said, "Kindness is built up **forever**;
You **establish Your** trustworthiness in the **heavens**."
³**You** *said*, "I have made a **covenant** with **My** chosen,
 I have sworn to **My** servant Dawid:
⁴I **establish** your seed **forever**,
 And *shall* build up your throne to **all** generations.'" Selah.
⁵And the heavens **praise Your** wonders, O אָיָהּ,
Your trustworthiness, too,
 In the assembly of the set-apart ones.
⁶For who in the heavens is comparable to אָיָהּ?
Who among the sons of the mighty is like אָיָהּ?
⁷Ēl is greatly *feared*
 In the company of the set-apart ones,
 And **awesome** above **all** those around Him.
⁸O אָיָהּ Elohim of hosts,
Who is mighty like **You**, O Yah?
 And **Your** trustworthiness is **all** around **You**.
⁹**You** **rule** the swelling of the sea;
When its waves rise, **You** still them.
¹⁰**You** have broken Rahab in pieces,
 as one who is slain;
You have *scattered* **Your** enemies
 With the arm of **Your** strength.
¹¹The heavens are **Yours**, The earth also is **Yours**;
 The world and **all** that fills it.
You have founded them.
¹²North and south – **You** have created them;
 Tabor and Hermon **rejoice** in **Your** Name.
¹³**You** have a mighty arm,
Your hand is **strong**,
Your right hand exalted.
¹⁴**Righteousness** and **right-ruling**

Are the **foundation** of **Your** throne;
Kindness and **truth** go before **Your**
 face.

¹⁵ **Blessed** are the people
Who know the festal trumpet-call!
 They walk, O אַזְאֵל, in the **light** of
Your face.

¹⁶ In **Your Name** they **rejoice** all day
 long,
 And they are exalted in **Your**
righteousness .

¹⁷ For **You** are the comeliness of their
 strength,
 And by **Your good** pleasure our horn
 is exalted.

¹⁸ For אַזְאֵל is our shield,
 And the **Set-apart One** of Yisra'ël
 is our Sovereign.

¹⁹ **Then You** spoke in a **vision** to **Your**
 kind one,
 And **You** said, "I have **given** help to
 one who is mighty,
 I have exalted one **chosen** from the
 people.

²⁰ "I have **found My** servant Dawid;
 With **My** set-apart oil I **anointed** him,

²¹ "With whom **My hand** is
established;

My arm also strengthens him.

²² "No enemy subjects him to tribute,
 And no son of *wickedness* afflicts him.

²³ "And I **shall** beat down
His adversaries before his face,
 And *plague* those who *hate* him.

²⁴ "But **My** trustworthiness
 And **My kindness** are with him,
 And **in My Name** his horn is exalted.

²⁵ "And I **shall** set his **hand** on the sea,
 And his **right hand** on the rivers.

²⁶ "He calls out to **Me**, 'You are my
 Father,

My Èl and the rock of my
deliverance."

²⁷ "I also **appoint** him first-born,
 Highest of the sovereigns of the earth.

²⁸ "I **guard My kindness**
 for him **forever**,

And **My covenant** is steadfast

with him.

²⁹ "And I **shall** establish
 his seed **forever**,

And his throne as the days of the
 heavens.

³⁰ "If his sons *forsake My Torah*
 And *do not walk in My right-rulings*,

³¹ "If they *profane My laws*
 And *do not guard My commands*,

³² "Then I **shall** visit their
transgression with the rod,
 And their *crookedness* with flogging.

³³ "But **My kindness** I *do not* take
 away from him,

Nor be *false* to **My** trustworthiness.

³⁴ "I **shall** not *profane My covenant*,
 Neither would I *change* what has gone
 out from **My** lips.

³⁵ "Once I have sworn by **My**
 set-apartness, I *do not lie* to Dawid:

³⁶ "His seed **shall** be **forever**,
 And his throne as the sun before **Me**;

³⁷ "Like the moon, it is **established**
forever,

And the **witness** in the **heavens** is
 steadfast." Selah.

³⁸ Yet **You** have *rejected* and spurned,
You have been *wroth* with **Your**
 anointed.

³⁹ **You** have disowned the **covenant** of
Your servant,

You have *defiled* his diadem in the
 dust.

⁴⁰ **You** have broken down **all** his
 hedges,

You have brought his *strongholds* to
 ruin.

⁴¹ All who pass by the **way**
 plunder him;

He is a *reproach* to his neighbours.

⁴² **You** have exalted the **right hand** of
 his adversaries,

You have made **all** his enemies
 rejoice.

⁴³ Moreover **You** have turned back the
 edge of his *sword*,

And have not made him **stand**

in battle.

⁴⁴**You** have brought an end
to his splendour,
And have hurled his throne to the
ground.

⁴⁵**You** have shortened the days of his
youth,
You have covered him with *shame*.
Selah.

⁴⁶**How** long, O אַיָּאֵל, would **You** be
hidden?

Would **Your** *wrath* burn like *fire*
forever?

⁴⁷Please **remember** how short my
time is;

Why should you have created **all** the
sons of men for naught?

⁴⁸**What** man would **live** and not see
death?

Who rescues his **life** from the **power**
of the grave? Selah.

⁴⁹אַיָּאֵל, where are **Your** former
kindnesses,

Which **You** **swore** to Dawid in **Your**
trustworthiness?

⁵⁰אַיָּאֵל, **remember** the *reproach* of
Your servants,

That I have borne in my bosom –
Of **all** the many peoples,

⁵¹With which **Your** enemies have
reproached, O אַיָּאֵל,

With which they have reproached the
footsteps of **Your** anointed.

⁵²**Blessed** be אַיָּאֵל **forever**!
Amèn and Amèn.

90 אַיָּאֵל, **You** have been our
refuge in **all** generations.

²Before the mountains were born,
Or **You** had brought forth the earth
and the world,
Even from **everlasting** to **everlasting**
You are Ēl.

³**You** turn man back to dust,
And say, “**Return**, O children of

men.”

⁴For a thousand years in **Your** eyes
Are like yesterday that has past,
Or like a **watch** in the night.

⁵**You** have swept them away,
They are as a sleep,
Like grass that springs up in the
morning.

⁶In the morning it flourishes and
springs up,
At **evening** it is *cut down* and
withered.

⁷For we have been *consumed*
by **Your** *displeasure*,
And by **Your** *wrath* we are *alarmed*.

⁸**You** have set our *crookednesses*
before **You**,

Our **secret** *sin* in the **light**
of **Your** face.

⁹For **all** our days have passed away in
Your *wrath*,

We spend our years like a whisper.

¹⁰The days of our lives are seventy
years;

Or if due to strength, eighty years,
Yet the best of them is but toil and
exertion;

For it is soon *cut off* and we fly away.

¹¹**Who** knows the **power** of **Your**
displeasure?

And your *wrath*, **according** to the **fear**
of **You**?

¹²**Teach** us to number our days,
And let us bring the **heart** to **wisdom**.

¹³**Return**, O אַיָּאֵל! **How** long?

And be sorry for **Your** servants.

¹⁴Satisfy us in the morning with **Your**
kindness,

And let us sing for **joy** **all** our days!

¹⁵Give us **joy** **according** to

The days **You** have *afflicted* us,
The years we have **seen** *evil*.

¹⁶Reveal **Your** **work** to **Your** servants,
And **Your** splendour to their children.

¹⁷And let the pleasantness
Of אַיָּאֵל our **Elohim** be upon us,
And **confirm** the **work** of our hands

for us;
O **confirm** the **work** of our hands!

91 He who dwells in the **secret** place of the **Most High**,
Who abides under the shadow of the **Almighty**,
²He is saying of אַיָּאֵל, “My **refuge** and my *stronghold*,
My **Elohim**, in whom I trust!”
³For **He** delivers you from the *snares* of a trapper,
From the *destructive pestilence*.
⁴**He** covers you with **His** feathers,
And under **His** wings you take refuge;
His truth is a shield and armour.
⁵You are not *afraid* of the *dread* by night,
Of the arrow that flies by day,
⁶Of the *pestilence* that walks in *darkness*,
Of *destruction* that ravages at midday.
⁷A thousand *fall* at your side,
And ten thousand at your **right hand**;
But it *does not come near* you.
⁸Only with your eyes you look on,
And **see** the reward of the *wrong* ones.
⁹**Because** you have made אַיָּאֵל—
My **refuge**, the **Most High**—your dwelling place,
¹⁰No *evil* befalls you and a *plague does not come near* your tent;
¹¹For **He commands His** messengers concerning you,
To **guard** you in **all** your ways.
¹²They bear you up in their hands,
Lest you dash your foot *against* a stone.
¹³You tread upon lion and cobra,
Young lion and *serpent* you trample under foot.
¹⁴**Because** he cleaves to **Me** in **love**,
Therefore I **deliver** him; I set him on high **because** he has **known My Name**.
¹⁵**When** he calls on **Me**, I answer him;

I am with him in distress;
I **deliver** him and **esteem** him.
¹⁶“With long **life** I satisfy him
and show him **My deliverance**.”

92 It is **good** to give **thanks** to אַיָּאֵל,
And to sing praises to **Your Name**,
O **Most High**;
²To **declare Your kindness** in the morning,
And **Your** trustworthiness each night,
³On ten strings and on the harp, To the sounding chords of the lyre.
⁴For **You** have made me **rejoice** with **Your work**, O אַיָּאֵל,
I shout for **joy** at the **works** of **Your** hands.
⁵O אַיָּאֵל, how **great** are **Your** works!
Your thoughts are **very deep**!
⁶A senseless man *does not know*,
And a *fool does not understand* this.
⁷**When** the *wrong* spring up like grass,
And **all** the workers of *wickedness* blossom,
It is for them to be *destroyed forever*.
⁸**But You**, אַיָּאֵל are on high **forever**.
⁹For look, **Your** enemies, O אַיָּאֵל,
For look, **Your** enemies do perish;
All the workers of *wickedness* are *scattered*.
¹⁰**But You** lift up my horn like a wild ox;
I have been **anointed** with **fresh** oil.
¹¹And my eye looks upon my enemies;
My ears hear the *evil-doers*
Who rise up *against* me.
¹²The **righteous** one flourishes like a palm *tree*,
He grows like a cedar in Lebanon.
¹³Those who are planted in the House of אַיָּאֵל

Flourish in the courts of our **Elohim**.

¹⁴They still bear **fruit** in old age;
They are **fresh** and green,

¹⁵To **declare** that אַיָּאֵל is **straight**,
My rock and in **Him** is no
unrighteousness.

93 אַיָּאֵל *shall* reign,
He shall put on excellency;
אַיָּאֵל *shall* put on strength;
He shall gird **Himself**.
Indeed, the world is **established**,
immovable.

²**Your** throne is **established** from of
old; **You** are from **everlasting**.

³Rivers *shall* lift up, O אַיָּאֵל,
Rivers *shall* lift up their **voice**;
Rivers lift up their breakers.

⁴אַיָּאֵל on high is mightier
Than the noise of many waters,
The mighty breakers of the sea.

⁵**Your** witnesses have been **very**
trustworthy.

Set-apartness befits **Your** house,
O אַיָּאֵל, **forever**.

94 O אַיָּאֵל, Æl of **vengeance**;
O Æl of **vengeance**, shine forth!

²Raise **Yourself** up, O Judge of the
earth;

Render *punishment* to the *proud*.

³אַיָּאֵל, how long are the *wrong*,
How long are the *wrong* going to
exult?

⁴They pour forth **words**, They **speak**
arrogantly;

All the workers of *wickedness* boast
in themselves.

⁵They *crush* **Your** people, O אַיָּאֵל,
And they *afflict* **Your** inheritance.

⁶They *slay* the widow and the stranger,
And murder the fatherless.

⁷Yet they say, “Yah *does not see*,
And the **Elohim** of Ya‘aqob₁ pays no
heed.”

⁸Take **heed**,

you senseless among the people;
And you fools,
when would you become wise?

⁹**He** who planted the ear,
does **He** not hear?

He who formed the eye,
does **He** not see?

¹⁰**He** who disciplines the nations,
Does **He** not **reprove** –

The **One** teaching man **knowledge**?

¹¹אַיָּאֵל *knows* the *thoughts* of man,
That they are *but* a breath.

¹²**Blessed** is the man **You** discipline,
O Yah and **instruct** out of **Your** Torah

¹³To give him rest from the days of
evil, Until the pit is dug for the *wrong*.

¹⁴For אַיָּאֵל *does not* leave **His**
people,
Nor does **He** *forsake* **His** inheritance.

¹⁵For **right-ruling** returns *man* to
righteousness,

And **all** the **upright** in **heart** follow it.

¹⁶**Who** would rise up for me *against*
evil-doers?

Who would **stand** up for me *against*
workers of *wickedness*?

¹⁷**If** אַיָּאֵל had not been my help,
My being would soon have settled in
silence.

¹⁸**When** I said, “My foot has slipped,”
Your kindness, O אַיָּאֵל,
supported me.

¹⁹**When** anxiety was **great** within me,
Your comforts **delighted** my being.

²⁰Would a throne of **destruction**,
Which devises *trouble* by decree,
Be joined with **You**?

²¹They band **together** *against* the **life**
of the **righteous**,

And **declare** **innocent** blood *wrong*.

²²**But** אַיָּאֵל is my defence,
And my **Elohim** the rock of my
refuge,

²³And brings back on them
their own *wickedness*,
And *cuts* them off in their

own *wrong* doing;
 אַיָּאֵל our Elohim does *cut* them off.

95 Come, let us sing to אַיָּאֵל!
 Let us raise a shout to the Rock of
 our deliverance.

²Let us come before His face with
 thanksgiving;

Let us raise a shout to Him in song.

³For אַיָּאֵל is a great Ēl,
 And a great Sovereign above all
 mighty ones.

⁴In whose hand are the depths of the
 earth;

The mountain peaks are His also.

⁵His is the sea, for He made it;
 And His hands formed the dry land.

⁶Come, let us bow down and bend
 low,

Let us kneel before אַיָּאֵל our
 Maker.

⁷For He is our Elohim,
 And we are the people of His pasture,
 And the sheep of His hand.

Today, if you would hear His voice:

⁸“Do not harden your hearts as in
 Meribah,

And as in the day of Massah in the
 wilderness,

⁹“When your fathers tried Me,
 Have proved Me, though they saw
 My work.

¹⁰“For forty years I was grieved with
 that generation,

And said, ‘They are a people who go
 astray in their hearts,

And they do not know My ways.’

¹¹“As I swore in My wrath,

‘If they enter into My rest...’”

96 Sing to אַיָּאֵל a new song,
 Sing to אַיָּאֵל, all the earth!

²Sing to אַיָּאֵל, bless His Name,

Proclaim His deliverance

from day to day.

³Declare His esteem

among the nations,

His wonders among all peoples.

⁴For great is אַיָּאֵל and greatly to be
 praised,

He is to be feared above all mighty
 ones.

⁵For all the mighty ones of the peoples
 are matters of naught,

But אַיָּאֵל made the heavens.

⁶Excellency and splendour are before
 Him,

Strength and comeliness are in His
 set-apart place.

⁷Ascribe to אַיָּאֵל, O clans of the
 peoples,

Ascribe to אַיָּאֵל esteem
 and strength.

⁸Ascribe to אַיָּאֵל the esteem
 of His Name;

Bring an offering and come
 into His courts.

⁹Bow yourselves to אַיָּאֵל,
 In the splendour of set-apartness!
 Tremble before Him, all the earth.

¹⁰Say among nations,
 “אַיָּאֵל shall reign.

The world also is established,
 immovable.

He judges the people in straightness.”

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice and let the
 earth be glad;

Let the sea roar and all that fills it;

¹²Let the field exult and all that
 is in it.

Let all the trees of the forest then
 shout for joy,

¹³At the presence of אַיָּאֵל.

For He shall come,

For He shall come to judge the earth.

He judges the world in righteousness,
 And the peoples with His truth.

97 אַיָּאָל *shall* reign. The earth rejoices and many isles are glad!
²Clouds and *darkness* **all** around **Him**,
Righteousness and **right-ruling** are the foundation of **His** throne.
³Fire goes before **Him**,
 And burns up **His** adversaries round about.
⁴**His** lightnings *shall* **light** the world,
 The earth *shall* **see** and *tremble*.
⁵The mountains *shall* melt like wax before the face of אַיָּאָל,
 Before the face of the **Master** of **all** the earth.
⁶The heavens *shall* **declare** **His** righteousness,
 And **all** the peoples *shall* **see** **His** esteem.
⁷All are put to *shame* who **serve** carved images,
 Those boasting of matters of naught.
 Bow yourselves to **Him**,
 all you *mighty ones*.
⁸Tsiyon *shall* **hear** and be glad,
 And the daughters of Yahudah **rejoice** **Because** of **Your** **right-rulings**,
 O אַיָּאָל.
⁹For **You**, אַיָּאָל, are the **Most High** over **all** the earth,
You shall be greatly exalted, over **all** *mighty ones*.
¹⁰You who **love** אַיָּאָל, *hate evil!*
He guards the lives of **His** **kind** ones,
He delivers them out of the **hand** of the *wrong*.
¹¹**Light** is sown for the **righteous**,
 And **gladness** for the **upright** in **heart**.
¹²Rejoice in אַיָּאָל, you **righteous**,
 And give **thanks** at the **remembrance** of **His** Set-apartness.

98 Sing to אַיָּאָל a new song!
 For **He** has done **wonders**;
His **right hand** and **His** set-apart arm
 Have brought **Him** **deliverance**.

²אַיָּאָל has made **known** **His** **deliverance**;
His **righteousness** **He** has openly shown before the eyes of the nations.
³**He** has **remembered** **His** **kindness** And **His** trustworthiness to the house of Yisra'el;
 All the ends of the earth have **seen** The **deliverance** of our **Elohim**.
⁴Raise a shout to אַיָּאָל, **all** the earth;
 Break forth in song, **rejoice**, and sing praises.
⁵Sing to אַיָּאָל with the lyre,
 With the lyre and the **voice** of a song,
⁶With trumpets and the sound of a horn;
 Raise a shout before אַיָּאָל, the Sovereign.
⁷Let the sea roar and **all** that fills it,
 The world and those who dwell in it.
⁸Let the rivers clap their hands,
 Let the mountains sing **together** for **joy** before אַיָּאָל,
⁹For **He** *shall* **come to judge** the earth.
He judges the world in **righteousness**,
 And the people in **straightness**.

99 אַיָּאָל *shall* reign;
 Peoples *tremble!* **He** is enthroned on the keruḇim; The earth *shakes!*
²אַיָּאָל is **great** in Tsiyon,
 And **He** is high above **all** the peoples.
³They **praise** **Your** **Name**, great and **awesome**, It is set-apart.
⁴And the strength of the Sovereign *Shall* **love** right-ruling;
You **Yourself** *shall* **establish** straightness;
You *shall* **execute** **right-ruling** And **righteousness** in Ya'aqob.
⁵Exalt אַיָּאָל our **Elohim**,
 And bow yourselves at **His** footstool,
He is set-apart.
⁶Mosheh and Aharon were among **His** priests,
 And Shemu'el was among those calling upon **His** **Name**.

They called upon אַיָּאֵל
and He answered them.
7He spoke to them in the column
of cloud;

They **guarded His witnesses**
And the **law He** gave them.

8You answered them,

O אַיָּאֵל our **Elohim**.

You were a forgiving Ēl to them,
Though You took **vengeance**
on their **deeds**.

9Exalt אַיָּאֵל our **Elohim**,
And bow down towards His
set-apart mountain;
For אַיָּאֵל our **Elohim** is set-apart.

100 Raise a shout for אַיָּאֵל,
All the earth!

2Serve אַיָּאֵל with **gladness**;
come before His presence
with singing.

3Know that אַיָּאֵל, He is **Elohim**;
He has made us and we are His –
His people and the sheep
of His pasture.

4Enter into His gates
with **thanksgiving**,
And into His courts with praise.
Give **thanks** to Him; **bless His Name**.

5For אַיָּאֵל is **good**;
His **kindness** is **everlasting**,
And His **truth**, to all generations.

101 I sing of **kindness** and
right-ruling;

To You, O אַיָּאֵל, I sing praises.

2I act **wisely** in a **perfect way**.

When do You come to me?

I walk in the **midst** of my house
with a **perfect heart**.

3I set no matter of Beliya'al
before my eyes;

I **hate** the **work** of those
who **fall** away;

It **does not** cleave to me.

4A **perverse heart** turns away
from me; I **do not know evil**.

5Him who **secretly slanders**
his neighbour I **cut off**;
I **do nottolerate** one

Who has a haughty look and a **proud**
heart.

6My eyes are on the **trustworthy**
of the land, to dwell with me;
He who walks in a **perfect way**,
He serves me.

7He who *practises deceit*
Does not dwell in my house;
He who speaks lies
Does not **stand** in my presence.

8Each morning I uproot
all the wrong of the land,
To *cut off* **all** the workers of
wickedness
From the city of אַיָּאֵל.

102 O אַיָּאֵל, **hear** my prayer,
And let my cry **come to You**.

2Do not hide Your face from me
In the **day** of my distress;

Incline Your ear to me;
In the day I call, answer me **speedily**.

3For my days are *consumed* like s
moke,
And my bones are *burned*
like a hearth.

4My **heart** is *stricken* and withered
like grass,

For I have *forgotten* to eat my bread.

5**Because** of the sound of my *sighing*
My bones have cleaved to my *flesh*.

6I have been like a pelican of the
wilderness,

I have been like an owl of the desert.

7I have watched and I am As a bird
alone on the house-top.

8My enemies reproached me **all day**
long,

Those who rave *against* me have
sworn *against* me.

⁹For I have eaten ashes like bread,
 And mixed my drink with tears,
¹⁰**Because** of **Your displeasure**
 and **Your wrath**;
 For **You** have lifted me up
 And *thrown* me down.
¹¹My days are like a shadow that
 lengthens,
 And I *wither* away like grass.
¹²**But You, O אַיָּאֵל, shall be**
 enthroned **forever**,
 And the **remembrance** of **You** be to
 all generations.
¹³**You Yourself shall arise**
 And have **compassion** on Tsiyon,
 For the **time** to **favour** her,
 The **appointed time**, has come.
¹⁴For **Your** servants have been pleased
 with her stones,
 And they **favour** her dust.
¹⁵And the nations **shall fear**
 the **Name** of אַיָּאֵל,
 And **all** the sovereigns of the earth
Your esteem,
¹⁶For אַיָּאֵל **shall** build up Tsiyon,
He shall appear in **His** esteem.
¹⁷**He shall turn** unto the prayer
 of the destitute,
 And **He shall** not *despise* their prayer.
¹⁸This is **written** for a generation
 to come,
 So that a people to be created
praise Yah.
¹⁹For **He** **looked** down
 From the height of **His** set-apart place;
 From **heaven** אַיָּאֵל viewed
 the earth,
²⁰To **hear** the groaning of the prisoner,
 To release those **appointed** to *death*,
²¹To **declare** the **Name** of אַיָּאֵל
 in Tsiyon,
 And **His** **praise** in Yerushalayim,
²²**When** peoples **gather** together,
 And reigns, to **serve** אַיָּאֵל.
²³**He** has humbled my strength
 in the way;
He has shortened my days.
²⁴I said, "O my Ēl,

Do not take me away in the **midst** of
 my days;
Your years are throughout **all**
 generations.
²⁵"**You** did **found** the earth of old and
 the heavens are the **work** of
Your hands.
²⁶"They **shall perish**, but **You** remain;
 And **all** of them grow old like a
 garment;
You *change* them like a coat,
 And they are *changed*.
²⁷"**But You** are the **same**,
 And **Your** years have no end.
²⁸"The sons of **Your** servants continue,
 Their seed is **established** before You."

103 Bless אַיָּאֵל, O my being,
 And **all** that is within me,
 Bless **His** set-apart **Name!**
²Bless אַיָּאֵל, O my being,
 And *do not forget* **all** **His** dealings,
³**Who** **forgives** **all** your *crookednesses*,
Who **heals** **all** your *diseases*,
⁴**Who** redeems your **life**
 from destruction,
Who crowns you with
kindness and **compassion**,
⁵**Who** satisfies your desire with the
good,
Your youth is **renewed** like the
 eagle's.
⁶אַיָּאֵל is doing **righteousness**
 And **right-ruling** for **all**
 the *oppressed*.
⁷**He** made **known** **His** ways
 to Mosheh,
His acts to the children of Yisra'el.
⁸אַיָּאֵל is **compassionate**
 and showing **favour**,
 Patient and **great** in **kindness**.
⁹**He** *does not* **always** *strive*,
 nor maintain it **forever**.
¹⁰**He** has not done to us **according**
 to our *sins*,
 Nor **rewarded** us **according** to our
crookednesses.
¹¹For as the heavens are high above

the earth,
So **great** is **His kindness** toward those
who **fear Him**;

¹²As far as east is from west,
So far has **He** removed
our *transgressions* from us.

¹³As a father has **compassion**
for his children,

So אַיָּאֵל has **compassion**
for those who **fear Him**.

¹⁴For **He knows** how we are made;
He remembers that we are dust.

¹⁵A man's days are like grass;
As a flower of the field,
so he flourishes.

¹⁶For the *wind* blows over it,
and it is no more,
And its place no longer **remembers** it.

¹⁷**But** the **kindness** of אַיָּאֵל
Is from **everlasting** to **everlasting**
Upon those who **fear Him**,
And **His righteousness** to children's
children,

¹⁸To those who **guard His** covenant,
And to those who **remember His**
orders to do them.

¹⁹אַיָּאֵל has **established**
His throne in the heavens,
And **His reign shall rule** over all.

²⁰Bless אַיָּאֵל, you **His** messengers,
Mighty in power, who do **His word**,
Listening to the **voice** of **His Word**.

²¹Bless אַיָּאֵל, all you **His** hosts,
You **His** servants, who do **His**
pleasure.

²²Bless אַיָּאֵל, all **His** works,
In all places of **His** rule.
Bless אַיָּאֵל, O my being!

104 Bless אַיָּאֵל, O my being!
O אַיָּאֵל my **Elohim**,

You have been **very great**:
You have put on excellency
and splendour,

²Covering **Yourself** with **light**
as with a garment,

Stretching out the heavens
like a curtain,
³**Who** is laying the beams
of **His** upper rooms in the waters,
Who is making thick clouds **His**
chariot,

Who is walking on the wings
of the wind,

⁴Making **His** messengers the winds,
His servants a *flame of fire*.

⁵**He established** the earth on its
foundations,
So that it *would not* totter **forever**,
⁶**You** covered it with the deep
as with a garment;

The waters stood above the mountains.

⁷At **Your rebuke** they flee;
At the **voice** of **Your thunder** they
hurry away.

⁸They go up the mountains;
They go down the valleys,
To the place which **You** founded
for them.

⁹**You** did set a boundary,
they *do not* pass over,
They *do not* **return** to cover the earth.

¹⁰**Who** is sending the springs
into the valleys,
They flow among the hills.

¹¹They give drink to **every** beast of the
field;
Wild donkeys *break* their thirst.

¹²The birds of the heavens dwell
beside them;
They sing from between the branches.

¹³Watering the hills from **His** upper
rooms;
The earth is **satisfied** with the **fruit** of
Your works.

¹⁴Causing the grass to grow for the
cattle,
And plants for the service of mankind,
To bring forth food from the earth,

¹⁵And **wine** that makes **glad** the **heart**
of man,
Oil to make the face shine,
And **bread** which sustains man's

heart.

¹⁶The trees of אַיָּאֵל are satisfied,
The cedars of Lebanon which **He**
planted,
¹⁷Where the birds do make nests;
The stork has her home in the fir trees.
¹⁸The high hills are for wild goats;
Rocks a **refuge** for rock badgers.
¹⁹**He** made the moon
for **appointed** times;
The sun **knows** its going down.
²⁰**You** put *darkness* and it is night,
In it **all** the beasts of the forest creep.
²¹The young lions are roaring for prey,
And **seeking** their food from Ēl.
²²The sun arises – they withdraw
And *lie* down in their dens.
²³Man goes out to his **work**,
And to his labour, til **evening**.
²⁴O אַיָּאֵל, how many have
been **Your** works!
You have made **all** of them in **wisdom**.
The earth is filled
with **Your** possessions.
²⁵There is the sea, **great** and wide,
In which are innumerable swarms,
Living creatures, small with great.
²⁶There do ships go;
That Liwiathan which You
made, to play there.
²⁷All of them wait for **You**,
To give their food in due season.
²⁸**You** give to them, they **gather** in;
You open Your hand,
they are satisfied with **good**.
²⁹**You** hide **Your** face,
they are *alarmed*;
You take away their breath,
they *die* and **return** to their dust;
³⁰**You** send forth **Your Spirit**,
they are created;
And **You** renew the face of the earth.
³¹The **esteem** of אַיָּאֵל is **forever**,
אַיָּאֵל **rejoices** in **His works**,
³²*Who* looks on the earth,
and it trembles;
He touches the mountains,
and they smoke.

³³I sing to אַיָּאֵל as long as **I live**,
I sing **praise** to my Elohim while I
exist.

³⁴My meditation on **Him** is sweet;
I **rejoice** in אַיָּאֵל.

³⁵**Let sinners** be *consumed*
from the earth,
And let the *wrong* be no more.
Bless אַיָּאֵל, O my being!
Praise Yah!

105 Give **thanks** to אַיָּאֵל!

Call upon **His Name**,
Make **known His deeds**
among the peoples.

²Sing to **Him**, sing **praise** to Him;
Speak of **all His wonders**.

³Make your boast
in **His set-apart Name**;
Let the hearts rejoice of those
seeking אַיָּאֵל.

⁴**Seek אַיָּאֵל** and **His strength**;
Seek His face always.

⁵**Remember His wonders**
which **He** has done,
His miracles and the **right-rulings**
of **His mouth**,

⁶O seed of Abraham **His** servant,
Children of Yā'aqob, **His chosen** ones!

⁷**He** is אַיָּאֵל our Elohim;
His right-rulings are in **all** the earth.

⁸**He** has **remembered His covenant**
forever,

The **Word He commanded**, for a
thousand generations,

⁹The **covenant He** made with
Abraham,

And **His oath** to Yitshaq,

¹⁰And **established** it to Ya'aqob for a
law,

To Yisra'el – an **everlasting covenant**,

¹¹Saying, “To you I give the land of
Kena'an,

The portion of your inheritance.”

¹²**When** they were **few** in number,
Few indeed and sojourners in it,

¹³And they went about from one nation
to another,

From one **reign** to another people,

¹⁴**He** allowed no one to *oppress* them,
And **He** reprov'd sovereigns for their
sakes,

¹⁵*Saying*, “**Do not touch My anointed**
ones and do **My prophets no evil.**”

¹⁶And **He** called for a *scarcity of food*
in the land;

He cut off all the supply of bread.

¹⁷**He sent** ahead of them a man,
Yosēph, sold as a slave.

¹⁸They *afflicted* his feet with shackles,
His neck was put in irons.

¹⁹Until the **time** that **His Word** came,
The **Word** of אַיָּאָל tried him.

²⁰The sovereign **sent** and released him,
The ruler of the people let him loose.

²¹**He** made him master of his house,
And ruler over **all** his possessions,

²²To bind his chiefs at his pleasure,
And to **teach** his elders **wisdom**.

²³**Then** Yisra'ēl came to Mitsrayim,
And Ya'aqob sojourn'd
in the land of Ḥam.

²⁴And **He** increased **His** people greatly,
And made them stronger
than their enemies.

²⁵**He** turned their **heart** to *hate His*
people,

To conspire *against His* servants.

²⁶**He sent** Mosheh **His** servant,
Aharon whom **He** had **chosen**.

²⁷They set among them the matters of
His signs,

And **wonders** in the land of Ḥam.

²⁸**He sent** *darkness* and made it dark;
And they *did not rebel against*
His word.

²⁹**He** turned their waters into **blood**,
And *killed* their fish.

³⁰Their land teemed with frogs,
In the rooms of their sovereigns.

³¹**He** spoke and swarms of flies came,
Gnats in **all** their borders.

³²**He** gave them *hail* for rain,
A flaming *fire* in their land.

³³And **He smote** their vines
and their fig trees,
And broke the trees of their borders.

³⁴**He** spoke and locusts came,
And larvae, innumerable,

³⁵And they devoured **all** the plants in
their land,
And they devoured the **fruit** of their
ground.

³⁶**Then He smote all** the first-born in
their land,
The first-fruit of **all** their strength,

³⁷And brought them out with silver and
gold,

And among **His** tribes no one faltered.

³⁸Mitsrayim was **glad** when they left,
For the **fear** of them had fallen upon
them.

³⁹**He** spread a cloud for a covering,
And *fire* to give **light** in the night.

⁴⁰They asked and **He** brought quail,
And **satisfied** them with the **bread**
of **heavens**.

⁴¹**He** opened the rock and water
gushed out;

It ran in the dry places, a river.

⁴²For **He remembered His** set-apart
word to Abraham **His** servant.

⁴³So **He** brought out **His** people with
joy and **His chosen** ones with singing.

⁴⁴And **He** gave to them the lands
of the *gentiles*,

And they inherited the labour
of peoples,

⁴⁵**In order** that they might **guard**
His laws and **watch** over **His Torot**.
Praise Yah!

106 Praise Yah!

Oh, give **thanks** to אַיָּאָל,

For **He is good!**

For **His kindness** is **everlasting**.

²*Who* does relate the mighty
acts of אַיָּאָל?

Or **declare all His** praise?

³ **Blessed** are those who **guard**
right-ruling,

Who do righteousness at all times!

⁴ **Remember** me, O אַיָּאֵל, in the
acceptance of **Your people**;
Visit me with **Your deliverance**,
⁵ **To see the good of Your chosen** ones,
To rejoice in the gladness
of **Your** nation,

To make my boast with **Your**
inheritance.

⁶ We have *sinned* with our fathers,
We have *acted* perversely,
We have done *wrong*.

⁷ Our fathers in Mitsrayim *did not*
understand **Your wonders**;
They *did not remember Your* many
kindnesses,

But rebelled by the sea,
the Sea of Reeds.

⁸ **But He saved** them for **His Name's**
sake,

To make **known His** might.

⁹ And **He rebuked** the Sea of Reeds,
and it dried up;
And **He** led them through the depths,
Through a wilderness.

¹⁰ And **He saved** them from the **hand**
of the hater,
And redeemed them from the **hand of**
the enemy.

¹¹ And waters covered their adversaries;
Not one of them was left.

¹² **Then** they **believed His words**;
They sang **His** praise.

¹³ They soon *forgot His* works;
They *did not wait for His* counsel,

¹⁴ **But** greedily lusted in the wilderness,
And tried Ēl in the desert.

¹⁵ And **He** gave them their request,
But sent leanness within their being.

¹⁶ And they were **jealous** of Mosheh in
the camp,

Of Aharon, the set-apart one of
אַיָּאֵל,

¹⁷ **Then** the earth opened up and swal-

lowed Dathan,

And covered the company of Abiram.
¹⁸ And a *fire burned* in their company;
A *flame consumed the wrong*.

¹⁹ They made a *calf* in Horēb,
And bowed down to a *moulded image*.

²⁰ Thus they *changed My esteem*
into the form of an ox that eats grass.

²¹ They *forgot Ēl* their **Saviour**,
The Doer of **great deeds** in Mitsrayim,

²² Of **wonders** in the land of Ḥam,
Of **awesome deeds** by the Sea of
Reeds.

²³ **Then He** said that **He** would
destroy them,
Had not Mosheh **His chosen** one stood
before **Him** in the breach,
To turn away **His wrath** from
destroying *them*.

²⁴ They then *despised* the pleasant land;
They *did not believe His word*,

²⁵ And they *grumbled* in their tents,
They *did not listen* to the **voice of**
אַיָּאֵל.

²⁶ So **He** lifted up **His hand in an oath**
against them,

To make them *fall* in the wilderness,

²⁷ And to make their seed *fall* among
the *gentiles*,

And to *scatter* them in the lands.

²⁸ And they joined themselves to Ba'al
Pe'or,

And ate slaughterings made to the
dead.

²⁹ Thus they *provoked Him* with their
deeds,

And the *plague* broke out among
them.

³⁰ **Then** Pineḥas stood up and
intervened,
And the *plague* was *stopped*.

³¹ And that was reckoned to him for
righteousness

To **all generations forever**.

³² And they *provoked wrath* at the
waters of Meribah,
And Mosheh suffered on account of

them;
³³**Because** they embittered his spirit,
 And he spoke *rashly* with his lips.
³⁴They *did not destroy* the peoples,
 As אַיָּאֵל had **commanded** them,
³⁵**But** mixed with the *gentiles* And
 learned their **works**,
³⁶And **served** their *idols*,
 And they became a *snare* to them.
³⁷And they slaughtered their sons
 And their daughters to **demons**,
³⁸And they shed **innocent blood**,
 The **blood** of their sons and daughters,
Whom they offered to the *idols* of
 Kena'an;
 And the land was *defiled* with blood.
³⁹So they became *unclean* by their own
 works and went *whoring* by their
 own **deeds**.
⁴⁰And the *wrath* of אַיָּאֵל *burned*
against His people,
 And He *loathed* His own inheritance.
⁴¹**Then** He gave them into the **hand** of
 the *gentiles*,
 And those who *hated* them ruled over
 them.
⁴²And their enemies *oppressed* them,
 And they were humbled under their
 hand.
⁴³Many times He **delivered** them;
But they *rebelled* in their plans,
 So they were brought low for their
crookedness.
⁴⁴**But** He would look on their *distress*,
When He heard their cry,
⁴⁵And **remember** His **covenant** for
 their sake,
 And relent **according** to the greatness
 of His **kindness**.
⁴⁶And He would let them find
compassion,
 Before **all** those holding them captive.
⁴⁷**Save** us, O אַיָּאֵל our **Elohim**,
 And **gather** us from among the
gentiles,
 To give **thanks** to **Your** set-apart
Name and to exult in **Your** praise.

⁴⁸ **Blessed** be אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** of
 Yisra'el
 From **everlasting** to **everlasting!**
 And **all** the people *shall* say, "Amēn!"
 Praise Yah!

107 Give **thanks** to אַיָּאֵל!

For **He** *is* **good**,
 For **His** **kindness** *is* **everlasting**.
²Let the redeemed of אַיָּאֵל say *so*,
Whom He has redeemed from the
hand of the adversary,
³And gathered out of the lands,
 From east and from west,
 From north and from south.
⁴They wandered in a wilderness,
 in a desert way;
 They **found** no city to dwell in.
⁵Hungry and thirsty,
 Their being in them grew faint.
⁶**Then** they *cried out* to אַיָּאֵל
 in their *distress*,
He **delivered** them out of their
 troubles.
⁷And **He** guided them by the **right**
 way, To go to a city to settle.
⁸Let them give **thanks** to אַיָּאֵל for
His **kindness**,
 And **His** **wonders** to the children of
 men!
⁹For **He** has **satisfied** a longing being,
 And has filled the hungry being with
goodness.
¹⁰Some sat in *darkness* and in the
 shadow of *death*,
 Bound in *affliction* and irons,
¹¹**Because** they *rebelled against* the
words of El,
 And *despised* the counsel of the Most
 High.
¹²And **He** humbled their **heart** by toil;
 They stumbled and there was no one
 to help.
¹³And they *cried out* to אַיָּאֵל in their
distress,
 And **He** **saved** them out of their

troubles.
¹⁴**He** brought them out of *darkness* and
 the *shadow of death*,
 And **He** broke their chains in pieces.
¹⁵**Let** them give **thanks** to אַיָּאֵל for
His kindness,
 And **His wonders** to the children of
 men!
¹⁶For **He** has broken the gates of
 bronze,
 And **He** *cut* the bars of iron in two.
¹⁷Fools, **because** of their
transgression,
 And **because** of their *crookednesses*,
 were *afflicted*.
¹⁸Their being *loathed* **all** food,
 And they drew **near** to the gates of
death,
¹⁹And *cried out* to אַיָּאֵל in their
distress,
He **saved** them out of their troubles.
²⁰**He** **sent** **His word** and **healed** them,
 And **delivered** them from their
 destructions.
²¹**Let** them give **thanks** to אַיָּאֵל for
His kindness,
 And **His wonders** to the children of
 men!
²²And let them bring slaughterings of
thanksgiving,
 And relate **His works** with rejoicing.
²³Those who go down to the sea in
 ships,
 Doing **work** in many waters,
²⁴They **see** the **works** of אַיָּאֵל and
His wonders in the deep.
²⁵For **He** **commands** and raises the
 stormy wind,
 Which lifts up the waves of the sea.
²⁶They go up to the heavens,
 They go down to the depths;
 Their being is melted **because** of *evil*.
²⁷They reel to and fro and *stagger* like
 a drunkard,
 And **all** their **wisdom** is swallowed up.
²⁸**Then** they cry out to אַיָּאֵל in their
distress,

And **He** brings them out of their
 troubles.
²⁹**He** **caused** the *storm* to be still,
 So that its waves were silent.
³⁰And they **rejoice** **because** they are
 hushed;
 And **He** leads them to the haven of
 their delight.
³¹**Let** them give **thanks** to אַיָּאֵל for
His kindness,
 And **His wonders** to the children of
 men!
³²And let them **exalt** **Him** in the
 assembly of the people,
 And **praise** **Him** in the
 seat of the elders.
³³**He** makes rivers become a
 wilderness,
 And the fountains of water become a
 dry ground;
³⁴A land of **fruit** becomes a salty
 desert,
 For the *evil* of those who dwell in it.
³⁵**He** makes a wilderness become a
 pool of water,
 And dry land become fountains of
 waters.
³⁶And **He** **causes** the hungry to dwell
 there,
 And they build a city to settle in,
³⁷And they sow fields and plant
 vineyards,
 And they make fruits of increase.
³⁸And **He** blesses them and they
 increase greatly;
 And **He** lets not their cattle diminish.
³⁹**But** when they are diminished and
 brought low
 Through oppression, *evil* and *sorrow*,
⁴⁰**He** pours *scorn* on nobles,
 And **causes** them to *wander* in a
 pathless waste;
⁴¹**But** **He** raises the *poor* up from
 affliction,
 And makes *their* clans like a flock.
⁴²The **straight** ones **see** and **rejoice**,

And **all unrighteousness** shuts its mouth.

⁴³**Who** is wise? **Then** let him **observe** these matters!

Let them **understand** the **kindnesses** of אַיָּאֵל.

108 O **Elohim**, my **heart** is steadfast;

I sing and give **praise** – even my esteem.

²Awake, harp and lyre!
I awake the dawn.

³I **praise You**, O אַיָּאֵל, among peoples,

And I sing praises to **You** among the nations.

⁴For **Your kindness** is **great** above the heavens,

And **Your truth** reaches to the clouds.

⁵Exalt **Yourself** above the heavens,
O **Elohim**,

And **Your esteem** above **all** the earth;

⁶In **order** that those **You love**
Might be **delivered**.

Save with **Your right hand**,
And answer me.

⁷**Elohim** has **spoken** in **His**
set-apartness,

“I exult, I portion out Shekem,
And I measure out the Valley of Sukkoth.

⁸“Gil’ad is **Mine**, Menashsheh is **Mine**,

And Ephrayim is **My** chief defence,
Yahudah is **My** lawgiver.

⁹“Mo⁷ab is **My** wash-pot,
Over E⁷dom I **cast My** shoe,
Over Philistia I **raise** a shout.”

¹⁰**Who** would bring me into the **strong**
city?

Who shall lead me to E⁷dom?

¹¹Have **You** not **rejected** us, O **Elohim**?

And *you do not* go out with our
armies, O **Elohim**!

¹²Give us help from *distress*,

For the help of man is naught.

¹³In **Elohim** we do mightily,
For it is **He** who treads down our
adversaries.

109 *Do not* be silent,
O **Elohim** of my praise!

²For the **mouth** of the **wrong**
And the **mouth** of the *deceiver*
Have opened *against* me;
They have **spoken against** me with a
false tongue.

³They have surrounded me with **words**
of hatred,
And they attack me without a **cause**.

⁴In **return** for my **love** they *accuse*
me,

While I am *in* prayer.

⁵And they **repay** me *evil* for **good**,
And hatred for my **love**.

⁶Appoint over him one who is **wrong**,
And let an *accuser* **stand** at his **right**
hand.

⁷**When** he is judged, let him be **found**
wrong,

And let his prayer become *sin*.

⁸**Let** his days be few,
Let another take his office.

⁹**Let** his children be fatherless,
And his wife a widow.

¹⁰And let his children **always** *wander*
and beg,

And **seek** *food* out of their ruins.

¹¹**Let** the creditor lay a *snare* for **all**
that he has,

And let strangers plunder his labour.

¹²**Let** him have no one to extend
kindness,

Nor any to **show favour** to his
fatherless children.

¹³**Let** his descendants be *cut* off,
Their name be blotted out in the next
generation.

¹⁴**Let** the *crookedness* of his fathers
Be **remembered** before אַיָּאֵל,
And let not the *sin* of his mother be
blotted out.

¹⁵**Let** them **always** be before אַיָּאֵל,

And let **Him** *cut off* their
remembrance from the earth;
¹⁶**Because** he *did not remember* to
show **kindness**,
But persecuted the *poor* and needy
man;
And the *broken-hearted*, to put to
death.
¹⁷**He** also **loved** cursing, so let it **come**
to him;
And he *did not delight* in blessing,
so **let it be** far from him.
¹⁸And he put cursing on as with his
garment,
So let it enter his inward parts like
water,
Into his bones and like oil.
¹⁹**Let** it be to him like a *cloak* he wraps
around him,
And as a girdle that he **always**
girds on.
²⁰This is the reward of my accusers
from **אָיָאֵל**,
And to those speaking *evil against* my
being.
²¹**But You, O אָיָאֵל, Master,**
Deal with me for **Your Name's** sake;
Because Your kindness is good,
deliver me.
²²For I am *poor* and needy,
And my **heart** is *pierced* within me.
²³I have gone like a lengthening
shadow,
I have been *driven* away like a locust.
²⁴My knees are weak through fasting,
And my *flesh* grows lean from fatness.
²⁵And I, I have become a *reproach* to
them;
They **see** me, they *shake* their heads.
²⁶Help me, O **אָיָאֵל** my **Elohim!**
Save me according to Your kindness,
²⁷And let them **know** that this
is **Your** hand.
You, **אָיָאֵל, You** have done it!
²⁸**Let** them *curse*, but **You bless**.
They **shall** arise, but be ashamed,
And let **Your** servant rejoice.
²⁹**Let** my accusers put on shame,
And be wrapped in their own
confusion as in a *cloak*.
³⁰I greatly **thank אָיָאֵל** with my
mouth,

And I **praise Him** in the **midst** of the
throng.
³¹For **He** stands at the **right hand** of
the *poor*,
To **save** from those judging his being.

110 אָיָאֵל said to my **Master**,
“Sit at **My right hand**,
Until I make **Your** enemies
a footstool for **Your** feet.”
²אָיָאֵל **sends Your** mighty sceptre
out of Tsiyon.
Rule in the **midst** of **Your** enemies!
³**Your** people volunteer in the **day of**
Your might,
In the splendours of set-apartness!
From the womb, from the morning,
You have the dew of **Your** youth!
⁴אָיָאֵל has sworn and *does not*
relent,
“**You** are a priest **forever** according to
the order of Malkitsedeq.”
⁵אָיָאֵל at **Your right hand**
Shall smite sovereigns in the **day**
of His wrath.
⁶**He** judges among the nations,
He shall fill the nations with *dead*
bodies,
He shall crush the Head over the
mighty earth!
⁷**He** drinks of the stream by the
wayside,
Therefore **He** does lift up the head!

111 Yah! I **thank אָיָאֵל** with
all my heart,
In the company of the **straight**,
and of the congregation.
²Great are the **works of אָיָאֵל**,
Searched for by **all** who **delight** in
them.
³Splendour and greatness
are **His work**,
And **His righteousness** stands
forever.
⁴**He** has made **His wonders** to be
remembered;
אָיָאֵל shows **favour** and is
compassionate.

⁵He has **given** food to those who **fear** Him;
He remembers His covenant forever.
⁶He has shown **His** people the **power** of **His** works,
 To give to them the **inheritance** of the *gentiles*.
⁷The **works** of **His** hands are **truth** and right-ruling,
 All **His** orders are **trustworthy**,
⁸They are upheld **forever** and **ever**,
 Performed in **truth** and straightness.
⁹He **sent** redemption to **His** people,
He has **commanded His covenant forever.**
 Set-apart and **awesome** is **His** Name.
¹⁰The **fear** of אַיָּאֵל is the beginning of **wisdom**,
 All those doing them have a **good understanding.**
His praise is standing **forever.**

112 Praise Yah!

Blessed is the man who *fears* אַיָּאֵל and who has greatly **delighted** in **His** commands.
²Mighty in the earth **shall be** his seed,
 The generation of the **straight** ones **shall be blessed.**
³Wealth and riches are in his house,
 And his **righteousness** is standing **forever.**
⁴**Light** has risen in the *darkness* to the straight ones,
Those showing **favour**, the **compassionate** and the righteous.
⁵**Good** is a man showing **favour** and lending, **he** sustains his matters in right-ruling.
⁶For he is never shaken;
 The **righteous** is **remembered forever.**
⁷He is not *afraid* of an *evil* report.
His heart is steadfast, **trusting** in אַיָּאֵל.
⁸**His heart** is upheld, he is not *afraid*,
 While he looks on his adversaries.
⁹He *scattered* abroad, **He** gave to the poor,
His righteousness is standing **forever.**

His horn is exalted with esteem.
¹⁰The **wrong** one sees it and **shall be** vexed;
He gnashes his *teeth* and **shall** melt.
 The desire of the **wrong** ones does *perish.*

113 Praise Yah! Praise,

Oservants of אַיָּאֵל,
 Praise the **Name** of אַיָּאֵל!
² **Blessed** be the **Name** of אַיָּאֵל,
Now and **forever!**
³From the rising of the sun to its goingdown,
 The **Name** of אַיָּאֵל is **praised.**
⁴אַיָּאֵל is high above **all** nations,
His esteem above the **heavens.**
⁵**Who** is like אַיָּאֵל our **Elohim**,
Who is enthroned on high?
⁶He looks down on the heavens and in the earth;
⁷He raises the *poor* out of the dust,
 Lifts the needy from a dunghill,
⁸To make him sit with the nobles,
 With the nobles of **His** people,
⁹Causing the *barren woman* to dwell in a house,
 A rejoicing mother of children.
 Praise Yah!

114 *When* Yisra'el went out of

Mitsrayim,
 The house of Ya'aqob from a people of *strange language*,
²Yahudah became **His** set-apart place,
 And Yisra'el **His** rule.
³The sea **saw** it and fled;
 The Yardēn turned back.
⁴The mountains skipped like rams,
 The *little* hills like lambs.
⁵**Why** was it, O sea, that you fled?
 O Yardēn, that you turned back?
⁶O mountains, that you skipped like rams?
 O *little* hills, like lambs?
⁷Tremble, O earth,
 from the face of the **Master**,
 From the face of the Eloah of Ya'aqob,

⁸*Who* turned the rock into a pool of water,
The flint into a fountain of water.

115 Not to us, O אַיָּאָל,
not to us, but to **Your Name**
give esteem for **Your kindness**,
For **Your truth**.

²*Why* should the *gentiles* say,
“Where **now** is their **Elohim**?”

³*But* our **Elohim** is in the heavens;
Whatever pleased **Him**, **He** has done.
⁴Their *idols* are silver and gold,
The work of men’s hands.

⁵They have mouths,
but they *do not* speak;
They have eyes, but they *do not* see;
⁶They have **ears**, but they *do not* hear;
They have noses but they *do not* smell;
⁷They have hands,
but they *do not* handle;
They have feet, but they *do not* walk;
They make no sound through
their throat.

⁸The ones who make them,
shall become like them –
All who **trust** in them.

⁹O Yisra’el, **trust** in אַיָּאָל;
He is their help and their shield.

¹⁰O house of Aharon, **trust** in אַיָּאָל;
He is their help and their shield.

¹¹You who **fear** אַיָּאָל,
trust in אַיָּאָל;
He is their help and their shield.

¹²אַיָּאָל has **remembered** us;
He blesses us;
He blesses the house of Yisra’el;
He blesses the house of Aharon.

¹³**He** blesses those who **fear** אַיָּאָל,
The small and the great.

¹⁴אַיָּאָל give you increase
more and more,
You and your children.

¹⁵You are **blessed** by אַיָּאָל,
Who made the heavens and earth.

¹⁶The heavens are the heavens
of אַיָּאָל;
But He has **given** the earth
to the children of men.

¹⁷The *dead* **do not praise** Yah,

Nor any going down to silence.

¹⁸**But** we, we **bless** Yah
Now and **forever**.
Praise Yah!

116 I love אַיָּאָל, **because He**
has heard my voice, my pleas.

²**Because He** has inclined
His ear to me,
And I **shall call** throughout
my days.

³The cords of *death* were around me,
And the *pains* of the grave
came upon me;
I **found** *distress* and sorrow.

⁴**Then** I called upon the **Name** of
אַיָּאָל, “O אַיָּאָל, I pray to **You**,
deliver my being!”

⁵אַיָּאָל shows **favour**
and is righteous;
And our **Elohim** is **compassionate**.

⁶אַיָּאָל guards the simple;
I was brought low, but **He saved** me.

⁷Return to your rest, O my being,
For אַיָּאָל has treated you well.

⁸For **You** have **delivered**
my being from *death*,

My eyes from tears,
My feet from falling.

⁹I **shall walk** before אַיָּאָל
in the land of the **living**.

¹⁰I have **believed**, for I speak;
I have been greatly *afflicted*.

¹¹I said in my haste, “All men are liars.”
¹²**What shall I return** to אַיָּאָל?

All **His** bounties are upon me.

¹³I lift up the **cup** of **deliverance**,
And **call** upon the **Name** of אַיָּאָל.

¹⁴I pay my vows to אַיָּאָל
Now in the presence of **all His** people.

¹⁵Precious *in the eyes* of אַיָּאָל Is the
death of **His kind** ones.

¹⁶O אַיָּאָל, I am **truly Your** servant,
I am **Your** servant,
the son of **Your** female servant;
You have loosed my bonds.

¹⁷I bring **You** a slaughtering
of **thanksgiving**,
And **call** upon the **Name** of אַיָּאָל.

¹⁸I pay my vows to אַיָּאָל

In the presence of **all His** people,
¹⁹In the courts of the House of אַיָּאָל,
 In your **midst**, O Yerushalayim.
 Praise Yah!

117 Praise אַיָּאָל, all you
 nations! Extol **Him**, all you peoples!
²For **His kindness** is mighty over us,
 And the **truth** of אַיָּאָל is
Everlasting. Praise Yah!

118 Oh, give **thanks** to אַיָּאָל,
 for **He** is **good**!

Because His kindness is everlasting.

²Let Yisra'el **now** say,
 “**His kindness** is everlasting.”
³Let the house of Aharon **now** say,
 “**His kindness** is everlasting.”
⁴Let those who **fear אַיָּאָל now** say,
 “**His kindness** is everlasting.”
⁵I called on Yah in distress;
 Yah answered me in a broad place.
⁶אַיָּאָל is on my side;
 I *do not* **fear** what man does to me!
⁷אַיָּאָל is for me among those
 helping me;

Therefore I look on those hating me.

⁸It is better to take **refuge** in אַיָּאָל
 Than to **trust** in man.

⁹It is better to take **refuge** in אַיָּאָל
 Than to **trust** in princes.

¹⁰All the *gentiles* surrounded me,
 In the **Name** of אַיָּאָל

I **shall cut** them off.

¹¹They surrounded me,
 Yea, they surrounded me;

In the **Name** of אַיָּאָל
shall I **cut** them off.

¹²They surrounded me like bees;
 They were extinguished
 like *burning* thorns;

In the **Name** of אַיָּאָל
 I **shall cut** them off.

¹³Pushing, *the enemy* pushed
 me to fall, **but אַיָּאָל** helped me.

¹⁴Yah is my strength and song,
 And **He** has become my **deliverance**.

¹⁵The **voice** of rejoicing

and **deliverance**

Is in the tents of the righteous;
 The **right hand** of אַיָּאָל
 is doing mightily.

¹⁶The **right hand** of אַיָּאָל is exalted,
 The **right hand** of אַיָּאָל
 acts mightily.

¹⁷Let me not *die*, but **live**,
 And **declare** the **works** of Yah.

¹⁸Yah has punished me severely,
But did not give me over to *death*.

¹⁹Open to me the gates of
righteousness;

I enter through them, I **thank** Yah.

²⁰This is the gate of אַיָּאָל,
 The **righteous** enter through it.

²¹I **thank You**,

For **You** have answered me,
 And have become my **deliverance**.

²²The stone which the builders *rejected*
 Has become the chief corner-stone.

²³This was from אַיָּאָל,
 It is marvellous in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day אַיָּאָל has made,
Let us rejoice and be **glad** in it.

²⁵I pray, O אַיָּאָל, please save;
 I pray, O אַיָּאָל, please send

prosperity.

²⁶**Blessed** is **He** who is **coming**
 in the **Name** of אַיָּאָל!

We **shall bless** you from the
 House of אַיָּאָל.

²⁷אַיָּאָל is **El** and **He** gave us **light**;
 Bind the festal offering

With cords to the horns of the altar.

²⁸**You** are my **El** and I **praise You**;
You are my **Elohim**, I **exalt You**.

²⁹Give **thanks** to אַיָּאָל,
 for **He** is **good**!

For **His kindness** is everlasting.

119 Blessed are the **perfect**
 in the way,

Who walk in the **teaching** of אַיָּאָל!

²**Blessed** are those who
observe His witnesses,
Who seek Him with **all** the heart!

³Yea, they **shall** do no
unrighteousness;

They **shall walk** in **His** ways.

⁴**You** have **commanded** us
 To **guard Your** orders **diligently**.
⁵Oh, that my **ways** were **established**
 To **guard Your** laws!
⁶**Then** I *would not* be ashamed,
When I look into **all Your** commands.
⁷I **thank You** with **uprightness**
 of **heart**,
When I learn the **right-rulings**
 of **Your righteousness**.
⁸I **guard Your** laws;
 Oh, *do not* leave me entirely!
⁹**How** would a young man
cleans his path.
 To **guard** it **according** to **Your word**?
¹⁰I have sought **You** with **all** my heart;
Let me not *stray*
 from **Your** commands!
¹¹I have treasured up **Your word** in
 my **heart**,
 That I might not *sin against* **You**.
¹²**Blessed** are **You**, O אַיָּאֵל!
 Teach me **Your** laws.
¹³With my lips I have recounted
 All the **right-rulings** of **Your** mouth.
¹⁴I have rejoiced in the **way**
 of **Your** witnesses, As over **all** riches.
¹⁵I meditate on **Your** orders,
 And regard **Your** ways.
¹⁶I delight myself in **Your** laws;
 I *do not forget* **Your** word.
¹⁷**Do** good to **Your** servant,
Let me live and I **guard Your** word.
¹⁸Open my eyes, that I might see
 Wonders from **Your** Torah.
¹⁹I am a sojourner in the earth;
Do not hide **Your** commands
 from me.
²⁰My being is crushed with longing
 For **Your** right-rulings at **all** times.
²¹**You rebuked** the proud, cursed ones,
Who are *straying*
 from **Your** commands.
²²Remove from me *reproach* and *scorn*
 For I have **observed** **Your** witnesses.
²³Though princes sat,
 speaking *against* me,
Your servant meditates on **Your** laws.
²⁴**Your** witnesses also are my delight,
 My counsellors.
²⁵My being has been **clinging** to the
 dust;

Revive me **according**
 to **Your** word.
²⁶I have recounted my **ways**
 and **You** answered me;
Teach me **Your** laws.
²⁷Make me **understand**
 the **way** of **Your** orders;
 That I might meditate
 on **Your** wonders.
²⁸My being has wept from grief;
 Strengthen me **according**
 to **Your** word.
²⁹Remove from me the **way**
 of *falsehood*,
 And **favour** me with **Your** Torah.
³⁰I have **chosen** the **way** of **truth**;
Your right-rulings I have held level.
³¹I have *clung* to **Your** witnesses;
 O אַיָּאֵל, *do not* put me to shame!
³²I run the **way** of **Your** commands,
 For **You** enlarge my **heart**.
³³**Teach** me, O אַיָּאֵל,
 the **way** of **Your** laws,
 And I **observe** it to the **end**.
³⁴Make me *understand*, that I might
observe **Your** Torah,
 And **guard** it with **all** my **heart**.
³⁵Make me **walk** in the path of
Your commands,
 For I have **delighted** in it.
³⁶Incline my **heart** to
Your witnesses and not to own *gain*.
³⁷Turn away my eyes from
 looking at *falsehood*,
 And **revive** me in **Your** way.
³⁸Establish **Your** word
 to **Your** servant,
 Which leads to the **fear** of **You**.
³⁹Turn away my *reproach*
 which I *dread*,
 For **Your** right-rulings are **good**.
⁴⁰**See**, I have longed for **Your** orders;
 Revive me in **Your** righteousness.
⁴¹And let **Your** kindnesses **come** to
 me, O אַיָּאֵל;
Your deliverance, **according** to
Your word,
⁴²So that I answer my reprover,
 For I have **trusted** in **Your** word.
⁴³And *do not* take away
 from my **mouth**
 The **word** of **truth** entirely,

For I have waited
for **Your right-rulings**;
⁴⁴That I might **guard Your Torah**
continually,
Forever and ever;
⁴⁵That I might **walk** in a broad place,
For I have sought **Your orders**;
⁴⁶That I might **speak**
of **Your witnesses**
before sovereigns,
And not be ashamed;
⁴⁷That I might **delight** myself in
Your commands,
Which I have **loved**;
⁴⁸That I might lift up my hands
to **Your commands**,
Which I have **loved** while I meditate
on **Your laws**.
⁴⁹**Remember** the word
to **Your servant**,
On which **You** have
caused me to wait.
⁵⁰This is my comfort in my *affliction*,
For **Your word** has **given** me life.
⁵¹The *proud* have *utterly scorned* me,
I *did not* turn aside from **Your Torah**.
⁵²I **remembered Your**
right-rulings of old, O אַיָּאֵל,
And I comfort myself.
⁵³Rage has *seized* me
because of the *wrong*
Who forsake Your Torah.
⁵⁴**Your laws** have been my songs
In the place of my sojournings.
⁵⁵I have **remembered Your**
Name in the night, O אַיָּאֵל,
And I **guard Your Torah**.
⁵⁶This has become mine,
Because I have **observed Your orders**.
⁵⁷**You** are my portion, O אַיָּאֵל;
I have **promised** to **guard**
Your words.
⁵⁸I have sought **Your face** with **all**
my heart;
Show me **favour according to**
Your word.
⁵⁹I have thought upon my ways,
And turned my feet to **Your witnesses**.
⁶⁰I have hurried and *did not* delay
To **guard Your commands**.
⁶¹The cords of the *wrong*
have surrounded me,

Your Torah I have not *forgotten*.
⁶²At midnight I rise
to give **thanks to You**,
For **Your righteous right-rulings**.
⁶³I am a companion of **all** who **fear**
You and of those **guarding Your**
orders.
⁶⁴O אַיָּאֵל, **Your kindness**
has filled the earth;
Teach me **Your laws**.
⁶⁵**You** have done **good**
to **Your servant**, O אַיָּאֵל,
According to **Your word**.
⁶⁶Teach me **good** sense
and **knowledge**,
For I have **trusted**
in **Your commands**.
⁶⁷Before I was *afflicted*
I myself was going *astray*,
But now I have **guarded Your word**.
⁶⁸**You** are **good** and do **good**;
Teach me **Your laws**.
⁶⁹The *proud* have forged
a *lie against* me,
With **all my heart** I **observe**
Your orders.
⁷⁰Their **heart** has become like fat,
Without feeling;
I have **delighted in Your Torah**.
⁷¹It was **good** for me that I was
afflicted,
That I might **learn Your laws**.
⁷²The **Torah** of **Your mouth**
is better to me
Than thousands of gold
and silver pieces.
⁷³**Your hands** have made me
and formed me;
Make me *understand*,
that I might **learn Your commands**.
⁷⁴Those who **fear You**
see me and **rejoice**,
For I have waited for **Your Word**.
⁷⁵I **know**, O אַיָּאֵל, that
Your right-rulings are **righteous**,
And in trustworthiness
You have *afflicted* me.
⁷⁶Please let **Your kindness**
be for my comfort,
According to **Your word**
to **Your servant**.
⁷⁷**Let Your compassions** come to me,

That I might live,
 For **Your Torah** is my delight.
⁷⁸**Let** the *proud* be put to shame,
 For with lies they *perverted* me;
But I study Your orders.
⁷⁹**Let** those who **fear You** turn to me,
 And those who **know Your witnesses.**
⁸⁰**Let** my **heart** be **perfect**
 in **Your laws,**
 So that I am not put to *shame.*
⁸¹For **Your deliverance**
 my being has pined away,
 For I have waited for **Your word.**
⁸²My eyes have pined away
 for **Your word,**
 Saying, "*When* would it comfort me?"
⁸³For I have become
 like a **wineskin** in the smoke,
Your laws I have not *forgotten.*
⁸⁴**How** many are the days
 of **Your servant?**
When do You execute right-ruling
 On those who *persecute* me?
⁸⁵The *proud* have dug pits for me,
 Which is not
according to Your Torah.
⁸⁶All **Your commands**
 are **trustworthy;**
 They have persecuted me with lies;
 Help me!
⁸⁷They almost made an end
 of me on earth,
But I, I did not forsake Your orders.
⁸⁸Revive me **according**
 to **Your kindness,**
 That I might **guard**
 the **witness of Your mouth.**
⁸⁹**Forever, O אַיָּאֵל,**
Your word stands firm in the **heavens.**
⁹⁰**Your** trustworthiness is
 to **all generations;**
You established the earth,
 and it stands.
⁹¹According to **Your right-rulings**
 They have stood to this day,
 For **all** are **Your servants.**
⁹²**If Your Torah** had not been
 my delight,
 I would have *perished*
 in my affliction.
⁹³**Let** me never *forget* **Your orders,**
 For by them **You** have **given** me **life.**

⁹⁴I am **Yours, save** me;
 For I have sought **Your orders.**
⁹⁵The **wrong** have waited for me
 to destroy me;
I understand Your witnesses.
⁹⁶I have **seen** an end of **all** perfection;
Your command is exceedingly broad.
⁹⁷O how I **love Your Torah!**
 It is my study **all day long.**
⁹⁸**Your commands** make me wiser
 than my enemies;
 For it is ever before me.
⁹⁹I have more **understanding**
 than **all my teachers,**
 For **Your witnesses** are my study.
¹⁰⁰I **understand** more than the aged,
 For I have **observed Your orders.**
¹⁰¹I have restrained my feet
 from **every evil way,**
 That I might **guard Your word.**
¹⁰²I have not turned aside
 from **Your right-rulings,**
 For **You Yourself** have **taught** me.
¹⁰³**How** sweet to my taste
 has **Your word** been,
 More than honey to my mouth!
¹⁰⁴From **Your orders**
 I get **understanding;**
 Therefore I have *hated*
 every *false way.*
¹⁰⁵**Your word** is a **lamp** to my feet
 And a **light** to my path.
¹⁰⁶I have sworn and I confirm,
 To **guard Your righteous**
right-rulings.
¹⁰⁷I have been *afflicted* **very much;**
 O אַיָּאֵל, **revive** me
according to Your word.
¹⁰⁸Please **accept** the voluntary
 offerings Of my **mouth, O אַיָּאֵל,**
 And **teach** me **Your right-rulings.**
¹⁰⁹My **life** is in my **hand** continually,
 And **Your Torah** I have not *forgotten.*
¹¹⁰The **wrong** have laid a *snare* for me,
But I have not *strayed*
 from **Your orders.**
¹¹¹**Your witnesses** are
 my **inheritance forever,**
 For they are the **joy of my heart.**
¹¹²I have inclined my **heart** to do
Your laws forever, to the end.
¹¹³I have *hated* **doubting** thoughts,

But I have loved **Your Torah**.

¹¹⁴**You** are my hiding place
and my shield;

I have waited for **Your word**.

¹¹⁵Turn away from me, you *evil-doers*,

For I **observe** the **commands**
of my **Elohim!**

¹¹⁶Support me **according**
to **Your word**, that I might live;
And put me not to *shame*

Because of my expectation.

¹¹⁷Sustain me, that I might be **saved**,
And **always** look to **Your laws**.

¹¹⁸**You** have made **light** of **all** those
Who stray from **Your laws**,
For *falsehood* is their *deceit*.

¹¹⁹**You** have made to cease
All the **wrong** of the earth, like dross;
Therefore I have **loved**
Your witnesses.

¹²⁰My *flesh* has *trembled*
for **fear** of **You** and I am in awe
of **Your right-rulings**.

¹²¹I have done **right-ruling**
and **righteousness**;

Leave me not to my oppressors.

¹²²Guarantee **Your** servant's
well being;

Let not the *proud* oppress me.

¹²³My eyes have pined away
for **Your deliverance** and
for the **Word** of **Your righteousness**.

¹²⁴**Do** with **Your** servant
according to **Your kindness**,
And **teach** me **Your laws**.

¹²⁵I am **Your** servant –
make me understand,
That I might **know** **Your** witnesses.

¹²⁶**It is time** for אַיָּאֵל to act!
For they have broken Your Torah.

¹²⁷Therefore I have **loved**
Your commands

More than gold, even fine gold!

¹²⁸Therefore **all** **Your** orders
I count as right;

I have *hated* every *false way*.

¹²⁹**Your** witnesses are wonders;

So my being observes them.

¹³⁰The opening up of **Your words**
gives **light**,

Giving **understanding** to the simple.

¹³¹I have opened my **mouth**

and panted,

For I have longed for **Your**
commands.

¹³²Turn to me and **show** me **favour**,
According to **Your** right-ruling,
toward those who **love** **Your Name**.

¹³³Establish my footsteps
by **Your** word,

And let no *wickedness*
have **rule** over me.

¹³⁴Redeem me from
the *oppression* of man,
That I might **guard** **Your** orders.

¹³⁵Make **Your** face shine
upon **Your** servant,

And **teach** me **Your laws**.

¹³⁶Streams of water have run down
from my eyes,

Because they *did not guard*
Your Torah.

¹³⁷Righteous are **You**, O אַיָּאֵל,
And **Your right-rulings** are **straight**.

¹³⁸**You** have **commanded**
Your witnesses in **righteousness**
and **truth** exceedingly.

¹³⁹My **ardour** has *consumed* me,
For my adversaries have
forgotten **Your words**.

¹⁴⁰**Your word** is tried, exceedingly;
And **Your** servant has **loved** it.

¹⁴¹I am small and *despised*; I have not
forgotten **Your** orders.

¹⁴²**Your righteousness** is
righteousness forever,
And **Your Torah** is **truth**.

¹⁴³Distress and anguish
have **found** me; **Your commands**
are my delight.

¹⁴⁴The **righteousness** of **Your**
witnesses is **forever**;
Make me *understand* that I might **live**.

¹⁴⁵I have called with **all** my heart;
Answer me, O אַיָּאֵל!

I **observe** **Your laws**.

¹⁴⁶I have called upon You; **Save** me,
that I might **guard** **Your** witnesses.

¹⁴⁷I rise before dawn and cry for help;
I have waited for **Your word**.

¹⁴⁸My eyes have gone
before the night watches,
To **study** **Your word**.

¹⁴⁹**Hear** my **voice** **according** to

Your kindness;
 O אַיָּאָל, revive me according to
Your right-ruling.
¹⁵⁰Those who pursue mischief
 have drawn near;
 They have been far
 from **Your Torah.**
¹⁵¹**You** are near, O אַיָּאָל,
 And **all Your commands** are **truth.**
¹⁵²Of old I have **known**
Your witnesses,
 That **You** have founded them **forever.**
¹⁵³See my *affliction* and **deliver** me,
 For I have not *forgotten* **Your Torah.**
¹⁵⁴Plead my **cause** and **redeem** me;
Revive me according to **Your word.**
¹⁵⁵Deliverance is far
 from the *wrong* ones,
 For they have not sought **Your laws.**
¹⁵⁶**Your compassions** are many,
 O אַיָּאָל; Revive me according
 to **Your right-rulings.**
¹⁵⁷My persecutors and adversaries
 are many;
 I have not turned aside from
Your witnesses.
¹⁵⁸I **saw** traitors and was *grieved,*
Because they *did not guard*
Your word.
¹⁵⁹See how I have **loved** **Your orders,**
 אַיָּאָל, revive me according
 to **Your kindness.**
¹⁶⁰The sum of **Your word** is **truth,**
 And **all Your righteous right-rulings**
 are **forever.**
¹⁶¹Rulers have persecuted me
 without a **cause,**
But at **Your word**
 my **heart** stood in awe.
¹⁶²I **rejoice** at **Your word**
 As one who finds **great** treasure.
¹⁶³I have *hated falsehood* and loathe it,
Your Torah I have **loved.**
¹⁶⁴I have **praised** **You** seven times
 a day **because** of **Your righteous**
right-rulings.
¹⁶⁵Great **peace** have those **loving**
Your Torah,
 And for them there is
 no *stumbling-block.*
¹⁶⁶אַיָּאָל, I have waited
 for **Your deliverance,**

And I have done **Your commands.**
¹⁶⁷My being has **guarded**
Your witnesses,
 And I **love** them exceedingly.
¹⁶⁸I have **guarded**
Your orders and **Your witnesses,**
 For **all my ways** are before **You.**
¹⁶⁹My cry **comes** before **You,**
 O אַיָּאָל; Make me **understand**
 according to **Your word.**
¹⁷⁰Let my prayer **come** before **You;**
 Deliver me according to **Your word.**
¹⁷¹My lips pour forth praise,
 For **You teach** me **Your laws.**
¹⁷²My tongue sings of **Your word,**
 For **all Your commands** are
righteousness.
¹⁷³**Your hand** is a help to me,
 For I have **chosen** **Your orders.**
¹⁷⁴I have longed for **Your deliverance,**
 O אַיָּאָל,
 And **Your Torah** is my delight.
¹⁷⁵My being lives and it praises **You;**
 And **Your right-rulings** help me.
¹⁷⁶I have *strayed* like a *lost* sheep;
Seek **Your** servant,
 For I have not *forgotten*
Your commands.

120 In my *distress* I cried to
 אַיָּאָל and He answered me.
²אַיָּאָל, **deliver** my being
 from *false* lips,
 From a treacherous tongue.
³**What** would one give to you,
 Or what would one do to you,
 O treacherous tongue?
⁴Sharp arrows of a mighty man,
 With coals of the broom-wood!
⁵**Woe** to me for I have sojourned in
 Meshek,
 I have dwelt among the tents of Qēḏar!
⁶My being has dwelt too long
 With him who *hates* peace.
⁷I am *for* peace; **But** when I speak,
 they are for fighting.

121 I lift up my eyes to the hills;
 Where does my help **come** from?

²My help **comes** from אַיָּאֵל,
Maker of the heavens and earth.

³He *does not* allow your foot to be
moved;

He who watches over you *does not*
slumber.

⁴See, He who is **guarding** Yisra'el
Neither slumbers nor sleeps.

⁵אַיָּאֵל is your guard;
אַיָּאֵל is your shade at your **right**
hand.

⁶The sun *does not strike* you by day,
Nor the moon by night.

⁷אַיָּאֵל guards you from **all evil**;
He guards your being.

⁸אַיָּאֵל guards your going out
and your **coming** in **Now** and **forever**.

122 I was **glad** when they said
to me, "Let us go into the House of
אַיָּאֵל."

²Our feet have been standing
Within your gates, O Yerushalayim!

³Yerushalayim is built
As a city that is *bound* together,

⁴Where the tribes have **come** up,
The tribes of Yah,
A **witness** to Yisra'el,

To give **thanks** to the **Name** of
אַיָּאֵל.

⁵For there the thrones of **right-ruling**
were set,

The thrones of the house of Dawid.

⁶Pray for the **peace** of Yerushalayim,
Let those who **love You** be at rest.

⁷Peace be within your walls,
Rest in your citadels.

⁸For the sake of my brothers and
companions,

I say, "Peace be within you."

⁹For the sake of the House
of אַיָּאֵל our **Elohim**
I **seek** your **good**.

123 I *shall* lift up my eyes
Unto **You** who dwell in the **heavens**.

²See, as the eyes of servants
Are toward the **hand** of their masters,
As the eyes of a female servant

Are toward the **hand** of her mistress,
So are our eyes toward אַיָּאֵל our

Elohim,

Until He shows **favour** to us.

³Show **favour** to us,
O אַיָּאֵל, **show** favour to us!

For we are exceedingly filled with
mockery.

⁴Our being is exceedingly filled
With the scoffing of those who are at
ease,

With the *mockery* of the *proud*.

124 "If it had not been אַיָּאֵל
who was on our side,"

Let Yisra'el **now** say;

²"If it had not been אַיָּאֵל
who was on our side,

When men rose up *against* us,

³"**Then** they would have swallowed
us **alive**,

In their *burning rage against* us;

⁴"**Then** the waters would have
overwhelmed us,

The stream would have gone over our
being;

⁵"**Then** the *proud* waters

Would have gone over our being."

⁶**Blessed** be אַיָּאֵל,

Who did not give us as prey
to their *teeth*.

⁷Our being has **escaped** like a bird

From the *snare* of the trappers;

The *snare* was **broken**

and we have **escaped**.

⁸Our help is in the **Name** of אַיָּאֵל,

Maker of the heavens and earth.

125 Those who **trust** in אַיָּאֵל

Are like Mount Tsiyon –

It is not shaken, it remains **forever**.

²As the mountains surround

Yerushalayim,

So אַיָּאֵל surrounds **His** people,

Now and **forever**.

³For the sceptre of *wrongness*
shall not rest

On the land allotted to the **righteous**,
Lest the **righteous** stretch forth

their hands to *unrighteousness*.

⁴**Do good**, O אַיָּאָל, to those who are **good**,
And to those who are **upright**
in their hearts.

⁵**But** those who turn aside
to their crooked ways,
אַיָּאָל **shall** lead them away
With the workers of *wickedness*.

Peace be upon Yisra'ël!

126 *When אַיָּאָל*

turns back the captivity of Tsiyon,
We **shall** be like **dreamers**.

²**Then** our **mouth shall** be filled
with laughter,
And our tongue with singing,
Then shall they say among
the *gentiles*,
“אַיָּאָל has done **great deeds**
for them.”

³אַיָּאָל **shall** do **great deeds** for us,
We **shall** be glad.

⁴Turn back our captivity, O אַיָּאָל,
Like the streams in the South.

⁵Those sowing in tears,
shall reap with songs of joy.

⁶**He** who goes on and weeps,
Bearing seed for sowing,
Shall indeed **come** in with rejoicing,
Bearing his sheaves.

127 *If אַיָּאָל does not*

build the house,
Its builders have laboured in vain.
If אַיָּאָל does not guard the city,
The watchman has stayed
awake in vain.

²In vain do you rise up early,
To sit up late, to eat the **bread** of toil;
So **He** gives **His** beloved sleep.

³Look, children are an **inheritance**
from אַיָּאָל,

The **fruit** of the womb is the reward.

⁴As arrows in the **hand** of a mighty
man so are the children of one's youth.

⁵**Blessed** is the man
Who has filled his quiver with them.
They are not ashamed,

When they speak
with their enemies in the gate.

128 **Blessed** are all who fear אַיָּאָל, *who walk in His ways*.

²You **shall** eat the labour
of your hands.

Be blessed and **let it be** well with you.

³**Let** your wife be as a fruit-bearing
vine within your house,
Your sons like olive plants **all** around
your table.

⁴Look, so **shall** the man be **blessed**
Who fears אַיָּאָל.

⁵אַיָּאָל **shall** **bless** you out of Tsiyon,
And let you **see** the **good** of
Yerushalayim all the days of your **life**,
⁶And let you **see** your children's
children!

Peace be upon Yisra'ël!

129 “Often they have *distressed* me from my youth.”

Let Yisra'ël **now** say,

²“Often they have *distressed* me
from my youth,

But they have not overcome me.

³“The ploughers ploughed on my back,
They made their furrows long.”

⁴אַיָּאָל is **righteous**, **He** has *cut*
the cords of the **wrong** in two.

⁵**Let** all those who *hate* Tsiyon
Be put to *shame* and turned back.

⁶**Let** them be as the grass
on the house tops,
Which withers before it grows up,

⁷That **shall** not fill the reaper's **hand**,
Or the sheaves *fill* the binder's bosom.

⁸And those who pass by **shall** not say,
“The **blessing** of אַיָּאָל be upon you;
We have **blessed** you in the
Name of אַיָּאָל!”

130 Out of the depths I have cried to **You**, O אַיָּאָל.

²O אַיָּאָל, **hear** my voice!

Let **Your ears** be attentive
 To the **voice** of my prayers.
³O Yah, if **You** should **watch**
crookednesses,
 O אַיָּאֵל, who would stand?
⁴**But** with **You** there is **forgiveness**,
 That **You** might be **feared**.
⁵I **looked** to אַיָּאֵל, **My** being has
 looked,
 And for **His word** I have waited.
⁶**My** being *looks* to אַיָּאֵל
 More than those watching
 for morning, watching for morning.
⁷O Yisra'el, wait for אַיָּאֵל;
 For with אַיָּאֵל there is **kindness**.
 And with **Him** is much redemption,
⁸For **He shall redeem** Yisra'el
 From all his *crookednesses*.

131 O אַיָּאֵל, my **heart** has
 not been *proud*,
 Nor have my eyes been haughty.
 Neither have I concerned myself
 with **great** matters,
 Nor with those too wondrous for me.
²Have I not calmed and kept my being
 silent,
 Like one weaned by its mother?
 My being is like one weaned.
³O Yisra'el, wait for אַיָּאֵל,
Now and forever.

132 O אַיָּאֵל, *remember*
 Dawid and all his *afflictions*;
²**How** he **swore** to אַיָּאֵל,
 Vowed to the **Mighty One** of Ya'aqob:
³“Not to enter into my dwelling-house,
 Not to get into my bed,
⁴“Not to give sleep to my eyes,
 Or slumber to my eyelids,
⁵“Until I find a place for אַיָּאֵל,
 A dwelling place for the **Mighty One**
 of Ya'aqob.”
⁶**See**, we **heard** of it in Ephrathah;
 We **found** it in the fields of the forest.
⁷**Let** us go into **His** dwelling places;
Let us bow ourselves at **His** footstool.
⁸Arise, O אַיָּאֵל, to **Your** place
 of rest,

You and the ark of **Your** strength.
⁹**Let Your** priests put on
righteousness,
 And **Your kind** ones shout for joy.
¹⁰For the sake of **Your** servant Dawid,
Do not turn away the face of **Your**
 Anointed One.
¹¹אַיָּאֵל has sworn in **truth**
 to Dawid;
He does not turn from it,
 “Of the **fruit** of your body
 I set upon your throne.
¹²“**If** your sons **guard My covenant**
 And **My witnesses** that I **teach** them,
 Their sons **shall** sit upon your throne
forever.”
¹³For אַיָּאֵל has **chosen** Tsiyon,
He has desired it for **His** dwelling:
¹⁴“This is **My** place of rest **forever**;
 Here I dwell, for I have desired it.
¹⁵“I greatly **bless** her provision,
 I satisfy her *poor* with bread.
¹⁶“And I put **deliverance**
 on her priests,
 And her **kind** ones sing for joy.
¹⁷“There I make the horn of Dawid
 grow and I **shall** set up a **lamp**
 for **My** Anointed One.
¹⁸“I put **shame** on his enemies,
 While on **Him His** diadem
shall shine.”

133 See how **good** and how
 pleasant it is for brothers
 to dwell **together** in **unity** –
²Like the **precious** oil on the head,
 Running down on the beard,
 The beard of Aharon,
 Running down on the collar of his
 robes –
³Like the dew of Hermon,
 That **comes** down on the mountains
 of Tsiyon.
 For there אַיָּאֵל **commanded**
 the blessing,
 Life **forever!**

134 Come, **bless** אַיָּאֵל,
 All you servants of אַיָּאֵל,

Who are standing in the House
of אַיָּאָל by night!
²Lift up your hands in the set-apart
place, And **bleſs** אַיָּאָל.
³אַיָּאָל,
Maker of the heavens and earth,
Does **bleſs** you from Tsiyon!

135

Praise Yah!
Praise the **Name** of אַיָּאָל;
Praise, you servants of אַיָּאָל,
²*Who* are standing in the House
of אַיָּאָל,
In the courts of the House of
our **Elohim**,
³Praise Yah, for אַיָּאָל is **good**;
Sing praises to **His Name**,
for it is pleasant.
⁴For Yah has **chosen** Ya'aqob for
Himself,
Yisra'el for **His** treasured possession.
⁵For I **know** that אַיָּאָל is great,
And our **Master** is above **all** mighty
ones.
⁶אַיָּאָל has done *whatever* pleased
Him,
In the heavens and in earth,
In the seas and in **all** the depths,
⁷Causing vapours to go up
From the ends of the earth;
He made lightning for the rain,
Bringing forth *wind* from **His**
treasuries;
⁸*Who smote* the first-born of
Mitsrayim,
From man to beast.
⁹**He sent signs** and **wonders**
Into your **midst**, O Mitsrayim,
On Pharaoh and on **all** his servants;
¹⁰*Who smote* many nations,
And slew mighty sovereigns,
¹¹Even Siḥon sovereign of the
Amorites,
And Og sovereign of Bashan,
And **all** the reigns of Kena'an.
¹²And **He** gave their land as an
inheritance,
An **inheritance** to Yisra'el
His people.
¹³O אַיָּאָל, **Your Name** is **forever**,
O אַיָּאָל, **Your remembrance**

to **all** generations,
¹⁴For אַיָּאָל **rightly** rules **His** people,
And has **compassion** on **His** servants.
¹⁵The *idols of the gentiles*
are silver and gold
The **work** of men's hands.
¹⁶They have mouths,
but they *do not* speak;
They have eyes but they *do not* see;
¹⁷They have **ears** but they *do not* hear;
Also there is no breath in their **mouth**.
¹⁸Those making them
become like them,
Everyone who is **trusting** in them.
¹⁹Bless אַיָּאָל, O house of Yisra'el!
Bless אַיָּאָל, O house of Aharon!
²⁰Bless אַיָּאָל, O house of Lēwi!
You who **fear** אַיָּאָל, **bleſs** אַיָּאָל!
²¹**Blessed** from Tsiyon, אַיָּאָל be,
Who dwells in Yerushalayim!
Praise Yah.

136

Give **thanks** to אַיָּאָל,
For **He** is **good**!
For **His kindness** is **everlasting**.
²Give **thanks** to the **Elohim**
of mighty ones!
For **His kindness** is **everlasting**.
³Give **thanks** to the **Master**
of masters!
For **His kindness** is **everlasting**:
⁴To **Him** who alone
does **great wonders**,
For **His kindness** is **everlasting**:
⁵To **Him** who by **wisdom** made the
heavens,
For **His kindness** is **everlasting**:
⁶To **Him** who spread the earth on the
waters,
For **His kindness** is **everlasting**:
⁷To **Him** who made **great lights**,
For **His kindness** is **everlasting**:
⁸The sun to **rule** by day,
For **His kindness** is **everlasting**:
⁹The moon and stars to **rule** by night,
For **His kindness** is **everlasting**.
¹⁰To **Him** who *smote* Mitsrayim in
their first-born,
For **His kindness** is **everlasting**:
¹¹And brought out Yisra'el from their

midst,

For **His kindness is everlasting;**

¹²With a **strong hand** and with an
outstretched arm,

For **His kindness is everlasting;**

¹³To **Him** who split apart the
Sea of Reeds,

For **His kindness is everlasting;**

¹⁴And made Yisra'el pass through the
midst of it,

For **His kindness is everlasting;**

¹⁵**But** shook off Pharaoh and his army
in the Sea of Reeds,

For **His kindness is everlasting;**

¹⁶To **Him** who led **His** people through
the wilderness,

For **His kindness is everlasting;**

¹⁷To **Him** who *smote* **great**
sovereigns,

For **His kindness is everlasting;**

¹⁸And slew mighty sovereigns,

For **His kindness is everlasting;**

¹⁹Even Sihon sovereign of the
Amorites,

His kindness is everlasting;

²⁰And Oğ sovereign of Bashan,

For **His kindness is everlasting;**

²¹And gave their land as an
inheritance,

For **His kindness is everlasting;**

²²An **inheritance** to Yisra'el **His**
servant,

For **His kindness is everlasting.**

²³**Who** remembered us in our
humiliation,

For **His kindness is everlasting;**

²⁴And rescued us from our adversaries,

For **His kindness is everlasting;**

²⁵**Who** gives food to **all flesh,**

For **His kindness is everlasting.**

²⁶Give **thanks** to the **El** of the
heavens!

For **His kindness is everlasting.**

137

By the rivers of Babel,
There we sat down and we wept
As we **remembered** Tsiyon.

²We hung our lyres

Upon the willows in the **midst** of it.

³For there our captors

Asked us for the **words** of a song,
And our plunderers for rejoicing,
saying,

“Sing to us a song of Tsiyon!”

⁴**How** could we sing the song of
אֲרָאֵל On foreign soil?

⁵*If I forget* you, O Yerushalayim,
Let my right hand forget.

⁶**Let** my tongue cleave to my palate,
If I do not remember you,

If I do not exalt Yerushalayim
Above my chief joy.

⁷**Remember,** O **אֲרָאֵל**, *against* the
sons of Edom

The **day** of Yerushalayim,

Who said, “Lay it bare, lay it bare,
To its foundation!”

⁸O daughter of Babel, who are to be
destroyed,

Blessed is he who **repays** you your
deed,

What you did to us!

⁹**Blessed** is he who **shall** take and dash
your *little ones* *against* the rock.

138

I give **You** thanks with all
my heart;

Before the **mighty ones** I

sing praises to **You.**

²I bow myself toward **Your** set-apart
Hēkal,

And give **thanks** to **Your** Name

For **Your** kindness and for **Your**
truth;

For **You** have made **great** **Your**
Word,

Your Name, above all.

³On the day I called **You** did answer
me,

You made me bold with strength in
my being.

⁴**Let** all the sovereigns of the earth
Give **thanks** to **You,** O **אֲרָאֵל**,
When they **shall** hear the words of
Your mouth.

⁵And let them sing of the ways of
אֲרָאֵל,

For **great** is the esteem of **אֲרָאֵל.**

⁶Though **אֲרָאֵל** is exalted,

He looks on the humble;

But the **proud** **He** perceives from a

distance.

⁷Though I **walk** in the **midst**
of *distress*,

You revive me;

You stretch out Your hand
against the *wrath* of my enemies,
And **Your right hand saves** me.

⁸**אָיָאֵל** does **perfect** for me.

O **אָיָאֵל**, **Your kindness**
is **everlasting**.

Do not forsake the works
of **Your hands**.

139 O **אָיָאֵל**,

You have searched me and **know** me.

²**You know** my sitting down
and my rising up;

You understand my thought from
afar.

³**You sift** my path and my *lying* down,
And **know** well **all** my ways.

⁴For there is not a **word** on my tongue,
But see, O **אָיָאֵל**, **You know** it **all!**

⁵**You** have closed me in,
behind and before,

And laid **Your hand** upon me –

⁶**Knowledge** too wondrous for me,
It is high, I am *unable* to reach it.

⁷Where would I go from **Your Spirit**?
Or where would I *flee*
from **Your face**?

⁸**If** I go up into the heavens,

You are there;

If I make my bed in the grave,
see, You are there.

⁹I take the wings of the morning,
I dwell in the uttermost
parts of the sea,

¹⁰There, too, **Your hand**
would lead me,

And **Your right hand** hold me.

¹¹**If** I say, “Darkness *shall* cover me,”
Then night would be **light** to me;

¹²Even *darkness* is not dark for **You**,
But night shines as the day –

As is *darkness*, so is **light**.

¹³For **You, You** possessed my kidneys,
You have covered me in my mother’s
womb.

¹⁴I give **thanks** to **You**,

For I am awesomely and wondrously

made!

Wondrous are **Your works**,
And my being **knows** it well.

¹⁵My bones was not *concealed*
from You,

When I was shaped in a *hidden* place,
Knit **together** in the depths
of the earth.

¹⁶**Your eyes saw** my unformed body.
And in **Your book** all of them

were **written**,

The days they were formed,
While none was among them.

¹⁷And how **precious**
are **Your thoughts** to me, O **Ēl!**

How great has been the sum of them!

¹⁸**If** I should count them,
They would be more than the sand;

When I wake up, I am still with **You**.

¹⁹Oh, that **You** would *slay* the *wrong*,
O Eloah!

Depart from me, therefore,
men of bloodshed!

²⁰They **speak** *against* **You** *wickedly*.

Bring **Your** enemies to naught!

²¹O **אָיָאֵל**, do I not *hate* them,
who *hate* **You**?

And do I not loathe those who rise up
against **You**?

²²With a **complete** hatred I *hate* them;
They have become my enemies.

²³Search me, O **Ēl** and **know**
my heart;

Try me and **know** my thoughts;

²⁴And **see** if an *idolatrous way*
is in me,

And lead me in the **way everlasting**.

140 Rescue me, O **אָיָאֵל**,

from men of *evil*;

Preserve me from men of *violence*,

²**Who** have devised *evils*
in their **hearts**;

They stir up conflicts
all day long.

³They sharpen their tongues
like a snake;

The *poison* of cobras
is under their lips. Selah.

⁴**Guard** me, O **אָיָאֵל**,

from the hands of the wrong;
Guard me from a man of *violence*,
Who have schemed
to trip up my steps.

⁵The *proud* have *hidden*
a *trap* for me, and cords;
They have spread a *net*
by the wayside;
They have set *snares* for me. Selah.

⁶I said to אַיָּאֵל, “**You** are my **Él**;
hear the **voice** of my prayers,
O אַיָּאֵל.

⁷“O **Master** אַיָּאֵל,
my saving strength,
You have screened my head
in the **day** of battle.

⁸“**Do not** grant the desires
of the *wrong*, O אַיָּאֵל;
Do not promote his scheme. Selah.

⁹“Those who surround me
lift up their head;
The *trouble* of their lips cover them;
¹⁰“**Let** *burning* coals *fall* on them;
Let them be made to *fall* into the *fire*,
Into deep pits, let them **not rise** again.

¹¹“**Let** not a *slanderer*
be **established** in the earth;
Let *evil* hunt the man of *violence*
speedily.”

¹²I have **known** that אַיָּאֵל maintains
The **cause** of the *afflicted*,
The **right-ruling** of the *poor*.

¹³Only, let the **righteous**
give **thanks** to **Your Name**,
Let the **straight** ones
dwell in **Your** presence.

141 אַיָּאֵל, I have *cried*
out to You; Hasten to me!

Give ear to my **voice**
when I cry out to **You**.

²Let my prayer be prepared
before **You** as incense,
The lifting up of my hands
as the **evening** offering.

³O אַיָּאֵל, set a **guard** for my mouth;
Watch over the **door** of my lips.

⁴Let not my **heart** be inclined to *evil*,
To practise **deeds** of *wrongness*
With men working *wickedness*,
And let me not eat of their delicacies.

⁵Let the **righteous** one *smite* me
Or reprove me in **kindness** –
It is oil on my head.

Let my head not *refuse* it.
My prayer is still *against*
their *evil deeds*.

⁶Their judges have been *thrown* down
By the sides of the rock,
But they have **heard** my **words**,
For they have been pleasant.

⁷Our bones are *scattered*
at the **mouth** of the grave,
As when one ploughs and breaks
up the earth.

⁸**But** my eyes are upon **You**,
O **Master** אַיָּאֵל.

In **You** I take refuge;
Do not pour out my **life**.

⁹**Guard** me from the clutches
Of the *trap* they have laid for me,
And from the *snares*
Of the workers of *wickedness*.

¹⁰**Let** the *wrong* *fall*
into their own nets, while I pass by.

142 I cry out to אַיָּאֵל
with my **voice**;

I pray to אַיָּאֵל with my **voice**.

²I **pour** out my complaint before Him
And I **declare** before **Him** my
distress.

³**When** my spirit grew faint within me,
Then You know my path.
In the **way** in which I **walk**
They have *hidden* a *trap* for me.

⁴Look to the **right hand** and **see**,
And no one is concerned for me;
No **refuge** remains to me;

No one inquires after my being.

⁵I *cried out* to **You**, O אַיָּאֵל:
I said, “**You** are my refuge,
My portion in the land of the **living**.”

⁶“**Listen** to my cry,
For I am brought **very** low;
Deliver me from my persecutors,
For they are too **strong** for me.

⁷“Bring my being out of prison,
To give **thanks** to **Your Name**.
Let the **righteous** gather around me,
Because You deal kindly with me.”

143 Hear my prayer,
O אַײַז,

Give ear to my pleadings
In **Your** trustworthiness.
Answer me in **Your righteousness**.

²And *do not* enter into **right-ruling**
with **Your** servant,

For before **You** no one **living**
is in the right.

³For the enemy has pursued my being;
He has crushed my **life** to the ground;
He has made me dwell in dark places,
Like the *dead* of old.

⁴Therefore my spirit grew faint
within me,

My **heart** within me is stunned.

⁵I **remembered** the days of old;

I meditated on **all Your** works;
I ponder on the **work** of **Your** hands.

⁶I have spread out my hands to **You**;
My being is like a thirsty land
for **You**. Selah.

⁷Hasten, answer me, O אַײַז;
My spirit fails! *Do not* hide **Your**
face from me,

Lest I be like those going
down into the pit.

⁸**Let** me **hear Your kindness**
in the morning,

For in **You** I have put my trust;

Let me **know** the **way**
in which I should **walk**,

For I have lifted up my being to **You**.

⁹Deliver me from my enemies,
O אַײַז;

I take **refuge** in **You**.

¹⁰**Teach** me to do **Your good** pleasure,
For **You** are my Elohim.

Let Your good Spirit lead me
In the land of straightness.

¹¹For the sake of **Your Name**,
O אַײַז, **revive** me!

In **Your righteousness**,
Bring my being out of *distress*.

¹²And in **Your kindness**,
Cut off my enemies.

And *destroy* **all** the adversaries
of my life,

For I am **Your** servant!

144 Blessed

be אַײַז my Rock,
Who is **teaching** my hands
for fighting,

My fingers for battle;

²**My kindness** and my *stronghold*,

My tower and my deliverer,

My shield and in whom I take refuge,

Who is subduing peoples under me.

³אַײַז, what is man, that You
should know him?

Son of man, that You
should *think* of him?

⁴Man is like a breath,

His days like a passing shadow.

⁵Incline **Your** heavens,

O אַײַז, and come down;

Touch the mountains that they smoke.

⁶Send forth lightning and *scatter* them,
Send forth **Your** arrows and confuse
them.

⁷Send forth **Your hand** from above;

Rescue me and **deliver** me out of
great waters,

From the **hand** of foreigners,

⁸**Whose** **mouth** has **spoken falsehood**,

And whose **right hand**

is a **right hand** of lies.

⁹O **Elohim**, a new song I sing to You;

On a harp of ten strings

I sing praises to **You**,

¹⁰**Who** gives **deliverance**

to sovereigns,

Who rescues Dawid **His** servant

From the *evil sword*.

¹¹Rescue me and **deliver** me from

the hand of foreigners,

Whose **mouth** has **spoken falsehood**,

And whose **right hand**

is a **right hand** of lies;

¹²**Because** our sons are like plants

Grown up in their youth;

Our daughters like hewn stones,

Polished, like a palace building;

¹³**Let** our storehouses be filled,

Supplying **all** kinds;

Let our sheep bring forth thousands

And ten thousands in our fields;

¹⁴Our cattle well-laden;

No breaking in, no going out;

And no crying in our streets.

¹⁵**Blessed** are the people who
have it so;
Blessed are the people whose
Elohim is אַיָּאֵל!

145 I exalt You, my Elohim,
O Sovereign and bless Your Name
forever and ever.

²All day long I bless You,
And praise Your Name
forever and ever.
³Great is אַיָּאֵל and greatly
to be praised;
And His greatness is unsearchable.
⁴Generation after generation
praise Your works,
And they declare Your mighty acts.
⁵I declare the esteemed splendour
of Your excellency,
And the matters of Your wondrous
works.

⁶And they speak of the might of Your
awesome acts,
And I recount Your greatness.
⁷They send forth the remembrance
of Your great goodness,
And they sing of Your righteousness.

⁸אַיָּאֵל shows favour and is
compassionate,
Patient and great in kindness.
⁹אַיָּאֵל is good to all,
And He has compassion on all
His works.

¹⁰All Your works give thanks to You,
O אַיָּאֵל,
And Your kind ones bless You.

¹¹They speak of the esteem
of Your reign,
And talk of Your might,

¹²To make known to the sons of men
His mighty acts,
And the esteemed splendour
of His reign.

¹³Your reign is an everlasting reign,
And Your rule is throughout
all generations.

¹⁴אַיָּאֵל is supporting all
who are falling,
And raising up all who are
bowed down.

¹⁵The eyes of all look to You
expectantly,
And You are giving them their food
in its season,

¹⁶Opening Your hand and satisfying
The desire of all that live.

¹⁷אַיָּאֵל is righteous in all His ways,
And kind in all His works.

¹⁸אַיָּאֵל is near to all
who call upon Him,
To all who call upon Him in truth.

¹⁹He does the desire
of those who fear Him;
And He hears their cry
and saves them.

²⁰אַיָּאֵל preserves all those
loving Him,
But all the wrong ones He destroys.

²¹My mouth speaks the praise of
אַיָּאֵל,
And let all flesh bless
His set-apart Name,
Forever and ever.

146 Praise Yah! Praise אַיָּאֵל,
O my being!

²While I live I praise אַיָּאֵל;
I sing praises to my Elohim
while I exist.

³Do not put your trust in princes,
In a son of man, in whom
is no deliverance.

⁴His spirit goes out,
he returns to his earth;
In that day his plans perish.

⁵Blessed is he who has the Ēl of
Ya'aqob for his help,
Whose expectancy is in אַיָּאֵל
his Elohim,

⁶Maker of the heavens and earth,
The sea and all that is in them,
Who is guarding truth forever,

⁷Doing right-ruling for the oppressed,
Giving bread to the hungry.

אַיָּאֵל releases those who are bound,
⁸אַיָּאֵל opens the eyes of the blind,

אַיָּאֵל raises those
who are bowed down,
אַיָּאֵל loves the righteous.

⁹אַיָּאֵל guards the strangers,
He lifts up the fatherless and widow,

But the way of the *wrong* ones
He turns upside down.

¹⁰אֲיָאֵל reigns **forever**, O Tsiyon,
Your Elohim to all generations.

Praise Yah!

147 Praise Yah!

For it is **good** to sing praises
to our **Elohim**.

For it is pleasant – **praise** is fitting.

²אֲיָאֵל builds up Yerushalayim,
He gathers the outcasts of Yisra'el –

³**He** **heals** the *broken-hearted*
And binds up their *wounds*.

⁴**He** appoints the number of the stars,
He gives names to **all** of them.

⁵Great is our **Master**
and mighty in power,
There is no limit to **His** understanding.

⁶אֲיָאֵל lifts up the meek ones,

He throws the *wrong* ones
down to the ground.

⁷Respond to אֲיָאֵל with giving
thanks;

Sing praises on a lyre to our **Elohim**,

⁸**Who** covers the heavens with clouds,
Who prepares rain for the earth,
Who makes grass to sprout
on the mountains,

⁹Giving to the beast its food,
To the young ravens that cry.

¹⁰**He** *does not delight*
in the strength of the horse,
He takes no pleasure in the legs
of a man.

¹¹אֲיָאֵל takes pleasure in those
who **fear Him**,

In those who wait for **His kindness**.

¹²Extol אֲיָאֵל, O Yerushalayim!
Praise your **Elohim**, O Tsiyon!

¹³For **He** has strengthened
the bars of your gates,
He has **blessed** your children
in your **midst**,

¹⁴**Who** makes **peace** in your borders,
He satisfies you with the finest wheat;

¹⁵**Who** sends out **His command**
to the earth,
His word runs **very speedily**;

¹⁶**Who** gives snow like wool,
He scatters the frost like ashes;

¹⁷Throwing out **His hail** like pieces;
Who does **stand** before **His** cold?

¹⁸**He** sends out **His word**
and melts them,

He causes **His wind** to **blow** –
the waters flow;

¹⁹Declaring **His Word** to Ya'aqob,
His laws and **His right-rulings**
to Yisra'el.

²⁰**He** has not done so with any nation;
And they have not **known**
His right rulings! Praise Yah!

148 Praise Yah!

Praise אֲיָאֵל from the heavens,
Praise **Him** in the heights!

²Praise **Him**, **all His** messengers;
Praise **Him**, **all His** hosts!

³Praise **Him**, sun and moon;
Praise **Him**, **all** you stars of **light**!

⁴Praise **Him**, heavens of heavens,
And you waters above the heavens!

⁵Let them **praise** the **Name**
of אֲיָאֵל,

For **He** **commanded**
and they were created.

⁶And **He** **established** them
forever and **ever**,
He gave a **law** and they pass not
beyond.

⁷Praise אֲיָאֵל from the earth,
You **great** sea creatures
and **all** the depths,

⁸Fire and hail, snow and clouds,
Stormy *wind* that does **His word**,

⁹The mountains and **all** hills,
Fruit *tree* and **all** cedars,

¹⁰Wild beasts and **all** cattle,
Creeping creatures and flying birds,

¹¹Sovereigns of the earth
and **all** peoples,
Rulers and **all** judges of the earth,

¹²Both young men and maidens,
Old men and children.

¹³Let them **praise** the **Name**
of אֲיָאֵל,

For **His Name** alone is exalted,
His splendour is above the earth
and heavens.

¹⁴**He** also lifts up the horn
of **His** people,

The **praise** of **all His kind** ones;
Of the children of Yisra'ël,
A people **near** to **Him**. Praise Yah!

Praise **Him** with resounding cymbals!
Let all that have breath **praise** Yah.
Praise Yah!

149 Praise Yah!

Sing to אָזָא a new song,
His praise in an assembly
of **kind** ones.
²**Let** Yisra'ël **rejoice** in their Maker;
Let the children of Tsiyon
exult in their Sovereign.
³**Let** them **praise His Name**
in a dance;
Let them sing praises to **Him**
with the tambourine and lyre.
⁴For אָזָא takes pleasure
in **His** people;
He embellishes the meek ones
with **deliverance**.
⁵**Let** the **kind** ones exult in esteem;
Let them sing aloud on their beds.
⁶**Let** the exaltation of Ēl
be in their mouth,
And a two-edged *sword* in their **hand**,
⁷To *execute* **vengeance** on the *gentiles*,
Punishments on the peoples;
⁸To bind their sovereigns with chains,
And their nobles with iron bands;
⁹To *execute* on them
the **written** right-ruling;
A splendour it is for all His **kind** ones.
Praise Yah!

150 Praise Yah!

Praise Ēl in
His set-apart place;
Praise **Him** in **His** mighty expanse!
²Praise **Him** for **His** mighty acts;
Praise **Him according to His**
excellent greatness!
³Praise **Him** with the blowing
of the ram's horn;
Praise **Him** with the harp and lyre!
⁴Praise **Him** with tambourine
and dance;
Praise **Him** with stringed instruments
and flutes!
⁵Praise **Him** with sounding cymbals;

MISHLĒ

PROVERBS

1 The proverbs of Shelomoh son of Dawid, sovereign of Yisra'el:

²For knowing **wisdom** and discipline,
For **understanding the words of understanding**,

³For receiving the **discipline** of wisdom, righteousness, right-ruling, and straightness;

⁴For giving **insight** to the simple, **Knowledge** and discretion to the young.

⁵The **wise** one **hears** and increases learning,
And the **understanding** one gets **wise** counsel,

⁶For **understanding** a proverb and a figure,
The **words of the wise** and their riddles.

⁷The **fear of אַיָּאֵל** is the beginning of **knowledge**;
Fools *despise* **wisdom** and **discipline**.

⁸My son, **heed the discipline** of your father,
And *do not forsake* the **Torah** of your mother;

⁹For they are a fair wreath on your head and chains about your neck.

¹⁰My son, if *sinner*s entice you, *do not* give in.

¹¹**If** they say, "**Come** with us, *let us lie* in wait for **blood**,
Let us ambush the **innocent** without cause.

¹²**Let** us swallow them **alive** like the grave and entirely,
Like those going down to the pit.

¹³**Let** us find **all precious** goods,
Let us fill our houses with spoil.

¹⁴"Cast in your **lot** among us,
Let us **all** have one purse,"

¹⁵My son, *do not walk* in the **way** with them,
Keep your foot from their path;

¹⁶For their feet run to *evil* and they hurry to shed blood.

¹⁷For in vain the *net* is spread in the sight of any bird.

¹⁸**But** they *lie* in wait for their own blood,
They ambush their own **lives**.

¹⁹Such are the **ways** of everyone *greedy* for gain;

It takes away the **life** of its owners.
²⁰Wisdom calls aloud outside;
She raises her **voice** in the broad places.

²¹At the head of the noisy streets she cries out,

At the openings of the gates,
In the city she speaks her **words**:

²²"**How** long, you simple ones,
Would you **love** simplicity,
And *shall* scoffers **delight** in their scoffing and fools *hate* **knowledge**?"

²³"Turn at my *reproof*.

See, I **pour out** my spirit on you,
I make my **words known** to you.

²⁴"**Because** I called and you *refused*,
I have **stretched out** my **hand** and no one inclined,

²⁵"And you spurned **all** my counsel,
And *would not* yield to my reproof,

²⁶"**Let** me also laugh at your *calamity*,
Mock when your *dread* comes,

²⁷"**When** your *dread* **comes** like *Storm* and your *calamity* **comes** like a whirlwind,

When *distress* and anguish **come** upon you.

²⁸"**Let** them then **call on** me but I will not answer;

Let them **seek** me, but not find me.

²⁹"**Because** they *hated* **knowledge** And *did not* choose to **fear אַיָּאֵל**,

³⁰"They *did not* **accept** my counsel,
They *despised* **all** my reproof,

³¹“Therefore let them eat the **fruit**
of their *own way*;
And be filled with their own counsels.
³²“For the turning away of the simple
slays them and the complacency
of fools destroys them.
³³“**But whoever** listens to me
dwells safely and is at ease from
the *dread of evil*.”

2 My son, if you **accept** my word
And treasure up my commands in you,
²So that you make your ear attend
to **wisdom** and incline your **heart**
to **understanding**;
³For if you cry for discernment,
Lift up your **voice** for understanding,
⁴**If** you **seek** her as silver and **search**
for her as *hidden treasures*
⁵**Then** you would **understand**
the **fear** of אַיָּאֵל and find
the **knowledge** of Elohim.
⁶For אַיָּאֵל gives **wisdom**;
Out of **His mouth** come
knowledge and **understanding**.
⁷And **He** treasures up
stability for the straight,
A shield to those walking blamelessly,
⁸To **watch** over the paths
of right-ruling,
And the **way** of **His kind** ones
He guards.
⁹**Then** you would **understand**
righteousness right-ruling and
straightness –Every **good** path.
¹⁰For **wisdom** would enter your **heart**,
And **knowledge** be pleasant
to your being.
¹¹Discretion would **guard** you;
Understanding would **watch** over you,
¹²To **deliver** you from the *evil way*,
From the man who speaks perversities,
¹³Those who leave
the paths of straightness
To **walk** in the **ways** of *darkness*;
¹⁴**Who** **rejoice** to do *evil*;
They **delight** in the perversities
of *evil*;

¹⁵**Whose** paths are crooked,
And they are *perverted* in their ways;
¹⁶To **deliver** you from
the *strange woman*,
From the foreigner who
flatters with her **words**
¹⁷**Who** forsakes the companion
of her youth,
And has *forgotten* the **covenant**
of her **Elohim**.
¹⁸For her house has sunk down
to *death* and her paths to the dead;
¹⁹None going in to her does **return**,
Nor do they reach the paths of **life**
²⁰So **walk** in the **way** of **goodness**,
And **guard** the paths of righteousness.
²¹For the **straight shall** dwell in the
earth and the **perfect** be left in it
²²**But the wrong shall be cut off**
from the earth,
And the treacherous ones *plucked*
out of it.

3 My son, *do not forget* my **Torah**,
And let your **heart**
watch over my **commands**;
²For length of days and long **life**
And **peace** they add to you.
³**Let** not kindness and truth
forsake you,
Bind them around your neck and
write them on the tablet of your **heart**,
⁴Thus finding **favour** and **good insight**
In the eyes of **Elohim** and man.
⁵Trust in אַיָּאֵל with **all** your **heart**,
Lean not on your own understanding;
⁶Know **Him** in **all** your ways,
And **He** makes **all** your paths **straight**.
⁷**Do not** be **wise** in your own eyes;
Fear אַיָּאֵל and turn away from *evil*.
⁸It is **healing** to your navel,
And moistening to your bones.
⁹Esteem אַיָּאֵל with your goods and
the **first-fruits** of **all** your increase;
¹⁰**Then** your storehouses
shall be filled with plenty
and your vats overflow with new **wine**.

¹¹My son, *do not despise*
the **discipline** of אַיָּאָל
and *do not* loathe **His** reproof;
¹²For whom אַיָּאָל loves
He reproves,
As a father the son whom
he delights in.
¹³**Blessed** is the man who has **found**
Wisdom and the man
who gets understanding;
¹⁴For the *gain* from it is better
than gain from silver
and its increase than fine gold.
¹⁵She is more **precious** than rubies,
And **all** your delights are not
comparable to her.
¹⁶Length of days is in her **right hand**,
Riches and **esteem** in her left **hand**.
¹⁷Her **ways** are pleasant ways,
And **all** her paths are peace.
¹⁸She is a **tree of life**
to those taking hold of her,
And **blessed** are **all** who retain her.
¹⁹אַיָּאָל founded the earth
by wisdom;
He established the heavens
by **understanding**;
²⁰By **His knowledge** the depths
were broken up
and clouds drop down dew.
²¹My son, let them not depart
from your eyes;
Watch over sound **wisdom**
and discretion;
²²**Then** they become **life** to your being
And an adorning to your neck.
²³**Then** you would **walk** safely
in your way and your foot
would not stumble.
²⁴**When** you *lie* down,
you need not be *afraid*.
And you *shall lie* down
and your sleep **shall be** sweet.
²⁵**Do not** be *afraid* of **sudden dread**,
Nor of the *ruin* of the **wrong**
when it comes;

²⁶For אַיָּאָל is at your side
and **He shall guard** your foot
from being caught.
²⁷**Do not** withhold **good**
from those who **deserve** it,
When it is in the **power**
of your **hand** to do so.
²⁸**Do not** say to your neighbour,
“Go and **come back tomorrow**
and I’ll give it,”
When you have it with you.
²⁹**Do not plan evil against** your
neighbour,
Seeing he dwells safely beside you.
³⁰**Do not strive** with a man without
cause, if he has done you no *evil*.
³¹**Do not envy** a cruel man,
And choose none of his ways;
³²For the **perverse** one is an
abomination to אַיָּאָל,
And **His secret** counsel
is with the straight.
³³The **curse** of אַיָּאָל
is on the house of the **wrong**,
But He blesses the home
of the righteous.
³⁴**He** certainly scoffs the scoffers,
But gives **favour** to the humble.
³⁵The **wise** do inherit esteem,
But fools are bearing away shame!

4 Children, **Listen** to the **discipline**
of a father and give attention
to **know** understanding;
²For I gave you **good** instruction:
Do not forsake my **Torah**.
³For I was my father’s son,
Tender and the only one
in the eyes of my mother,
⁴**Then** he **taught** me and said to me,
“**Let your heart** hold fast my **words**;
Guard my **commands** and **live**.
⁵“**Get wisdom!** Get **understanding!**
Do not forget and *do not* turn away
From the **words** of my **mouth**.
⁶“**Do not** leave her
and let her **guard** you;

Love her and let her **watch** over you.

⁷⁴The beginning of **wisdom** is:

Get **wisdom!**

And with **all** your getting,

get **understanding**.

⁸⁴Exalt her and let her uplift you;
She brings you **esteem** when you
embrace her.

⁹⁴She gives your head a fair wreath,
She shields you with
an adorning crown.⁷

¹⁰**Hear**, my son and **accept** my **words**,
And let the years of your **life** be many.

¹¹I have **taught** you in the **way**
of **wisdom**,

I have led you in **straight** paths.

¹²**When** you **walk** your steps
shall not be hindered,

And if you run you **shall** not *stumble*.

¹³Hold fast to discipline, *do not* let go;
Watch over her, for she is your **life**.

¹⁴**Do not** enter the path of the **wrong**,
And *do not* **walk** in the **way** of
evil-doers.

¹⁵Avoid it, *do not* pass by it;
Turn away from it and pass on.

¹⁶For they *do not* sleep
unless they have done *evil*.

And their sleep is taken away
unless they make someone fall.

¹⁷For they have eaten the **bread**
of **wrongdoing**,

And they drink the **wine** of *violence*.

¹⁸**But** the path of the **righteous** is like
the **light** of dawn,
That shines ever brighter unto the
perfect day.

¹⁹The **way** of the **wrong** is like
darkness;

They *do not* **know** at what they
stumble.

²⁰My son, **listen** to my **words**;
Incline your ear to my sayings.

²¹**Let** them not depart from your eyes;
Guard them in the **midst** of your
heart;

²²For they are **life** to those who find
them,

And **healing** to **all** their *flesh*.

²³**Watch** over your **heart**

with **all** diligence,

For out of it are the sources of **life**.

²⁴Turn away from you
a *crooked* **mouth**,
And put **perverse** lips far from you.

²⁵**Let** your eyes look forward,
And your eyelids
look **straight** before you.

²⁶**Consider** the path of your feet,
And **all** your ways are **established**

²⁷**Do not** turn to the **right** or the left;
Turn your foot away from *evil*.

5 My son, **listen** to my **wisdom**;

Incline your ear to my understanding.

²So as to **watch** over discretion,
And your lips **guard** **knowledge**.

³For the lips of a *strange* woman
drip honey,

And her **mouth** is smoother than oil;
⁴**But** in the **end**

she is *bitter* as wormwood,
Sharp as a two-edged *sword*.

⁵Her feet go down to *death*,
Her steps lay hold of the grave.

⁶She *does not* consider the path of **life**;
Her **ways** are **unstable**—you *do not*
know it.

⁷So **now**, **listen** to me, you children,
And *do not* turn away from
the **words** of my **mouth**.

⁸Keep *your way* far from her,
And *do not* **come** **near**
the **door** of her house,

⁹Lest you give your splendor to others,
And your years to one who is cruel;

¹⁰Lest strangers be filled
with your strength,

And your labours go
to the house of a foreigner.

¹¹**Then** you **shall** howl
in your **latter** end,

When your *flesh* and your body
are *consumed*,

¹²And **shall** say,
“**How** I have *hated* discipline,

And my **heart** has *despised* reproof!
¹³“And I have not heeded the **voice**
of my **teachers** and I have not inclined
my ear to those who **instructed** me!
¹⁴“In a **little while** I was in **all evil**,
In the **midst** of an assembly
and a congregation.”
¹⁵Drink water from your own cistern,
And running water from
your own well.
¹⁶**Should** your springs
be *scattered* abroad,
Rivers of water in the streets?
¹⁷**Let** them be only your own,
And not for strangers with you.
¹⁸**Let** your fountain be **blessed** and
rejoice with the wife of your youth –
¹⁹A **loving** deer and a pleasant doe!
Let her breasts satisfy you at **all times**
And be captivated by her **love** always.
²⁰For why should you, my son,
Be captivated by a *strange* woman
and embrace the bosom of a foreigner?
²¹For the **ways** of man
Are before the eyes of אַיָּאָל,
And **He** considers **all** his paths.
²²The **wrong** one is entrapped
in his own *crookednesses* and
he is **caught** in the cords of his *sin*.
²³He dies for lack of **discipline**
and in the greatness of his folly
He goes *astray*.

6 My son, if you:
Have become guarantor
or your friend,
Have *shaken* hands in **pledge**
for a stranger,
²Have been snared by the **words**
of your own **mouth**,
Have been **caught** by the **words**
of your **mouth** –
³**Do** this at once, my son
and **deliver** yourself,
For you have **come** into the **hand**
of your friend:

Go, humble yourself
and urge your friend.
⁴Give no sleep to your eyes,
Nor slumber to your eyelids.
⁵Deliver yourself like a gazelle
from *the hunter's hand*,
And like a bird from the **hand**
of the trapper.
⁶Go to the ant, you lazy one!
See her **ways** and be **wise**,
⁷Which, having no commander,
overseer or ruler,
⁸Provides her supplies in the summer,
Gathers her food in the harvest.
⁹**How** long would you *lie* down,
O lazy one?
When do you arise from your sleep?
¹⁰A *little* sleep, a *little* slumber,
A *little* folding of the hands
to *lie* down;
¹¹And your poverty **shall come**
like a prowler,
And your need as an armed man.
¹²A man of Beliya'al, a *wicked* man,
Walks with a **perverse mouth**,
¹³Winks with his eyes, shuffles his feet,
Points with his fingers;
¹⁴Perverseness is in his **heart**,
Plotting *evil* at **all times**,
He sends out strife.
¹⁵Therefore his *calamity comes*
suddenly and **instantly** he is *broken*,
And there is no healing.
¹⁶These six matters אַיָּאָל *hates*,
Seven are an **abomination** to Him
¹⁷A *proud* look, A *lying* tongue,
And hands shedding **innocent blood**,
¹⁸A **heart** devising *wicked* schemes,
Feet quick to run to *evil*,
¹⁹A *false witness* breathing out lies,
And one who **causes** strife
among brothers.
²⁰My son, **watch** over
your father's **command**,
And *do not forsake* the **Torah**
of your mother.
²¹Bind them on your **heart** always;
Tie them around your neck.

²²*When* you are walking about,
it leads you;
When you *lie* down, it guards you.
And when you have woken up,
It talks to you.
²³For the **command** is a lamp,
And the **Torah** a **light**,
And reproofs of **discipline**
a **way** of life,
²⁴To **guard** you *against*
an *evil* woman,
From the flattering tongue
of a *strange* woman.
²⁵*Do not* desire
her prettiness in your heart,
Neither let her captivate you
with her eyelids.
²⁶For **because** of a *whore*,
One is brought to a crust of bread.
And an adulteress hunts
a precious **life**.
²⁷Would a man take *fire* to his bosom,
And his garments not be *burned*?
²⁸Would a man **walk** on hot coals,
And his feet not be scorched?
²⁹So is he who goes
in to his neighbour's wife;
None who *touches* her
goes unpunished.
³⁰*They do not despise* a thief
If he steals to satisfy
his appetite when he is starving.
³¹Yet if he is **caught**
he **repays** sevenfold;
He gives **all** the wealth of his house.
³²**He** who commits adultery
with woman lacks heart;
He who does it destroys his own **life**.
³³**He** finds smiting and shame,
And his *reproach* is not wiped away.
³⁴For *jealousy* enrages a man,
And he *does not spare*
in the **day of vengeance**.
³⁵**He** *does not* regard any ransom,
Nor **accept** your *bribe*, however great!

7 My son, **guard** my **words** and
treasure up my **commands** with you.
²**Guard** my **commands** and **live**,
And my **Torah** as the apple
of your eye.
³Bind them on your fingers;
Write them on the tablet
of your **heart**.
⁴Say to **wisdom**, "You are my sister,"
And **call understanding**
a close friend,
⁵To **guard** you *against*
the *strange* woman,
Against the foreigner who flatters
with her **words**.
⁶For at the window of my house
I **looked** through my lattice,
⁷And I **saw** among the simple,
I perceived among the youths,
A young man lacking **heart**,
⁸Passing through the street
near her corner;
And he went the **way** to her house
⁹In the twilight, in the **evening**,
In the black and dark night.
¹⁰And look, a woman met him
Dressed like a *whore*,
With a *hidden heart*.
¹¹She was boisterous and *stubborn*,
Her feet *did not* stay at her own house.
¹²**Now** in the street, **Now** in the square,
And at **every** corner she lurks.
¹³She took hold of him and kissed him;
She *hardened* her face and said to him:
¹⁴"Peace offerings are with me;
Today I have paid my vows.
¹⁵"Therefore I came out to meet you,
To **earnestly seek** your face,
and I found you.
¹⁶"I have spread my bed
with coverings,
Colored linens of Mitsrayim.
¹⁷"I have sprinkled my bed
with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon.
¹⁸"**Come**, let us take our fill
of **love** until morning;
Let us **delight** ourselves with **love**.

¹⁹“For my husband is not at home;
He has gone on a long journey;
²⁰”He took a bag of silver with him;
He comes home on the **day**
of the new moon.”
²¹With her many **words**
she leads him *astray*,
With her **smooth** lips she seduces him.
²²**He** goes after her **immediately**,
Like an ox he goes to the slaughter,
And as in chains,
a *fool* to the *punishment*,
²³Til an arrow strikes through his liver;
Like a bird rushing into a *snare*
and *did not know* it would take
his **life**.
²⁴And **now**, **listen** to me, you children;
Pay attention to the **words**
of my mouth:
²⁵**Do not** let your **heart**
turn aside to her ways,
Do not go *astray* in her paths.
²⁶For many are the *wounded*
she has **caused** to fall,
And numerous **all** her *slain* ones.
²⁷Her house is the **way** to the grave,
Going down to the rooms of *death*.

8 Does not **wisdom call** and
understanding lift up her **voice**?

²On the top of the heights along
the way,
Between the paths she has taken
her stand.
³Beside the gates, leading to the city,
At the entrances, she shouts:
⁴“O men, I call, to you,
And my **voice** is to the sons of men.
⁵“You simple ones, understand
insight and you fools,
Be of an **understanding heart**.
⁶“**Listen**, for I **speak** noble **words**,
And the opening of my lips
is about straightness;
⁷“For my **mouth** speaks **truth**;
And *wrongness* is an **abomination**
to my lips.

⁸“All the **words** of my **mouth** are in
righteousness,
None of them twisted or crooked,
⁹“All of them plain to him
who understands,
And **straight** to those
who find **knowledge**.
¹⁰“Accept my **discipline** and not silver,
Knowledge rather than choice gold;
¹¹“For **wisdom** is better than rubies,
And **all** delights are
not comparable to her.
¹²“I, **wisdom**, have dwelt with insight,
And I find **knowledge**, foresight.
¹³“The **fear** of אַיָּאֵל is to *hate evil*.
I have *hated* pride and arrogance,
the *evil way* and the *perverse mouth*.
¹⁴“Counsel is mine and sound wisdom;
I am **understanding**
and mightiness is mine.
¹⁵“By me sovereigns reign
and rulers make **righteous** decrees.
¹⁶“By me princes **rule** and nobles all
the judges of the earth.
¹⁷“I **love** those who **love** me,
And those who **earnestly**
seek me do find me.
¹⁸“Riches and **esteem** are with me,
Enduring wealth and **righteousness**.
¹⁹“My **fruit** is better than gold
and fine gold,
And my increase than choice silver.
²⁰“I **walk** in the **way** of **righteousness**,
And in the **midst** of the paths
of **right**-ruling,
²¹“To bestow substance on those who
love me and to fill their treasuries.
²²“אַיָּאֵל possessed me,
The beginning of **His way**,
As the **first** of **His works** of old.
²³“I was set up ages ago, at the **first**,
Before the earth ever was.
²⁴“**When** there were no depths
I was brought forth,
When there were no springs
heavy with water.
²⁵“Before mountains were sunk,
Before the hills, I was brought forth,

²⁶“Before **He** had made the earth and the fields or the **first** dust of the world.

²⁷“**When He** prepared the heavens,

I was there,

When He decreed a vault

on the face of the deep,

²⁸“**When He** set the clouds above,

When He made the fountains

of the deep **strong**,

²⁹“**When He** gave to the sea its limit,

So that the waters would

not *transgress* **His command**,

When He decreed the foundations

of the earth,

³⁰“**Then** I was beside **Him**,

a master workman,

And I was **His** delight, day by day

Rejoicing before **Him** all the **time**,

³¹“Rejoicing in the world, **His** earth;

And my delights were with

the sons of men.

³²“And now, listen to me, you children,

For **blessed** are they

who **guard** my ways.

³³“Listen to discipline, become wise,

And *do not refuse* it.

³⁴“Blessed is the man

who listens to me,

Watching daily at my gates,

Waiting at the posts of my **doors**.

³⁵“For *whoever* finds me

shall find life,

And obtain **favour** from אַיָּאָל,

³⁶“**But** he who *sins against* me

injures himself;

All who *hate* me **love** death!”

9 Wisdom has built her house,
 She has hewn out its seven columns,
²She has slaughtered her meat,
 She has mixed her **wine**,
 She has also prepared her table.
³She has **sent** out her young women,
 She cries out from the highest
 places of the city:
⁴“**Who** is simple?
 Let him turn in here!”

As for him who lacks **heart**,
 she says to him,

⁵“**Come**, eat of my **bread**
 and drink of the **wine** I have mixed.”

⁶Leave the simple ones and **live**,
Walk in the **way** of understanding.

⁷**He** who reproves a scoffer
 gets *shame* for himself,

And he who rebukes

a **wrong** one gets himself a blemish.

⁸**Do not reprove** a scoffer,

lest he *hate* you;

Reprove a **wise** one and he loves you.

⁹Give **instruction** to a **wise** one

and he is wiser still;

Teach a **righteous** one

and he increases in learning.

¹⁰The **fear** of אַיָּאָל is

the beginning of **wisdom**,

And the **knowledge** of

the **Set-apart** One is **understanding**.

¹¹For by me your days become many,

And years of **life** are **added** to you.

¹²**If** you have become **wise**,

You have become **wise** for yourself,

And if you have scoffed,

You alone bear it.

¹³A **foolish** woman is loud,

Simple and without **knowledge**.

¹⁴For she has seated herself

At the **door** of her house,

On a seat by the highest places

of the city,

¹⁵To **call** to those who pass by,

Who go **straight** on their way:

¹⁶“**Who** is simple?

Let him turn in here.”

And as for him who lacks **heart**,
 she says to him,

¹⁷“Stolen waters are sweet,

And **bread eaten** in **secret**

is pleasant.”

¹⁸**But** he *does not know*

that the *dead* are there,

Her guests are in the depths

of the grave.

10

Proverbs of Shelomoh:

A **wise** son makes a father **rejoice**,

But a **foolish** son

is his mother's sorrow.

²Treasures of *wrongness*

are of no value,

But righteousness delivers from *death*.

³אֵיכָל *does not* let the being of the righteous go hungry,

But He thrusts away the desire of the *wrong*.

⁴Poor is he who **works**

with a lazy **hand**,

But the **hand** of the hard worker makes rich.

⁵He who gathers in summer is a **wise** son,

He who sleeps in harvest is a son who **causes** *shame*.

⁶Blessings are on the head of the **righteous**,

But *violence* covers the **mouth** of the *wrong*.

⁷The **remembrance** of the **righteous** is **blessed**,

But the name of the *wrong* ones rot.

⁸The wise in heart accepts commands,

But one with *foolish* lips falls.

⁹He who walks in integrity walks safely,

But he who *perverts* his ways becomes known.

¹⁰He who winks with the eye **causes** sorrow,

And one with *foolish* lips falls.

¹¹The **mouth** of the **righteous** is a fountain of **life**,

But *violence* covers the **mouth** of the *wrong*.

¹²Hatred stirs up *strife*,

But **love** covers **all** *transgressions*.

¹³Wisdom is **found** on the lips

of him who has **understanding**,

But a **rod** is for the back of him who lacks **heart**.

¹⁴The **wise** treasure up **knowledge**,

But the **mouth** of a *fool* is **near** *ruin*.

¹⁵The rich man's wealth is his **strong** city;

The *ruin* of the *poor* is their poverty.

¹⁶The wage of the **righteous** is for **life**,

The increase of the *wrong* is for *sin*.

¹⁷He who **heeds** **discipline**

is in the **way of life** but

He who *refuses* *reproof* goes *astray*.

¹⁸He who hides hatred has *lying* lips, And he who **sends** out a *slander*

is a fool.

¹⁹**When** **words** are many,

Transgression is not **absent**,

But he who restrains his lips is **wise**.

²⁰The tongue of the **righteous** is choice silver;

The **heart** of the *wrong* is of little *value*.

²¹The lips of the **righteous** shepherd many,

But fools *die* for lack of **heart**.

²²The **blessing** of אֵיכָל

makes one rich,

And **He** adds no pain with it.

²³To **work** out *wicked* schemes Is like sport to a *fool*,

But **wisdom** is for a man of understanding.

²⁴**What** the *wrong* one **fears** **comes** upon him,

But the desire of the **righteous** is granted.

²⁵As the *whirlwind* passes by,

The *wrong* one is no more,

But the **righteous** has an **everlasting** foundation.

²⁶As vinegar to the *teeth* and smoke to the eyes,

So is the lazy one to those who send him.

²⁷The **fear** of אֵיכָל prolongs days,

But the years of the *wrong* ones are shortened.

²⁸The **righteous** look forward to joy,

But the expectancy of the *wrong* ones *perish*.

²⁹The way of אַיִן
is a stronghold for the **perfect**,
But ruin to the workers of *wickedness*.

³⁰The **righteous** is never shaken,
While the *wrong shall* not dwell
in the earth.

³¹The **mouth** of the **righteous**
brings forth **wisdom**,
But the tongue of *perverseness*
is cut out.

³²The lips of the **righteous**
know what is pleasing,
But the **mouth** of the *wrong*
speaks perverseness.

11 A *false* scale is an **abomination**
to אַיִן,

But a **perfect** weight is **His** delight.

²Pride comes, then **comes** shame;

But with the humble is **wisdom**.

³The integrity of the **straight** ones
guides them,

But the slipperiness of the treacherous
destroys them.

⁴Riches do not profit
in the day of *wrath*,

But **righteousness** delivers from
death.

⁵The **righteousness** of the **perfect**
Makes his **way straight**,

But by his own *wrongness*
the *wrong* one falls.

⁶The **righteousness** of the **straight**
ones delivers them,

But the treacherous
are *caught* by greed.

⁷*When* a *wrong* man dies,
expectancy perishes,

And the ambition of the *wicked*
shall be lost.

⁸The **righteous** is **delivered**
from distress,

And the *wrong* one takes his place.

⁹The *defiled* one destroys his
neighbour with his **mouth**,

But the **righteous** is **delivered**

by **knowledge**.

¹⁰*When* the **righteous** prosper,
the city rejoices.

And when the *wrong perish*
there is shouting.

¹¹By the **blessing** of the **straight**
the city is exalted,

But by the **mouth** of the *wrong*
it is *overthrown*.

¹²He who lacks **heart** despises
his neighbour,

But a man of **understanding**
keeps silence.

¹³A *slanderer* is a revealer of **secrets**,
But one with a **trustworthy** spirit
conceals a matter.

¹⁴Without guidance the people fall,
But in a **great** counsellor
there is safety.

¹⁵He who is guarantor for a stranger
suffers harm,

But one who *hates shaking* hands
in **pledge** is safe.

¹⁶A woman showing **favour**
obtains esteem,

But *ruthless* men obtain riches.

¹⁷A **kind** man is rewarding his being,
But he who is cruel troubles
his own flesh.

¹⁸The *wrong* one earns *false* wages,
But the one sowing **righteousness**,
a **true** reward.

¹⁹Thus **righteousness** *leads* to **life**,
And one pursuing *evil*,
to his own *death*.

²⁰The *perverse* of **heart** are an
abomination to אַיִן,

But the **perfect** in the **Way**
are **His** delight.

²¹Hand to **hand**, the *evil* one
does not go unpunished,

But the seed of the **righteous**
shall escape.

²²Like a ring of gold in a pig's snout,
Is a lovely woman
who lacks **good** sense.

²³The desire of the **righteous**
is only **good**,
The expectancy of the **wrong** is **wrath**.

²⁴There is one who scatters,
yet increases more.

And one who withholds
more than is right,

But it comes to poverty.

²⁵The generous being is enriched,
And he who waters
is also watered himself.

²⁶The people **curse** him
who withholds grain,

But blessing is on the head of him
who sells it.

²⁷He who **earnestly** seeks **good**,
Seeks what is pleasing;

But to him who seeks *evil*,

It **comes** to him.

²⁸He who **trusts** in his riches falls,
But the **righteous** flourish like a leaf.

²⁹He who troubles his own house
inherits wind,
And the *fool* is servant to the **wise**
of **heart**.

³⁰The **fruit** of the **righteous**
is a *tree* of **life**,
And he who is winning lives is **wise**.

³¹**See**, the **righteous** in the earth
shall be rewarded,
How much more the **wrong**
and the *sinner*!

12 *Whoever* loves **discipline**
loves **knowledge**,

But he who *hates reproof* is stupid.

²The **good** obtains **favour**
from אַיָּאָל,

But the man of *wicked* devices **He**
declares *wrong*.

³A man is not established
by *wrongness*,

But the root of the **righteous**
shall not be moved.

⁴A capable wife is the crown
of her husband,

But one causing *shame*
is like rotteness in his bones.

⁵The *thoughts* of the **righteous**
are right-ruling,

The counsels of the **wrong** are *deceit*.

⁶The **words** of the **wrong** are,
“Lie in wait for **blood**,”

But the **mouth** of the **straight**
delivers them.

⁷The **wrong** are *overthrown*,
And are no more,

But the house of the **righteous** stands.

⁸A man is **praised according**
to his **wisdom**,

But the *perverted* of **heart**
becomes *despised*.

⁹Better to be lightly esteemed
and have a servant,
Than the highly esteemed
who lacks bread.

¹⁰The **righteous** regards
the **life** of his beast,

But the **compassion** of the **wrong**
is cruelty.

¹¹He who tills his land is **satisfied**
with bread,

But he who pursues vanities
is lacking heart.

¹²The **wrong shall** covet
the *catch* of *evil-doers*,

But the root of the **righteous**
yields fruit.

³In the *transgression* of the lips
is an *evil snare*,

But the **righteous** gets out of *distress*.

¹⁴From the **fruit** of his **mouth**
one is filled with **good**,

And the **work** of a man's hands
is **given** back to him.

¹⁵The **way** of a *fool*

is **right** in his own eyes,

But he who **listens** to advice is **wise**.

¹⁶A fool's *wrath* is **known** at once,

But a clever one covers *shame*.

¹⁷**He** who speaks **truth**
declares **righteousness**,

But a false witness, deceit.

¹⁸Rash speaking is like piercings
of a sword,

But the tongue of the **wise** is healing.

¹⁹The lip of truth is established forever,

But a lying tongue
is but for a moment.

²⁰Deceit is in the **heart** of those
who plot *evil*,

But counsellors of **peace** have joy.

²¹No harm befalls the **righteous**,
But the **wrong shall be** filled with *evil*.

²²Lying lips are an **abomination**
to אַיָּאָל,

But those who deal **truly**
are **His** delight.

²³A clever man is concealing
knowledge,

But the **heart** of fools proclaims folly.

²⁴The **hand** of the hard worker rules,
But the lazy is put to compulsory
labor.

²⁵Anxiety in the **heart** of man **causes**
depression,

But a good word makes him glad.

²⁶The **righteous** is a guide to his
neighbour,

But the **way** of the **wrong** leads them
astray.

²⁷The lazy one has no game to roast,
But the hard worker prizes his
possessions.

²⁸In the **way** of **righteousness** is **life**,
And in its pathway there is no *death*.

13 A wise son *accepts*

his father's discipline,

But a scoffer **shall** not listen to rebuke.

²From the **fruit** of the **mouth**
a man eats the **good**,

But the desire of the treacherous
is for *violence*.

³He who watches over his **mouth**
guards his being,

But he who opens wide his lips
comes to ruin.

⁴The being of the lazy one craves,
but has not;

While the being of the hard workers
are enriched.

⁵A **righteous** one *hates a lying word*,
But a wrong man is loathsome
and **comes to shame**.

⁶Righteousness watches over him
who is **perfect** in the **way**,

But wrongness overthrows the *sinner*;

⁷There is one who makes himself rich,
Yet *has none at all*.

And one who makes himself *poor*,
Yet has **great** riches.

⁸The ransom of a man's **life**
is his riches,

But the *poor does not hear* rebuke.

⁹The **light** of the **righteous rejoices**,
But the lamp of the **wrong** is put out.

¹⁰By pride **comes only strife**,
But wisdom is with those
who take advice.

¹¹Wealth from vanity diminishes,

But he who gathers by **hand** increases.

¹²Expectancy drawn out makes
the **heart sick**,

But a longing **come true**
is a *tree* of life.

¹³*He* who despises the **Word**
is destroyed,

But he who *fears* the **command**
is rewarded.

¹⁴The **Torah** of the **wise**
is a fountain of **life**,

Turning one away from
the *snares of death*.

¹⁵**Good understanding** gains **favour**,
But the **way** of the treacherous is hard.

¹⁶Every one with **insight**
acts with **knowledge**,
But a fool spreads folly.

¹⁷A messenger that is **wrong**
falls into *evil*,

But a trustworthy envoy
is a healing.

¹⁸Poverty and *shame* are for him
Who ignores discipline,

But he who **heeds** *reproof* is esteemed.

¹⁹A desire **accomplished** is **sweet** to the being,

But to turn away from *evil* is an **abomination** to fools.

²⁰He who walks with the **wise shall be wise**,

But the companion of fools *suffers evil*.

²¹*Evil* pursues *sinner*s,

But good is repaid to the righteous.

²²A **good** man leaves an **inheritance** to his children's children,

But the wealth of the *sinner* is stored up for the righteous.

²³Much food is in the tilable ground of the *poor*,

But lack of **right-ruling** sweeps it away.

²⁴He who spares his **rod** *hates* his son, **But** he who loves him, seeks him with discipline.

²⁵The **righteous** eats to the satisfying of his being,

But the stomach of the *wrong* is lacking.

14 Every **wise** woman has built her house,

But the *foolish* breaks it down with her hands.

²He who walks in his straightness **fears** אַיִשׁ,

But he whose **ways** are *crooked* despises **Him**.

³In the **mouth** of a *fool* is a **rod** of pride,

But the lips of the **wise guard** them.

⁴Where there are no oxen, the crib is clean;

But from the strength of an ox **comes** much increase.

⁵A **trustworthy witness** *does not lie*,

But a **false witness**

breathes out lies.

⁶A scoffer **shall seek wisdom** but *find* none,

But knowledge is *swift* to him who has **understanding**.

⁷Leave the presence of a *foolish* man,

For you **shall not perceive** the lips of **knowledge**.

⁸The **wisdom** of the clever is to understand **His way**,

But the folly of fools is *deceit*.

⁹Fools scoff at guilt,

But among the **straight** there is delight.

¹⁰The **heart knows**

its own *bitterness*,

And no stranger shares its joy.

¹¹The house of the *wrong* is **destroyed**,

But the tent of the **straight** flourishes.

¹²There is a **way**

which seems **right** to a man, but its end is the **way of death**.

¹³Even in laughter the **heart** is in pain, And **the end** of that **joy** is heaviness.

¹⁴The backslider in **heart** is **satisfied** with his own ways,

But a **good** man *is satisfied* from his.

¹⁵The simple **believes every word**,

But the clever one watches his step.

¹⁶The **wise fears** and turns away from *evil*,

But a *fool* rushes on and is reckless.

¹⁷He who is impatient acts foolishly, And a man who plans *wickedness* is *hated*.

¹⁸The simple **shall** inherit folly,

But the clever are crowned with **knowledge**.

¹⁹The *evil* ones **shall** bow before the **good**,

And the *wrong* ones at the gates of the righteous.

²⁰The *poor* is *hated*

even by his own neighbour,

But the rich has many friends.

²¹He who despises his neighbour *sins*;
But he who shows **favour** to the *poor*,
O **blessed** is he.

²²**Do not** those who plan
evil go astray?

But kindness and truth are to those
who plan **good**.

²³In **all** labour there is profit,
But talk of the lips *leads* only
to poverty.

²⁴The crown of the wise is their
wealth,
The folly of fools is folly.

²⁵A **true witness saves** lives,
But he who breathes out lies is a
betrayers.

²⁶In the **fear** of אַיָּאָל is **strong trust**,
And **His** children have
a place of refuge.

²⁷The **fear** of אַיָּאָל
is a fountain of life,
To turn away from
the *snares of death*.

²⁸In a multitude of people
is a sovereign's splendour,
But in the lack of people
Is the *ruin* of a prince.

²⁹**He** who is patient has **great**
understanding,
But he who is short of spirit exalts
folly.

³⁰A healthy **heart** is **life** to the body,
But envy is rottenness to the bones.

³¹He who oppresses the *poor*
reproaches his Maker,
But he who esteems **Him** shows
favour to the needy.

³²By his own *evil* doing the *wrong*
is thrust down,
But the **righteous** has a **refuge**
in his *death*.

³³Wisdom rests in the **heart**
of him who has **understanding**,
And *even* among fools
it becomes known.

³⁴Righteousness exalts a nation,
But sin is a *reproach* to peoples.

³⁵The sovereign's **delight** is toward
a wise servant,
But his *wrath* is towards him
who causes *shame*.

15 A soft answer turns away *wrath*,
But a harsh **word** stirs up *displeasure*.

²The tongue of the **wise** makes
knowledge good,
But the **mouth** of fools pours out
foolishness.

³The eyes of אַיָּאָל are in **every**
place watching the *evil* and the **good**.

⁴A **healing** tongue is a *tree of life*,
But perverseness in it crushes
the spirit.

⁵A *fool* despises his father's discipline,
But he who **heeds reproof** is clever.

⁶The household of the **righteous**
is a great treasure,
But in the income of the *wrong*
is trouble.

⁷The lips of the wise *scatter*
knowledge,
But the **heart** of fools is not so.

⁸The slaughtering of the *wrong* ones
Is an **abomination** to אַיָּאָל,
But the prayer of the **straight**
is **His** delight.

⁹The way of the *wrong* one
is an **abomination** to אַיָּאָל,
But He loves him who pursues
righteousness.

¹⁰Discipline is *grievous* to him
who forsakes the way;
He who *hates reproof* dies.

¹¹The grave and **destruction**
are before אַיָּאָל,

How much more the **hearts**
of the sons of men.

¹²A scoffer *does not love* his reprover,
Nor does he go to the **wise**.

¹³A **glad heart** makes **good** a face,
But by *sorrow* of **heart** the spirit
is stricken.

¹⁴The **heart** of the **understanding** one
seeks **knowledge**,
But the **mouth** of fools feeds on folly.

¹⁵All the days of the *afflicted* are *evil*,

But gladness of heart

is a continual feast.

¹⁶Better is a *little*

with the **fear** of אַיָּאָל,

Than **great** treasure with trouble.

¹⁷Better is a meal of vegetables

where **love** is,

Than a fatted *calf* with hatred.

¹⁸A man of *wrath* stirs up *strife*,

But he who is patient appeases strife.

¹⁹The **way** of a lazy one

is like a hedge of thorns,

But the **way** of the **straight** is a

highway.

²⁰A **wise** son makes a father glad,

But a *foolish* man despises his mother.

²¹Folly is **joy** to one lacking **heart**,

But a man of **understanding** walks straight.

²²Without counsel, plans go *wrong*,

But by **great** counsellors they are **established**.

²³A man has **joy** by the answer of his mouth,

And how **good** is a **word spoken** in its season!

²⁴The path of **life** is upward for the **wise**,

To turn away from the grave below.

²⁵אַיָּאָל tears down the house of the proud,

And **He** sets up the boundary of the widow.

²⁶*Evil thoughts* are an **abomination** to אַיָּאָל but pleasant **words** are **clean**.

²⁷He who is *greedy* for *gain*, troubles his own house,

But he who *hates* bribes **lives**.

²⁸The **heart** of the **righteous** ponders how to answer,

But the **mouth** of the *wrong* pours out *evil*.

²⁹אַיָּאָל is far from the *wrong* ones, **But He** hears the prayer of the righteous.

³⁰The **light** of the eyes **rejoices**

the **heart** and a **good** report gives marrow to the bones.

³¹An ear that **hears** the *reproof* of life does dwell among the wise.

³²He who *ignores* **discipline** *hates* himself,

But he who **listens** to *reproof* gets **understanding**.

³³The **fear** of אַיָּאָל is the **discipline** of **wisdom**, And before **esteem** is humility.

16 To man belongs the preparations of the **heart**,

But from אַיָּאָל is the answer of the tongue.

²All the **ways** of a man are **clean** in his own eyes,

But אַיָּאָל weighs the spirits.

³Commit your **works** to אַיָּאָל, And your plans **shall be established**.

⁴אַיָּאָל has made **all** for **His** purpose, And also the *wrong* for the **day of evil**.

⁵Everyone *proud* in **heart** is an **abomination** to אַיָּאָל;

Hand to hand: he goes not unpunished.

⁶By **kindness** and **truth** *crookedness* is pardoned.

And in the **fear** of אַיָּאָל one turns away from *evil*.

⁷**When** a man's **ways** please אַיָּאָל, **He** makes even his enemies to be at **peace** with him.

⁸Better is a *little* with **righteousness**, Than a large income without right-ruling.

⁹A man's **heart** plans his **way**, **But** אַיָּאָל establishes his steps.

¹⁰An **oath** is on the lips of the sovereign, In right-ruling his mouth trespasses not.

¹¹A **right** scale and balances are of אַיָּאָל;

All the weights in the bag are **His** work.

¹²It is an **abomination** for sovereigns

To *commit wrongness*,
For a throne is **established**
by **righteousness**.

¹³Righteous lips are the **delight**
of sovereigns,
And they **love** him who speaks
what is straight.

¹⁴The sovereign's *wrath*
is a messenger of *death*,
But a **wise** man appeases it.

¹⁵In the **light** of a sovereign's face
is life,
And his **delight** is like a cloud
of the **latter** rain.

¹⁶**How** much better it is to get **wisdom**
than gold!
And to get **understanding** is
preferable to silver.

¹⁷The highway of the **straight**
Is to turn away from *evil*;
He who guards his **life** watches
over **His way**.

¹⁸Before *destruction* comes pride,
And before a *fall* a haughty spirit!

¹⁹Better to be lowly **in spirit**
with the poor, than to divide the spoil
with the proud.

²⁰He who acts **wisely** concerning
the **Word** finds **good** and **blessed**
is he who **trusts** in אַיָּאֵל.

²¹The wise-hearted is called
discerning and sweetness of lips
increases learning.

²²Understanding is a fountain of **life**
to him who has it,
But the disciplining of fools is folly.

²³The **heart** of the **wise** gives
discretion to his **mouth**,
And he increases **learning** to his lips.

²⁴Pleasant **words** are like a
honeycomb,
Sweet to the being and **healing**
to the bones.

²⁵There is a **way** that seems **right** to a
man but its end is the **way** of *death*.

²⁶He who labours, labours for himself,

For his **mouth** drives him on.
²⁷A man of Beliya'al plots *evil*,
And on his lips it is like a *burning fire*.

²⁸A **perverse** man **sends** forth *strife*,
And a whisperer separates
intimate friends.

²⁹A **ruthless** man entices his neighbour,
And leads him in a **way**
that is not **good**,

³⁰Winking with his eye
to plot *perversity*,
Moving his lips he **shall** bring
about *evil*.

³¹Grey hair is a crown of adorning,
It is **found** in the **way** of
righteousness.

³²He who is patient is better
than the mighty,
And he who rules over his spirit than
he who takes a city.

³³The **lot** is *cast* into the lap but **every**
decision by it is from אַיָּאֵל.

17 Better is a dry piece of **bread**
and rest with it,
Than a house filled with the offerings
of strife.

²A **wise** servant rules over a son
who causes shame,
And shares an **inheritance**
among the brothers.

³A refining pot is for silver
and a furnace for gold,

But אַיָּאֵל tries the **hearts**.

⁴An *evil*-doer gives **heed** to *wicked*
lips;

A *liar* gives ear to a tongue of desire.

⁵He who mocks the *poor reproaches*
his Maker;

He who **rejoices** at *calamity* does not
go unpunished.

⁶Children's children are the crown
of old men,

And the adornment of children
is their fathers.

⁷Excellent speech is not fitting for a
fool, much less *lying* lips for a noble.

⁸A *bribe* is a stone of **favour** in the eyes of its owner;

Wherever he turns, he prospers.

⁹He who covers a *transgression* seeks **love** *but* he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends.

¹⁰Reproof enters deeper into a **wise** man
Than a hundred blows on a fool.

¹¹An *evil* one seeks only *rebellion*,
So a cruel messenger is **sent** *against* him.

¹²**Let** a bereaved bear meet a man,
Rather than a *fool* in his folly.

¹³**Whoever** rewards *evil* for **good**,
Evil does not leave his house.

¹⁴The beginning of strife is like releasing water;
Therefore stop *fighting* before it breaks out.

¹⁵He who **declares** the *wrong* right,
And he who condemns the **righteous**,
Both of them are an **abomination**
to אַיָּאָל.

¹⁶**Why** is this – a price in the **hand**
Of a *fool* to buy **wisdom**,
When there is no heart?

¹⁷A friend loves at **all** times,
And a brother is born for adversity.

¹⁸A man lacking **heart**
shakes hands in a pledge,
He becomes a guarantor for his friend.

¹⁹He who loves *transgression*
loves strife,

He who exalts his **door** seeks
destruction.

²⁰**He** who has a *crooked* **heart**
finds no **good**,
And he who has a *perverse* tongue
falls into *evil*.

²¹He who brings forth a *fool*
has *sorrow* for it,
And the father of a *fool* has no joy.

²²A rejoicing **heart**
causes good healing,

But a stricken spirit dries the bones.

²³One who is *wrong* accepts
a *bribe* behind the back
To **pervert** the paths of right-ruling.

²⁴Wisdom is before the face
of the **understanding** one,
But the eyes of a *fool*
are on the ends of the earth.

²⁵A *foolish* son is a grief to his father,
And *bitterness* to her who bore him.

²⁶It is also not **good** to *punish*
the righteous one,
To *smite* noble ones for straightness.

²⁷**He** who has **knowledge**
spares his **words**,
And a man of **understanding**
is cool of spirit.

²⁸Even a *fool* keeping silence
is regarded as **wise**,
As **understanding**, when he closes
his lips.

18 The separatist seeks *his* own
desire;
He breaks out *against* **all** sound
wisdom.

²A *fool* does not **delight**
in **understanding**
But in uncovering his own **heart**.

³**When** a *wrong* one comes,
scorn comes too.
And with *shame* comes *reproach*.

⁴The **words** of a man's **mouth**
are deep waters;
The fountain of **wisdom**
is a flowing stream.

⁵It is not **good** to **show** partiality
to the *wrong*,
Or to turn aside the **righteous**
in right-ruling.

⁶A fool's lips enter into *strife*,
And his **mouth** calls for blows.

⁷A fool's **mouth** is his *ruin*,
And his lips are the *snare* of his **life**.

⁸The **words** of a *slanderer*
are like delicacies,
And they go down into the inner parts
of the **heart**.

⁹Also, he who is slack in his **work**
Is a brother of a master destroyer.

¹⁰The **Name** of אַצְרָל
is a **strong** tower;
The **righteous** run into it and are safe.

¹¹The rich man's wealth
is his **strong** city,
And like a high wall
in his own imagination.

¹²Before **destruction** the **heart** of a
man is haughty,
And before **esteem** is humility.

¹³He who answers a matter
before he **hears** it,
It is folly and *shame* to him.

¹⁴The spirit of a man sustains
him in sickness,
But who does bear a broken spirit?

¹⁵The **heart** of the **understanding** one
gets **knowledge**,
And the ear of the **wise**
seeks **knowledge**.

¹⁶A man's gift makes room for him,
And brings him before **great** men.

¹⁷The **first** to state his own case,
seems right,
Until another **comes**
and examines him.

¹⁸**The lot settles disputes,**
And separates between the mighty.

¹⁹A brother *transgressed against*
is a **strong** city,
And contentions are like the bars
of a citadel.

²⁰A man's stomach is satisfied
From the **fruit** of his mouth;
He is **satisfied** *with* the increase
of his lips.

²¹**Death** and **life** are in the **power**
of the tongue,
And those **loving** it eat its **fruit**.

²²**He who has found a wife has found**
good,

And receives **favour** from אַצְרָל.

²³The *poor* speaks beseechingly,
But the rich answers fiercely.

²⁴A man of *many* friends might **come**
to ruin, but there is a **loving** One
Who sticks closer than a brother!

19 Better is the *poor* walking
in his integrity

Than one of *perverse* lips,
who is a fool.

²Also, desire without **knowledge**
is not **good**;

And he who hurries with his feet *sins*.

³The foolishness of a man
perverts his way,

And his heart is *wroth against* אַצְרָל.

⁴Wealth adds many friends,
But the *poor* is separated
from his friend.

⁵A **false witness** *does not*
go unpunished,
And he who breaths out lies
does not escape.

⁶Many entreat the **favour** of the noble
And **all** are friends to him
who gives gifts.

⁷All the brothers of the *poor*
shall hate him;

How much more **shall** his friends
go far from **Him!**

He pursues promises – they are gone!

⁸He who gets **heart** loves his own **life**;
He who guards **understanding**
finds **good**.

⁹A **false witness** *does not* go
unpunished,
And he who breathes out lies perishes.

¹⁰Luxury is not fitting for a *fool*,
Much less for a servant to **rule**
over princes.

¹¹A man's discretion makes
him patient,
And his adorning is to pass over a
transgression.

¹²The sovereign's *wrath*

is like the roaring of a lion,
But his delight is like dew
 on the grass.

¹³A **foolish** son is a *calamity*
 to his father,

And the contentions of a wife are a
 continual dripping.

¹⁴Houses and riches
 are the inheritance from fathers,
But an **understanding** wife
 is from אַיָּאָל.

¹⁵Laziness makes one *fall*
 into a deep sleep,

And an *idle* being *suffers* hunger.

¹⁶He who guards the **command**
 guards his **life**,

He who despises **His ways** dies.

¹⁷**He** who shows **favour** to the *poor*
 lends to אַיָּאָל,

And **He repays** his **deed**.

¹⁸Discipline your son **because**
 there is expectation,

And *do not* set your being
 on his *destruction*.

¹⁹One of great *wrath* bears *punishment*;
 For if you **rescue** *him*,

You only have to do it again.

²⁰**Listen** to counsel and **accept**
 discipline,

So that you are wise in your latter end.

²¹Many are the plans in a man's **heart**,
But it is the counsel of אַיָּאָל
 that stands.

²²**What** is desirable in a man
 is his **kindness**,

And a *poor* man is better than a *liar*

²³The **fear** of אַיָּאָל *leads* to **life**,

And he remains satisfied,

He is **not visited** by *evil*.

²⁴A lazy one buries his **hand** in a dish,
 And *does not* bring it back
 to his mouth.

²⁵Beat a scoffer and the simple
 is made wise,

And **reprove** one who has
understanding,

And he **discerns knowledge**.

²⁶He who plunders a father,

Chases away his mother,

Is a son causing *shame*

and bringing *reproach*.

²⁷Cease, my son, to **hear** discipline,
 And you **shall stray** from the **words** of
knowledge.

²⁸A **witness** of Beliya'al scorns
 right-ruling and the **mouth**
 of the **wrong** ones devours *wickedness*.

²⁹Judgments are in store for scoffers,
 And beatings for the backs of fools.

20 Wine is a scoffer,
strong drink a brawler,
 And **whoever** is led *astray* by it is not
wise.

²The *dread* of a sovereign is like the
 roaring of a lion;

Whoever provokes him *sins*
against his own **life**.

³For a man to cease from strife
 is esteem,

But every fool bursts out.

⁴The lazy one *does not* plough
 after the autumn;

At harvest **time** he inquires –
 there is none!

⁵Counsel in the **heart** of man
 is like deep water,

But a man of **understanding**
draws it up.

⁶Most men **proclaim** each his own
kindness,

But who finds a **trustworthy** man?

⁷The **righteous** man walks
 in his integrity;

His children are **blessed** after him.

⁸A sovereign who sits on the throne
 of judgment

Is scattering **all evil** with his eyes.

⁹**Who** says, "I have **cleansed** my
heart, I am purged of my sin"?

¹⁰Differing weights and differing
 measures,

Both of them are an **abomination** to אַיָּאָל.

¹¹Even a child is **known** by his **deeds**,
Whether his **work** is clear and right.

¹²The **hearing** ear and the **seeing** eye,
אַיָּאָל has made both of them.

¹³**Do not love** sleep,
lest you become *poor*;

Open your eyes,
be **satisfied** with bread.

¹⁴“*Evil! Evil!*” cries the buyer;

But when he has gone his **way**,
then he boasts.

¹⁵There is gold and a multitude of
rubies,

But the lips of **knowledge** are a
precious vessel.

¹⁶Take the garment of one who is
guarantor for a stranger,
And hold it as a **pledge** when it is for
foreigners.

¹⁷Bread gained by *deceit* might be
sweet to a man,

But afterward his **mouth**
is filled with gravel.

¹⁸By counsel plans are **established**;
And by **wise** guidance wage a battle.

¹⁹He who goes about as a *slanderer*
reveals secrets;
Therefore *do not* associate with him
Who speaks smoothly with his lips.

²⁰**Whoever** curses his father or his
mother,
His **lamp** is put out in deep *darkness*.

²¹An **inheritance** obtained with *greed*
at the beginning
Is not **blessed** at the **end**.

²²**Do not** say, “I **repay** *evil*.”
Wait for אַיָּאָל and **He** saves you.

²³Differing weights are an
abomination to אַיָּאָל,
And a *false* scale is not **good**.

²⁴The steps of a man are from אַיָּאָל;
What does a man **know**
about his own way?

²⁵It is a *snare* for a man to say
rashly, “It is set-apart.”

And only later to reconsider his vows.

²⁶A **wise** sovereign winnows
out the **wrong**,

And turns the wheel over them.

²⁷The spirit of a man is the **lamp**
of אַיָּאָל,
Searching **all** his inmost parts.

²⁸Kindness and **truth** watch
over the sovereign,
And he **shall** support his throne
by **kindness**.

²⁹The comeliness of young men
is their strength,
And the splendour of old men
is their grey hair.

³⁰The blows that wound **cleanse**
away *evil*,
And strokes the inner parts
of the **heart**.

21 The sovereign’s **heart** is as
channels of water in the **hand**
of אַיָּאָל;

He turns it wherever **He** wishes.

²All a man’s **ways** are **right**
in his own eyes,

But אַיָּאָל weighs the **hearts**.

³To do **righteousness** and **right-ruling**
Is more **acceptable** to אַיָּאָל
than a slaughtering.

⁴A haughty look, a **proud heart**,
The **lamp** of the **wrong**, are *sin*.

⁵The plans of the hard worker
lead only to plenty,
But all rash haste only to poverty.

⁶Gaining treasures by a *lying* tongue
Is a fleeting vapour, heading for *death*.

⁷The spoil of the **wrong** catches them,
Because they *refused*
to do right-ruling.

⁸The **way** of a *guilty* man is perverse;
But as for the innocent,
his **work** is right.

⁹It is better to dwell
in a corner of a roof,
Than in a house shared
with a contentious woman.

¹⁰The desire of the *wrong* is set upon *evil*;
His neighbour finds no **favour** in his eyes.
¹¹**When** the scoffer is punished, the simple is made wise;
But when the **wise** is **instructed**, he receives **knowledge**.
¹²The **righteous One** observes the house of the wrong;
He overthrows the *wrong* for their *evil*.
¹³**Whoever** shuts his ears to the cry of the *poor*,
Let him also cry and not be **heard**.
¹⁴A gift in **secret** subdues *displeasure*,
And a *bribe* in the bosom, **strong wrath**.
¹⁵To do **right-ruling** is **joy** to the **righteous**,
But *ruin* to the workers of *wickedness*.
¹⁶A man who *strays* from the **way of understanding**,
Rests in the assembly of the *dead*.
¹⁷He who loves pleasure is a *poor* man;
He who loves **wine** and oil *does not* become rich.
¹⁸The *wrong* is a ransom for the **righteous**,
And the treacherous for the **straight**.
¹⁹It is better to dwell in the wilderness,
Than with a contentious and vexed woman.
²⁰Desirable treasure and oil, Are in the dwelling of the **wise**,
But a *foolish* man swallows it up.
²¹**He** who pursues **righteousness** and **kindness**
Finds **life**, **righteousness** and esteem.
²²A **wise** one scales the city of the mighty and brings down the **trusted** stronghold.
²³**Whoever** guards his **mouth** and tongue
Guards his **life** from *distresses*.

²⁴Proud, haughty, “Scoffer” is his name;
He acts with arrogant pride.
²⁵The desire of the lazy man *slays* him,
For his hands *refused* to work.
²⁶**He** covets greedily **all** day long,
But the **righteous** gives and *does not* withhold.
²⁷The slaughtering of the *wrong* is an **abomination**;
How much more when he brings it with *wickedness*!
²⁸A *false witness* perishes,
But the man who **obeys** speaks **forever**.
²⁹A *wrong* man hardens his face,
But as for the **straight**, he establishes his **way**.
³⁰There is no **wisdom** or understanding
Or counsel *against* אַיָּאֵל.
³¹The horse is prepared for the **day of battle**,
But the **deliverance** is of אַיָּאֵל.

22 A **good** name is preferable to **great** riches.
Favour is better than silver and gold.
²The rich and the *poor* meet **together**—
אַיָּאֵל is the Maker of them **all**.
³A clever one foresees *evil* and hides himself,
But the simple go on and are punished.
⁴The reward of humility is the **fear** of אַיָּאֵל,
Riches and **esteem** and **life**.
⁵Thorns, *snares* are in the **way** of the perverse;
He who guards his **life** keeps far away from them.
⁶Train up a child in the **way** he should go,
Even when he is old he turns not away from it.
⁷The rich rules over the *poor*,
And the borrower is servant to the lender.
⁸He who sows *unrighteousness*

reaps trouble,
 And the **rod** of his *wrath* perishes.
⁹**He** who has a **good** eye is **blessed**,
 For he gives of his **bread** to the *poor*.
¹⁰Cast out the scoffer
 and strife goes out,
 And contention and *shame* cease.
¹¹**He** who loves **cleanness** of **heart**,
Whose speech is pleasant,
 A sovereign is his friend.
¹²The eyes of אַיָּאֵל
shall watch over **knowledge**,
But He overthrows
 the **words** of the treacherous.
¹³The lazy one says,
 “There is a lion outside!
 I am going to be *killed* in the streets!”
¹⁴The **mouth** of a *strange* woman
 is a deep pit;
 The one denounced by אַיָּאֵל
 falls in there.
¹⁵Folly is *bound* up in the **heart**
 of a child;
 The **rod** of **discipline**
 drives it far from him.
¹⁶One oppresses the *poor*
 to increase his *wealth*,
 Another gives to the rich,
 only to **come** to poverty.
¹⁷Incline your ear and **hear**
 the **words** of the **wise**,
 And apply your **heart**
 to my**knowledge**;
¹⁸For they are pleasant
If you **guard** them within you;
Let all of them
 be **ready** on your lips.
¹⁹That your **trust**
 might be in אַיָּאֵל,
 I caused you to know today,
 even you:
²⁰Have I not previously **written**
 to you of counsels and **knowledge**,
²¹To **cause** you to **know**
 The certainty of the **words** of **truth**,
 To **return words** of **truth**
 to those who send to you?
²²**Do not** rob the *poor*

because he is poor,
 And *oppress* not the *afflicted*
 at the gate.
²³For אַיָּאֵל pleads their **cause**,
 And **shall** plunder those
 who plunder them.
²⁴Make no friendship with one
given to *wrath*,
 And *do not* go with a man of *rage*,
²⁵Lest you **learn** his ways,
 And find yourself ensnared.
²⁶**Do not** be one of those who
 shakes hands in a pledge,
 One of those who are guarantors for
 debts.
²⁷**If** you *do not* have the means to pay,
Why should he take away
 your bed from under you?
²⁸**Do not** move the ancient boundary
 Which your fathers have set.
²⁹**Do** you **see** a man who
 is skilled in his work?
 He does **stand** before sovereigns,
 He *does not* stand before obscure ones.

23 *When* you sit down
 to eat with a ruler,
 look well what is before you;
²And put a knife to your throat
If you are a man **given** to appetite.
³**Do not** desire his delicacies,
 For that food is deceptive.
⁴**Do not** labour to be rich.
 Cease from your own **understanding**!
⁵**Do** you set your eyes on that
 which is not?
 For riches certainly make
 themselves wings;
 They fly away like an eagle
 to the heavens.
⁶**Do not** eat the **bread**
 of *one having* an *evil* eye
 nor desire his delicacies;
⁷For as he reckons in his **life**, so is he.
 “Eat and drink!” he says to you,
But his **heart** is not with you.
⁸You *vomit* the piece you have eaten,

And lose your **sweet words**.
⁹**Do not speak** in the ears of a *fool*,
 For he treads on the **wisdom**
 of your **words**.
¹⁰**Do not** move the ancient boundary,
 And *do not* enter the fields
 of the fatherless;
¹¹For their **Redeemer** is strong;
He shall plead their **cause**
against you.
¹²Bring your **heart** to discipline,
 And your **ears** to words of knowledge.
¹³**Do not** withhold **discipline**
 from a child;
If you beat him with a rod,
 he *does not die*.
¹⁴Beat him with a **rod**,
 And **deliver** his being from the grave.
¹⁵My son, if your **heart shall be wise**,
 My **heart rejoices**, even I,
¹⁶And my kidneys exult
When your lips **speak** what
 is **straight**.
¹⁷**Do not** let your **heart envy sinners**,
But be in the **fear** of אַיָּאֵל
all day long;
¹⁸For certain, there is a hereafter,
 And let your expectancy not be *cut off*.
¹⁹**Hear**, my son and be **wise**,
 And guide your **heart** in the **way**.
²⁰Be not among *heavy* drinkers
 of **wine**
 Or with gluttonous eaters of meat;
²¹For the drunkard and the glutton
 become *poor*,
 And slumber puts rags on a *man*.
²²**Listen** to your father who
 brought you forth,
 And *do not despise* your mother
 when she is old.
²³Buy the **truth** and *do not* sell it –
 Wisdom and **discipline** and
 understanding.
²⁴The father of the **righteous** greatly
 rejoices,
 And he who brings forth a **wise** one
 delights in him.
²⁵**Let** your father and your mother

rejoice,
 And let her who bore you exult.
²⁶My son, give me your **heart**,
 And let your eyes **watch** my ways.
²⁷For a *whore* is a deep pit,
 And a *strange* woman
 is a narrow well.
²⁸She too lies in wait as for a prey,
 And increases the treacherous
 among men.
²⁹**Who** has **woe**?
Who has sorrow?
Who has contentions?
Who has complaints?
Who feels hurt without **cause**?
Who has redness of eyes?
³⁰Those staying long at the **wine**,
 Those going in to **search** out
 mixed **wine**.
³¹**Do not** look on the **wine**
 when it is red,
When it gives its color in the **cup**,
 As it flows smoothly;
³²In the **end** it bites like a snake,
 And stings like an adder –
³³**Your** eyes look on *strange* women,
 And your **heart** speaks perversities.
³⁴And you **shall be** as one
 Lying down in the **midst** of the sea,
 And as one *lying* at the top
 of the mast, saying,
³⁵“They *smote* me, I was not sick!
 They beat me, I *did not know*!
When shall I wake up?
Let me seek it again!”

24 **Do not envy evil** men,
 Nor desire to be with them;
²For their **heart** plots to ravage,
 And their lips talk of trouble.
³By **wisdom** a house is built,
 And by **understanding**
 it is **established**;
⁴And by **knowledge** the rooms
 are filled
 With **all precious** and pleasant riches.
⁵Mighty is the **wise** in strength,
 And a man of **knowledge**

strengthens power;
 6For by **wise** guidance you wage
 your own battle,
 And delivery is by a **great** counsellor.
 7Wisdom is high for a fool;
 He *does not* **open his mouth**
 in the gate.
 8He who plots to do *evil*
 Is called a master of *evil* plots.
 9The purpose of folly is *sin*,
 And the scoffer is an **abomination**
 to men.
 10**If** you falter in the **day of distress**,
Your strength is small!
 11Deliver those taken to *death*,
 And hold back those *stumbling*
 to the slaughter,
 12**If** you say, “**See**, we *did not*
know this,”
 Would not **He** who weighs the **hearts**
 discern it?
He who watches over your **life**,
 Would **He** not **know** it?
 And **shall He** not **repay** man
 according to his work?
 13My son, eat honey, for it is **good**,
 And the honeycomb, **sweet**
 to your taste;
 14Know that **wisdom** is thus
 to your being;
If you have **found** it, there is a future,
 And your expectancy is not *cut* off.
 15**Do not lie** in wait, O **wrong** one,
 Against the dwelling of the righteous;
Do not ravage his resting place;
 16For seven times a **righteous** man
 falls and rises,
But the **wrong** one stumbles into *evil*.
 17**Do not** exult when your enemy falls,
 And let not your **heart rejoice**
 when he *stumbles*;
 18Lest אַיָּאָל see and it be *evil*
 in **His** eyes,
 And **He** turn away **His wrath**
 from him.
 19**Do not** fret **because** of *evil-doers*,
 And *do not* **envy** the wrong;
 20For there is no future

for the *evil*-doer;
 The **lamp** of the **wrongdoers**
 is put out.
 21My son, **fear** אַיָּאָל and
 the sovereign;
Do not mingle with those who *change*;
 22For their *calamity* arises **suddenly**,
 And who **knows** the *ruin* of both
 of them?
 23These also are for the wise:
 It is not **good** to **show** partiality
 in right-ruling.
 24**He** who says to the **wrong**,
 “You are righteous” – peoples
curse him,
 Nations *despise* him.
 25**But** those who **rebuke the wrong**,
 It is pleasant and a **good blessing**
 comes on them.
 26**He** who gives a **right** answer
 kisses the lips.
 27**Prepare** your outside **work**,
 And make it fit for yourself
 in the field;
Then you **shall** build your house.
 28**Do not witness** *against* your
 neighbour without **cause**,
 And *do not* **deceive** with your lips.
 29**Do not** say, “**Let** me do to him
 as he did to me;
 I **repay** each **according** to his work.”
 30I passed by the field of the lazy,
 And by the vineyard of the man
 lacking heart;
 31And **see**, it was **all** overgrown
 with thorns;
 Its surface was covered with nettles;
 And its stone wall was broken down.
 32**When** I **saw** it, I set my **heart** on it;
 I **looked** and received discipline:
 33A *little* sleep, a *little* slumber,
 A *little* folding of the hands to rest;
 34And your poverty **shall** come,
 a prowler,
 And your need like an armed man.

25 These too are proverbs of

Shelomoh which the men of
Hizqiyah sovereign of Yahuḏah copied:

²It is the **esteem** of Elohim to
hide a matter,

And the **esteem** of sovereigns to
search out a matter.

³The heavens for height
and the earth for depth,
But the **heart** of sovereigns
is unsearchable.

⁴Take away the dross from silver,
And a vessel **comes** forth
for the refiner.

⁵Take away the **wrong**
from before the sovereign,
And his throne is **established**
in **righteousness**.

⁶**Do not exalt** yourself before a
sovereign and **do not stand** in the
place of **great** men;

⁷For it is better for him to say to you,
“**Come** up here,” than that you
should be put lower before a noble
whom your eyes have **seen**.

⁸**Do not** go forth to **strive** in haste,
For what would you do in **the end**,
When your neighbour
has put you to shame?

⁹Plead your case with your
neighbour himself,
And **do not** disclose
the **secret** of another;

¹⁰Lest he **who hears** it
put you to shame,
And your **evil** report turn not back.

¹¹A **word spoken** at the **right time**
Is like apples of gold in settings
of silver.

¹²A ring of gold and an ornament
of fine gold,
Is a **wise** one’s *reproof*
to an ear that **hears**.

¹³Like the cold of snow
in **time** of harvest
Is a **trustworthy** messenger
to those who send him,
For he refreshes the **life** of his masters.

¹⁴**He** who boasts of his gifts *falsely*
Is like clouds and *wind* without rain.

¹⁵Through patience a ruler
is persuaded,
And a soft tongue shatters a bone.

¹⁶Have you **found** honey?
Eat only as much as you need,
Lest you be **satisfied** with it and *vomit*.

¹⁷Make your foot rare in your
neighbour’s house,
Lest he gets enough of you
and *hate* you.

¹⁸A man bearing *false witness*
against his neighbour
Is like a club a *sword* and a sharp
arrow.

¹⁹Trust in a treacherous man
in **time** of *distress*,
Is like a broken tooth or a foot
out of joint.

²⁰One who takes away a garment
in cold weather,
Is like vinegar on soda,
And a singer of songs on an **evil heart**.

²¹**If** your enemy is hungry
give him bread to eat,
And if he is thirsty
give him water to drink,

²²For you are heaping coals
of *fire* on his head,
And אַיָּאֵל rewards you.

²³The north *wind* brings rain,
And a **secret** tongue an **enraged** face.

²⁴It is better to dwell in a corner
of a roof,
Than in a house shared
with a contentious woman.

²⁵*Like* cold water to a parched throat,
Is the besorah from a distant land.

²⁶A **righteous** man who
gives **way** before the **wrong**,
Is like a muddied spring
and a *ruined* fountain.

²⁷It is not **good** to eat much honey.
Is it **esteem** to **seek** one’s own esteem?

²⁸A man who has no control
over his spirit

*Is like a broken-down city
without a wall.*

- 26** Like snow in summer and rain
in harvest,
So **esteem** is not fitting for a fool.
²As a bird wanders,
as a swallow flies about,
So a *curse* without **cause**
does not come.
³A whip for a horse,
a bridle for a donkey,
And a **rod** for the fool's back.
⁴**Do not** answer a *fool*
according to his folly,
Lest you also become like him.
⁵Answer a *fool* **according** to his folly,
Lest he become **wise** in his own eyes.
⁶**He** who **sends** a **message**
by the **hand** of a fool
Cuts off feet, drinks damage.
⁷The legs of the *lame* hang limp
So is a proverb in the **mouth** of fools.
⁸Like one binding a stone in a sling,
So is he who gives **esteem** to a fool.
⁹A thorn goes into the **hand**
of a drunkard
So is a proverb in the **mouth** of fools.
¹⁰An archer who *wounds* anyone,
Is he who hires a *fool* or any passer-by.
¹¹As a dog returns to his own *vomit*,
So a *fool* repeats his folly.
¹²Have you **seen** a man **wise**
in his own eyes?
There is more expectancy
for a fool than for him.
¹³The lazy one says,
"There is a lion in the **way!**
A **fierce** lion is in the streets!"
¹⁴As a **door** turns on its hinges,
So does the lazy one turn on his bed.
¹⁵The lazy one buries his **hand**
in a dish;
It tires him to bring it back
to his mouth.
¹⁶The lazy one is wiser in his own eyes
Than seven rendering advice.
¹⁷A passer-by meddling in a strife

- not his own
Is like one who takes a dog
by the ears.
¹⁸Like a madman who throws sparks,
arrows and *death*,
¹⁹So is a man who **deceived** his
neighbour,
And says, "I was only joking!"
²⁰For lack of wood, the *fire* goes out,
And without a *slanderer*, strife ceases.
²¹As charcoal is to *burning* coals,
and wood to *fire*,
So is a contentious man to **kindle**
strife.
²²The **words** of a *slanderer*
are as dainty morsels,
Which go down into the inner parts
of the **heart**.
²³Burning lips with an *evil heart*
Are like earthenware covered
with silver dross.
²⁴**He** who *hates*, pretends with his lips,
And lays up *deceit* within him;
²⁵Though he speaks kindly,
do not **believe** him,
For there are seven **abominations**
in his **heart**.
²⁶Hatred is covered by *deceit*
His evil is disclosed in the assembly.
²⁷**Whoever** digs a pit falls into it,
And **whoever** rolls a stone it turns
back on him.
²⁸A *lying* tongue *hates* its bruised ones,
And a flattering **mouth works ruin**.

- 27** **Do not** boast of **tomorrow**,
For you *do not* **know** what a day
brings forth.
²**Let** another man **praise** you,
And not your own **mouth** –
A stranger and not your own lips.
³A stone is *heavy* and sand is weighty,
But a fool's *wrath* is heavier
than both.
⁴**Wrath** is cruel and *displeasure*
overwhelming,
But who **is able** to **stand**

before *jealousy*?

⁵Open *reproof* is better than
hidden love.

⁶The *wounds* of a friend are **true**,
But the kisses of an enemy
are profuse.

⁷One **satisfied** loathes the honeycomb,
But to a hungry one any *bitter food*
is sweet.

⁸Like a bird that wanders from its nest,
So is a man who wanders
from his place.

⁹Ointment and perfume gladden
the heart,
So one's counsel is **sweet** to his friend.

¹⁰**Do not forsake** your own friend or
your father's friend,
And *do not go* into your brother's
house in the **day of** your *calamity* –
Better is a neighbour nearby than a
brother far away.

¹¹My son, be **wise** and gladden my
heart, that I might have a **word** for
him who *reproaches* me.

¹²A clever man foresees *calamity*,
and hides himself;
The simple **shall** go on,
they are punished.

¹³Take the garment of him
who is guarantor for a stranger,
And for a *strange* woman **pledge** it.

¹⁴He who greets his friend loudly
early in the morning,
Shall have it reckoned to him
as a *curse*.

¹⁵Drops that never cease
on a **very** rainy day
And a contentious woman are alike;

¹⁶**Whoever** represses her represses
the wind,
And his **right hand** encounters oil.

¹⁷Iron is sharpened by iron,
And a man sharpens the face
of his friend.

¹⁸**He** who tends the fig *tree* eats its fruit;
And he who guards his master
is esteemed.

¹⁹As in water face *reflects* face,
So a man's **heart** *reflects* a man.

²⁰The grave and **destruction**
are not satisfied;
So the eyes of man are not satisfied.

²¹A refining pot is for silver and
furnace for gold,
So a man *is tried* by his praise.

²²Even if you pound a *fool*
in a mortar with a pestle
along with crushed grain,
His folly **shall** not leave him.

²³Know well the state of your flocks;
Set your **heart** to your herds;

²⁴For riches are not **forever**,
Nor a diadem to **all** generations.

²⁵Grass vanishes and new grass
appears and the vegetation of the
mountains are gathered in.

²⁶The lambs are for your garments,
And the goats for the price of a field;

²⁷And goats' milk enough for your
food,
For the food of your household,
And sustenance for your girls.

28 The **wrong shall flee** though no
one pursues but the **righteous** are as
bold as a lion.

²**Because** of *transgression* of a land,
Many are its rulers;

But by a man of **understanding** and
knowledge, **right** is maintained.

³A *poor* man who oppresses the *poor*
Is like a sweeping rain
that leaves no food.

⁴Those who *forsake* the **Torah**
praise the **wrong** and those who
guard the **Torah** *strive* with them.

⁵*Evil* men *do not understand*
right-ruling,
But those who seek אַיָּאֵל
understand **all**.

⁶Better is the *poor* who walks
in his integrity
Than one **pervse** in his ways,

who is rich.

⁷He who watches over the **Torah** is a discerning son,

But a companion of gluttons shames his father.

⁸He who increases his possessions by interest and profit

Gathers it for him who shows **favour** to the *poor*.

⁹He who turns away his ear from hearing the **Torah**,

Even his prayer is an **abomination**.

¹⁰He who **causes** the **straight** to go *astray* in an *evil way*, Falls into his own pit;

But the **perfect** inherit the **good**.

¹¹A rich man is **wise** in his own eyes, **But** the *poor* who has **understanding** searches him out.

¹²**When** the **righteous** exult, there is **great** comeliness;

But when the **wrong** arise, a man is searched for.

¹³He who hides his *transgressions* does not prosper,

But he who confesses and forsakes them finds **compassion**.

¹⁴**Blessed** is the man who **always** **fears Elohim**,

But he who hardens his **heart** falls into *evil*.

¹⁵A roaring lion and a charging bear Is a wrongdoing ruler over *poor* people.

¹⁶A leader who lacks **understanding** is a great oppressor,

But the hater of *greed* prolongs his days.

¹⁷A man *oppressed* by blood-guilt flees into a pit; **Let** no one help him.

¹⁸He who walks blamelessly is **saved**, **But** the *perverted* of **ways** falls at once.

¹⁹He who tills his land is **satisfied** with bread,

But he who pursues vanities

is filled with poverty.

²⁰A man of **truth** has many **blessings**, **But** one in a hurry to be rich *does not* go unpunished.

²¹To **show** partiality is not **good**, **Because** for a piece of **bread** a man would *transgress*.

²²A man with an *evil* eye runs after wealth and *does not know* that poverty awaits him.

²³He who reproves a man finds more favour afterward Than he who flatters with the tongue.

²⁴He who robs his father or his mother, And says, "It is no *transgression*," He is a companion to a destroyer.

²⁵He who is *greedy* stirs up *strife*, **But** he who **trusts** in אַיָּאֵל prospers.

²⁶He who **trusts** in his own **heart** is a *fool*,

But he who walks **wisely** is **delivered**.

²⁷He who gives to the *poor* *does not* lack,

But he who hides his eyes does have many *curses*.

²⁸**When** the **wrong** rise up, men hide themselves;

But when they *perish*, the **righteous** increase.

29 One often reproved, hardening

his neck, is **suddenly broken**, and there is no healing.

²**When** the **righteous** increase, the people rejoice;

But when a **wrong** one rules, the people sigh.

³He who loves **wisdom** gladdens his father,

But a companion of *whores* destroys wealth.

⁴A sovereign establishes a land by right-ruling,

But one who receives bribes throws it down.

⁵A man who flatters his neighbour

Spreads a *net* for his own feet.

⁶An *evil* man is ensnared

by *transgression*,

But the **righteous** sings and rejoices.

⁷The **righteous** **knows** the plea of the poor,

The **wrong** *does not understand such knowledge*.

⁸Scoffers ensnare a city,

But the **wise** turn away *wrath*.

⁹**When** a **wise** man disputes with a *foolish* man,

Whether he rages or laughs, there is no peace.

¹⁰Bloodthirsty men *hate* the **perfect**, And **seek** the **life** of the **straight**.

¹¹A *fool* lets out **all** his breath, **But** the **wise** calms it down.

¹²**If** a ruler **listens** to *lying words*,

All his servants become *wrong*.

¹³The *poor* man and the oppressor have this in common

אֵינָם gives **light** to the eyes of both.

¹⁴The sovereign who **rightly**

rules the poor with **truth**,

His throne is **established forever**.

¹⁵A **rod** and *reproof* give **wisdom**, **But** a child unrestrained

brings *shame* to his mother.

¹⁶**When** the **wrong** become many, *transgression* increases;

But the **righteous** look on their fall.

¹⁷Discipline your son,

And he brings you rest

and **delight** to your **life**.

¹⁸Where there is no **vision**,

the people are let loose,

But **blessed** is he who guards the **Torah**.

¹⁹A servant is not disciplined by **words**;

Though he understands,

he *does not* respond.

²⁰Have you **seen** a man *hasty* in his **words**?

There is more expectancy for a fool than for him.

²¹He who deals tenderly With his servant from youth, Has him as a son in **the end**.

²²A man of *displeasure* stirs up *strife*, And a master of *rage* has many a *transgression*.

²³The pride of man brings him low, **But** the humble in **spirit** obtains esteem.

²⁴He who shares with a *thief* *hates* his own **life**;

He **hears** an oath, but *does not* report.

²⁵The **fear** of man brings a *snare*, **But** *whoever* trusts in אֵינָם is set on high.

²⁶Many **seek** the face of a ruler, **But** **right-ruling** for man comes from אֵינָם.

²⁷An *unrighteous* man

Is an **abomination** to the **righteous**,

And he who is **straight** in the **way**

Is an **abomination** to the *wrong*.

30 The words of Aḡur son of Yaqeh, a message.

This man **declared** to Ithi'ēl, to Ithi'ēl and Uḡal:

²For I am more *stupid* than anyone, And *do not* have the **understanding** of a man.

³And I have not **learned wisdom** That I should **know** the **knowledge** of the **Set-apart One**.

⁴**Who** has gone up to the heavens and come down?

Who has gathered the wind in His fists?

Who has bound the waters in a garment?

Who established all the end of the earth?

What is His Name, And what is His Son's Name, *If* you know it?

⁵Every **Word** of Eloah is tried; **He** is a shield to those taking **refuge** in **Him**.

⁶**Do not** add to **His Words**,
Lest **He reprove** you and you be
found a liar.
⁷Two matters I have asked of You –
Deny them not to me before I die:
⁸Remove *falsehood* and a *lying word*
far from me;
Give me neither poverty nor riches;
Feed me my portion of bread;
⁹Lest I become **satisfied**
and *deny You*,
And say, “*Who is אַיָּאֵל?*”
And lest I be *poor* and steal,
And *seize the Name of my Elohim*.
¹⁰**Do not slander** a servant
to his master, Lest he *curse* you,
And you be **found guilty**.
¹¹There is a generation that *curses* its
father and *does not bless* its mother –
¹²There is a generation, **clean**
in its own eyes but not washed
from its own filth.
¹³There is a generation;
Oh, how haughty are their eyes!
And their eyelids are lifted up.
¹⁴There is a generation whose *teeth* are
swords and whose *jaw-teeth* are
knives to *devour* the *poor* from off the
earth and the needy from *among* men.
¹⁵The leech has two daughters:
“Give! Give!” Three are not satisfied,
Four that never say, “Enough”:
¹⁶The grave and the *barren* womb,
Soil not **satisfied** with water,
And *fire* which never says, “Enough.”
¹⁷An eye that mocks his father,
And scorns to **obey** his mother –
Ravens of the wadi dig it out,
And young eagles eat it!
¹⁸Three matters are
too marvellous for me,
And four which I *do not* understand:
¹⁹The **way** of an eagle in the heavens,
The **way** of a snake on a rock,
The **way** of a ship in the **heart** of the
sea and the **way** of a man with a girl.
²⁰This is the **way**

of an adulterous woman:
She **shall** eat and wipe her **mouth**,
and say, “I have not done *wickedness*.”
²¹Under three matters
the earth trembles,
And under four, it is *unable* to bear:
²²Under a servant when he reigns and
a *fool* when he is **satisfied** with food,
²³Under a *hated woman* who marries,
And a female servant who supplants
her mistress.
²⁴There are four matters
Which are *little* on the earth,
But they are exceedingly wise:
²⁵The ants are a people not **strong**,
Yet they **prepare** their food in the
summer;
²⁶The rock badgers are a weak folk,
Yet they make their homes
in the crags;
²⁷The locusts have no sovereign,
Yet they **all** go out in formation;
²⁸A spider takes hold with two hands,
And is in sovereigns’ palaces.
²⁹There are three matters
That are going well,
And four are **good** in walking:
³⁰A lion, which is mighty
among beasts and *does not*
turn away from facing all;
³¹A greyhound, a male goat and a
sovereign whose army is with him.
³²**If** you have been **foolish** in lifting up
yourself or if you have *plotted evil*,
Put your **hand** on your **mouth**.
³³For as milk under *pressure* brings
forth curds and as a nose under
pressure brings forth **blood**,
**So wrath under pressure brings
forth strife**.

31 The **words** of Sovereign Lemu’el,
a **message** which his mother taught him:
²**What**, my son?
And what, son of my womb?
And what, son of my vows?
³**Do not** give your strength to women,

Nor *your ways* to wiping
 away sovereigns.
⁴Not for sovereigns, O Lemu'el,
 Not for sovereigns to drink **wine**,
 Nor for princes to desire **strong drink**;
⁵Lest they drink and *forget* the **law**,
 And **pervert** the **right**
 of **all** the *afflicted*.
⁶Give **strong** drink to him
 who is perishing and **wine**
 to those embittered in being.
⁷Let him drink
 and *forget* his poverty,
 And **remember**
 his *trouble* no more.
⁸Open your **mouth** for the dumb,
 In the **cause** of **all** the sons
 of the departed.
⁹Open your mouth, judge righteously,
 And plead his **cause** of the *poor*
 and needy.
¹⁰**Who** does find a capable wife?
 For she is worth far more than rubies.
¹¹The **heart** of her husband **shall**
trust her and he has no lack of *gain*.
¹²She **shall** do him **good** and not *evil*,
 All the days of her **life**.
¹³She **shall seek** wool and flax,
 And with **delight** she **works**
 with her hands.
¹⁴She **shall be** as the ships of Tarshish,
 She brings in her food from afar.
¹⁵She also rises while it is still night,
 And provides food for her household,
 And a portion for her girls.
¹⁶She **shall** consider a field and buy it;
 From her profits she **shall** plant
 a **vineyard**.
¹⁷She **shall** gird herself with strength,
 And strengthen her arms
¹⁸She **shall** taste when her *gain* is
good and her **lamp** *does not* go out
 by night.
¹⁹She **shall** stretch out her hands
 to the distaff and her **hand**
shall hold the spindle.

²⁰She **shall** extend her **hand**
 to the poor and she **shall** reach out
 her hands to the needy.
²¹She is not *afraid* of snow for her
 household, because **all** her household
 is dressed in scarlet.
²²She **shall** make tapestry for herself;
 She is dressed in fine linen and purple.
²³Her husband is **known** in the gates,
When he sits among the elders
 of the land.
²⁴She **shall** make fine linen and sell
 them and **shall** give girdles
 for the merchants.
²⁵Strength and splendour are her
 garments and she **rejoices**
 in **time** to come.
²⁶She **shall open** her **mouth**
 with **wisdom** and on her tongue
 is the **Torah** of **kindness**.
²⁷She watches over the **ways**
 of her household and *does not*
 eat the **bread** of idleness.
²⁸Her children **shall** rise up
 and call her **blessed**,
 her husband *too* and he praises her:
²⁹“Many daughters have done nobly,
But you have risen over them **all**.”
³⁰**Loveliness is deceptive**
And prettiness is vain,
A woman who fears אַיָּאָל
is to be praised.
³¹**Give her of the fruit of her hands,**
And let her works praise her in
the gates.

IYOB

JOB

1 There was a man in the land of Uts, whose name was Iyob. And that man was **perfect** and **straight** and one who **feared Elohim** and turned aside from *evil*.

²And seven sons and three daughters were born to him.

³And his possessions were seven thousand sheep and three thousand camels and five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred female donkeys and a **very** large body of servants, so that this man was the greatest of **all** the people of the East.

⁴And his sons went and had a feast in the house of each on his day and **sent** and invited their three sisters to eat and to drink with them.

⁵And it came to be, when the days of feasting had gone round, that Iyob would send and set them apart and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings – the number of them **all** – for Iyob said, “It might be that my sons have *sinned* and *cursed Elohim* in their **hearts**.” This Iyob **always** did.

⁶And the day came to be that the sons of **Elohim** came to present themselves before **אֵלֵאֵל** and Satan also came among them.

⁷And **אֵלֵאֵל** said to Satan, “From where do you **come**?” And Satan answered **אֵלֵאֵל** and said, “From **diligently searching** in the earth and from walking up and down in it.”

⁸And **אֵלֵאֵל** said to Satan, “Have you considered **My** servant Iyob, that there is none like him on the earth, a **perfect** and **straight man, one who fears Elohim and turns aside from evil**?”

⁹And Satan answered **אֵלֵאֵל** and said, “Is Iyob **fearing Elohim** for naught?”

¹⁰“Have You not made a hedge around him and around his household and

around **all** that he has on **every** side? You have **blessed** the **work** of his hands and his possessions have increased in the land.

¹¹**But** stretch out **Your hand**, please and **strike all** that he has – if he *would not curse* You to **Your** face!”

¹²And **אֵלֵאֵל** said to Satan, “**See, all** that he has is in your **hand**. Only *do not* lay a **hand** on himself.” And Satan went out from the presence of **אֵלֵאֵל**.

¹³And the day came to be when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking **wine** in the house of their brother, the first-born.

¹⁴And a messenger came to Iyob and said, “The oxen were ploughing and the donkeys feeding alongside them,

¹⁵when Sheḇa fell upon them and took them away and they *smote* the servants with the edge of the *sword*. And I alone have **escaped** to inform you!”

¹⁶While he was still speaking, another also came and said, “The *fire of Elohim* fell from the heavens and *burned* up the sheep and the servants and *consumed* them. And I alone have **escaped** to inform you!”

¹⁷While he was still speaking, another also came and said, “The Chaldeans formed three bands and made a raid on the camels and took them away and they *smote* the servants with the edge of the *sword*. And I alone have **escaped** to inform you!”

¹⁸While he was still speaking, another also came and said, “**Your** sons and daughters were eating and drinking **wine** in the house of their brother, the first-born,

¹⁹and **see, a great wind** came from the wilderness and *struck* the four corners of the house and it fell on the young men and they are *dead*. And I alone have **escaped** to inform you!”

²⁰*Then* Iyob rose up and tore his robe and shaved his head and he fell to the ground and did obeisance.

²¹And he said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb and naked I **return** there. אַיָּאֵל has **given** and אַיָּאֵל has taken away.

Blessed be the **Name** of אַיָּאֵל.”

²²In **all** this Iyob *did not sin* nor ascribe wrong-doing unto **Elohim**.

2 Again the day came to be that the sons of **Elohim** came to present themselves before אַיָּאֵל and Satan also came among them to present himself before אַיָּאֵל.

²And אַיָּאֵל said to Satan, “From where do you **come**?” And Satan answered אַיָּאֵל and said, “From **diligently searching** in the earth and from walking up and down in it.”

³And אַיָּאֵל said to Satan, “Have you considered **My** servant Iyob, that there is none like him on the earth, a **perfect** and **straight** man, one who *fears Elohim* and turns aside from *evil*? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited **Me** *against* him, to *destroy* him without **cause**.”

⁴And Satan answered אַיָּאֵל and said, “Skin for skin and **all** that a man has he would give for his **life**!

⁵“**But** stretch out **Your hand**, please and *strike* his bone and his *flesh* – if he *would not curse* You to **Your** face!”

⁶And אַיָּאֵל said to Satan, “**See**, he is in your **hand**, only spare his **life**.”

⁷And Satan went out from the presence of אַיָּאֵל and *smote* Iyob with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.

⁸And he took a potsherd with which to scrape himself while he sat in the **midst** of the ashes.

⁹And his wife said to him, “**Do** you still hold fast to your integrity? **Curse Elohim** and *die*!”

¹⁰**But** he said to her, “You **speak** as one of the **foolish** women speaks. Indeed, should we **accept** *only good* from

Elohim and not **accept evil**?” In **all** this Iyob *did not sin* with his lips.

¹¹And three of the friends of Iyob **heard** of **all** this *evil* that came on him and each one came from his own place – Eliphaz the Tēmanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Tsophar the Na’amathite – and they met **together** to **come** to sympathise with him and to comfort him.

¹²And they lifted up their eyes from a distance and *did not* recognise him and they lifted their **voices** and wept. And each one tore his **robe** and sprinkled dust on his head toward the **heavens**.

¹³*Then* they sat down with him on the ground seven days and seven nights and no one spoke a **word** to him, for they **saw** that the pain was **very** great.

3 After this Iyob opened his **mouth** and *curse* the **day** of his birth.

²And Iyob spoke and said,

³“**Let** the day *perish* on which I was born and the night it was said, ‘A male child has been conceived.’”

⁴**Let** that day be *darkness*. **Let** not Eloah from above **seek** for it, nor let **light** shine upon it.

⁵**Let** *darkness* and the *shadow of death* buy it back, let a cloud dwell on it, let **all** that blackens the day frighten it.

⁶That night – let *darkness seize* it. **Let** it not be included among the days of the year, let it not **come** into the number of the months.

⁷Look, let that night be silent! **Let** no singing **come** into it!

⁸**Let** those *curse* it who *curse* the day, who are **ready** to stir up Liwiathan.

⁹**Let** the stars of its **twilight** be dark. **Let** it wait for **light**, but have none. And let it not **see** the eyelashes of the dawn.

¹⁰For it *did not* shut up the **doors** of my *mother’s* womb, nor hide *trouble* from my eyes.

¹¹**Why** did I not *die* from the womb, **come** forth from the belly and expire?

¹²**Why** were there knees to receive me? Or breasts for me to suck?

¹³For **now** I would have been *lying* in peace. I would have slept – then I would have been at rest,

¹⁴with sovereigns and counsellors of the earth, who built ruins for themselves,

¹⁵or with rulers who had gold, who filled their houses with silver,

¹⁶or as a *hidden* untimely birth, as infants who never **saw light**?

¹⁷There the **wrong** cease raging and there the *weary* are at rest,

¹⁸the prisoners rest together, they *do not hear* the **voice** of the oppressor.

¹⁹The small and **great** are there and the servant is **free** from his master.

²⁰**Why** does **He** give **light** to the sufferer and **life** to the *bitter* of being,

²¹who are waiting for *death*, but it *does not* come and **search** for it more than treasures;

²²who **rejoice** exceedingly, they are **glad** when they find the grave?

²³**Why** does **He** give **light** to a man whose **way** has been *hidden* and whom Eloah has hedged in?

²⁴For my *sighing* comes before I eat and my groanings **pour out** like water.

²⁵For that which I greatly *feared* has **come** upon me and that which I dreaded has overtaken me.

²⁶I have not been at ease, nor have I been undisturbed, nor been at rest, yet *trouble* comes!"

4 And Eliphaz the Tēmanite answered and said,

²⁴**If** one tries a **word** with you, would you become impatient? **But** who **is able** to withhold himself from speaking?

³**See**, you have **instructed** many and you have made weak hands strong.

⁴Your **words** have **raised** up him who was *stumbling* and you have strengthened the weak knees.

⁵**But now** it has **come to** you and you are impatient; it strikes you and you are troubled.

⁶Is not your reverence your **trust**, the integrity of **ways** your expectancy?

⁷**Remember**, please: *Who*, being innocent, has ever perished?

And where have the **straight** ones ever been *cut off*?

⁸According to what I have **seen**, those who plough *wickedness* and sow suffering reap the **same**.

⁹Through the breath of Eloah they *perish* and through the **Spirit** of **His** nostrils they are *consumed*.

¹⁰The roaring of the lion and the **voice** of the **fierce** lion, but the *teeth* of the young lions **shall be** broken.

¹¹An old lion perishes for lack of prey and the cubs of the lioness are *scattered*.

¹²Unto me a **word** was **secretly** brought and my ear received a *little* of it.

¹³Amid *thoughts* from **visions** of the night, when deep sleep falls on men,

¹⁴**fear** came upon me and *trembling*, causing my bones to *shake* greatly.

¹⁵**Then** a spirit passed before my face, the hair on my body stood up.

¹⁶It stood still, but I *could not discern* its appearance. A form was before my eyes – silence, then a **voice** I **heard**,

¹⁷Is mortal man more **righteous** than Eloah? Is man more **clean** than his Maker?

¹⁸Look, **He** puts no **trust** in **His** servants and **He** charges **His** messengers with straying.

¹⁹**How** much more those who dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, who are crushed like a moth?

²⁰From morning til **evening** they are *beaten* down, they *perish forever*, with no one regarding.

²¹Are not the cords of their tents pulled up? They *die*, without **wisdom**!

5 “Call out, please, is there anyone to answer you? And to which of the set apart ones would you turn?

²For *wrath* kills the fool and *envy* slays the simple.

³I myself have **seen** the *fool* taking root, but **suddenly** his home was *cursed*.

⁴His sons are far from safety, they are crushed in the gate with no one to deliver.

⁵The hungry eat up his harvest, taking

it even from the thorns and the *snare* snaps up their wealth.

⁶For *evil does not come* from the dust, nor does *trouble* spring from the ground;

⁷for man is born for *trouble* and the sparks fly upward.

⁸**But** as for me, I would **seek** Ēl and I would submit my case to **Elohim**,

⁹who is doing **great** and unsearchable **deeds**, innumerable **wonders**,

¹⁰who is giving rain on the earth's face and is sending waters on the field's face;

¹¹to set the lowly on high and those who *mourn shall be* lifted to safety,

¹²thwarting the schemes of the *crafty*, so that their hands *do not work* effectively;

¹³catching the **wise** in their own *craftiness* and the counsel of schemers are swept away.

¹⁴By day they encounter *darkness* and at noon they grope as in the night.

¹⁵**But He saves** the needy from the *sword* of their **mouth**, from the clutches of the strong.

¹⁶Thus the *poor* have expectancy and *unrighteousness* shuts her **mouth**.

¹⁷Look, **blessed** is the man whom Eloah does reprove, so *do not despise* the **discipline** of the Almighty.

¹⁸For **He** bruises, but **He** binds up; **He** smites, but **His** hands **heal**.

¹⁹In six *distresses* **He** delivers you and in seven no *evil* strikes you.

²⁰In *scarcity of food* **He shall redeem** you from *death* and in battle from the **power** of the *sword*.

²¹**When** the tongue scourges you are shielded and you have no **fear** when *destruction* comes.

²²At *destruction* and at starvation you laugh and you have no **fear** of the beasts of the earth.

²³For your **covenant** is with the stones of the field and the beasts of the field **shall be** at **peace** with you.

²⁴And **you shall know** that your tent is in peace and **shall visit** your tent and not *sin*,

²⁵and **shall know** that your seed are many and your offspring like the grass of the earth.

²⁶You **shall come** to the grave in ripe old age, like the stacking of grain in its season.

²⁷Look, this we have searched out, it is so. **hear** it and **know** for yourself."

6 And Iyob answered and said,
²⁴"Oh, that my grief were thoroughly weighed and my *calamity* be placed on the scales!

³For it would outweigh the sand of the sea, therefore my **words** have been rash.

⁴For the arrows of the Almighty are within me, my spirit drinks in their poison, the onslaughts of Eloah are arrayed *against* me.

⁵Does the wild donkey bray when it has grass, or does the ox bellow over its fodder?

⁶Is tasteless food eaten without salt? Is there any flavour in the juice of mallows?

⁷I *refuse* to touch it, they are like food when I am *sick*,

⁸Oh that I might have my desire, that Eloah would grant me what I long for!

⁹That it would please Eloah to *crush* me, loose **His hand** and *cut* me off!

¹⁰**Then** I would still have comfort and I would **rejoice** in pain, though *not spared*, for I have not *hidden* the **words** of the set-apart One.

¹¹**What** strength do I have, that I should wait? And what is my end, that I should prolong my **life**?

¹²Is my strength the strength of stones? Is my *flesh* of bronze?

¹³Is my help not within me? And is ability *driven* from me?

¹⁴To a despiser of friends: shame! For he is *forsaking* the **fear** of the Almighty.

¹⁵My brothers are as undependable as a wadi, as a bed on which streams once ran,

¹⁶which are dark **because** of the ice, in which the snow is *hidden*.

¹⁷**When** it is warm, they cease to flow; when it is hot, they vanish from their place.

¹⁸The paths of their **way** turn aside, they enter wastes and *perish*.

¹⁹Passengers of Tēma **looked** expectantly, travellers of Sheḅa waited for them.

²⁰They were *ashamed* **because** they had **trusted**, they came there and were disappointed.

²¹Indeed, you have **now** become the **same!** You **see** my downfall and are *afraid*.

²²Did I ever say, ‘Give to me?’ or, ‘Offer a *bribe* for me from your wealth?’

²³or, ‘Rescue me from the **hand** of the enemy?’ or, ‘Redeem me from the **hand** of oppressors?’

²⁴Teach me and I **shall be** silent. And **show** me where I have gone *astray*.

²⁵**Words of uprightness** are harsh! **But** what does your reproving reprove?

²⁶**Do** you reckon to **reprove** my **words** and the sayings of one in despair, which are as wind?

²⁷You would *cast lots* over the fatherless and make merchandise of your friend!

²⁸**But now**, please look at me – whether I would *lie* to your face.

²⁹Relent, please, let there be no *unrighteousness*. Relent!

My righteousness is still in it.

³⁰Is there *unrighteousness* on my tongue? Does my taste not *discern* what is perverse?

7 “Does not man have to struggle on earth? For his days are like the days of a hired man.

²Like a servant who sighs for the shade and like a hireling longing for his wages,

³so am I allotted months of futility. And nights of *trouble* have been **appointed** to me.

⁴**When** I *lie* down, I say, ‘**When** am I going to rise and the night be ended?’ For I have had my fill of tossing until dawn.

⁵My body is covered with worms and dirt, my skin is cracked and it festers.

⁶My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle and are spent without expectancy.

⁷**Remember** that my **life** is a breath!

My eye is never again to **see good**.

⁸The eye of him who sees me sees me no longer. **Your** eyes are upon me and I am no more.

⁹The cloud fades and vanishes away, so he who goes down to the grave *does not come* up.

¹⁰He returns no more to his house, nor does his place **know** him any more.

¹¹I also, I *do not* hold my **mouth**, I **speak** in the *distress* of my spirit, I complain in the *bitterness* of my being.

¹²Am I the sea, or a sea monster, that You set a **guard** over me?

¹³**When** I say, ‘**My** bed does comfort me, my couch does ease my complaint,’

¹⁴then **You** frighten me with **dreams** and make me *afraid* with **visions**,

¹⁵so that my being **chooses** strangling, *death* rather than my bones.

¹⁶I have wasted away, I *would not live forever*. Leave me alone, for my days are a breath.

¹⁷**What** is man, that **You** should make him great, that **You** should set **Your heart** on him,

¹⁸that You should **visit** him **every** morning, trying him **every** moment?

¹⁹**How** long do You not look away from me, nor leave me alone til I swallow my saliva?

²⁰Have I *sinned*? **What** have I done to **You**, O Watcher of men? **Why** have You set me as **Your** target, so that I am a *burden* to **You**?

²¹**Why** do You not pardon my *transgression* and take away my *crookedness*? For **now** I *lie* down in the dust and **You shall seek** me but I am not.”

8 And Bildad the Shuhite answered and said,

²“**How** long are you going to **speak** like this, since the **words** of your **mouth** are a **strong** wind?

³Does Ēl *twist* right-ruling? Or does the Almighty *twist* what is right?

⁴**If** your sons have *sinned against Him* and **He** delivers them into the **hand** of their *transgression*,

⁵if you **diligently seek** Ēl and plead with the **Almighty**,

⁶if you were clear and **straight**, then indeed **He** would awake for you and bless your righteous dwelling place.

⁷Though your beginning was small, yet your **latter** end would greatly increase.

⁸Indeed, please **ask** the former generation and **prepare** for the research of their fathers,

⁹for we are but of yesterday and **know** not, **because** our days on earth are as a shadow.

¹⁰**Do** they not **teach** you, **speak** to you and bring forth **words** from their heart?

¹¹Does papyrus grow without a marsh, a reed thrive without water?

¹²While it is yet green, not *cut down*, it dries out before any plant.

¹³So are the paths of **all** who *forget* Ēl and the expectancy of a *defiled* one does *perish*,

¹⁴whose **refuge** is *cut off* and whose **trust** is a spider's web.

¹⁵He leans on his house, but it *does not* stand. He holds it fast but it *does not* last.

¹⁶He is moist before the sun and his branches spread out in his garden.

¹⁷His roots wrap around a heap and look for a place in the stones.

¹⁸**If** he is *destroyed* from his place, then it *shall deny* him: 'I have not **seen** you.'

¹⁹**See**, this is the **joy** of **His way** and out of the dust others grow.

²⁰**See**, Ēl *does not cast* away the perfect, neither hold the **hand** of *evil-doers*.

²¹While **He** fills your **mouth** with laughter and your lips with rejoicing,

²²those hating you put on shame and the tent of the **wrong** is no more."

9 And Iyob answered and said,

²⁶**Truly** I **know** it is so. **But** how is man **right** with **Elohim**?

³**If** one **wished** to *dispute* with **Him**, he *would not* answer **Him** one **time** out of a thousand.

⁴Wise in **heart** and mighty in strength – who has *hardened* himself against

Him and is at peace?

⁵**He** who removes mountains and they *do not know* it, when **He** overturns them in **His** displeasure;

⁶who shakes the earth out of its place and its columns tremble;

⁷who **commands** the sun and it *does not* rise; and **He** seals up the stars,

⁸stretching out the heavens by **Himself** and treading upon the waves of the sea;

⁹who made Ash, Kesil and Kimah and the rooms of the south;

¹⁰who performs **great** and unsearchable **deeds** and innumerable **wonders**.

¹¹Look, **He** goes by me and I *do not* see; and **He** moves past, but I *do not discern Him*.

¹²Look, **He** snatches away, who brings it back? **Who** says to **Him**, '**What** are You doing?'

¹³Eloah *does not turn back His displeasure*, the helpers of pride stoop under **Him**.

¹⁴**How** much less would I answer **Him**, choose my **words** with Him?

¹⁵For though I were **righteous**, I *would not* answer **Him**. I pray to **Him** for my right-ruling.

¹⁶Though I had called and **He** answered me, I *would not believe* that **He** was **listening** to my **voice**.

¹⁷For **He** crushes me with a *storm* and has multiplied my *wounds* for no **cause**.

¹⁸**He** *does not* allow me to recover my breath, but fills me with *bitterness*.

¹⁹**If** I **speak** of power? Look, **He** is mighty. And if of right-ruling? **Who** sets me a time?

²⁰**If** I am righteous? **My mouth** would **declare** me *wrong*. Am I **perfect**? It would **declare** me *perverse*.

²¹Am I **perfect**? **Do** I not **know** my own being? I *despise* my **life**!

²²It is **all** the **same**, therefore I say, '**He** destroys the **perfect** and the *wrong*.'

²³**If** the scourge *slays suddenly*, **He** laughs at the trial of the innocent.

²⁴Earth has been **given** into the **hand** of the *wrong*. **He** covers the faces of its judges. **If** it is not **He**, then who is it?

²⁵My days have become swifter than

a runner – they have fled, they have not **seen good**.

²⁶They have passed by like *swift* ships, like an eagle swooping on its prey.

²⁷**If** I say, ‘**Let** me *forget* my complaint, let me put off my sad face and let me smile,’

²⁸**I shall be afraid** of **all** my sufferings. I know that *you do not* hold me innocent.

²⁹**If** I am **wrong**, why should I labour in vain?

³⁰**If** I washed myself with snow water and **cleansed** my hands with soap,

³¹then You would plunge me into a ditch and my garments **shall** abhor me.

³²For **He** is not a man as I am that I answer **Him** and we **come together** into right-ruling.

³³There is no mediator between us, to lay his **hand** upon us both.

³⁴**Let Him** take **His rod** away from me and let **His dread** frighten me.

³⁵**Then** I would **speak** and not **fear Him**, for I am not so within myself.

10 “My being has grown *weary* of **life**. I let loose my complaint, I speak in the *bitterness* of my being.

¹I say to Eloah, ‘**Do not declare** me wrong, show me why You strive with me.

²Is it **good** to You that You should crush, that You should *despise* the **work** of **Your** hands and shine on the counsel of the *wrong*?

⁴**Do** You have eyes of flesh?
Do You **see** as man sees?

⁵Are **Your** days like the days of a mortal man? Are **Your** years like the days of a mighty man,

⁶that You should **seek** for my *crookedness* and **search** out my *sin*?

⁷For You know that I am not wrong and there is no one to **deliver** from **Your hand**.

⁸Your hands have made me and shaped me, together all around, yet You destroy me.

⁹**Remember**, please, that **You** have made me like clay. And would **You** turn

me into dust again?

¹⁰Did You not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese?

¹¹Skin and *flesh* you put on me and wove me with bones and sinews.

¹²Life and **kindness** You have bestowed on me and **Your visitation** has **preserved** my spirit.

¹³And these You have laid up in **Your heart**, I know that this was with You:

¹⁴**If** I *sin*, then **You watch** me and let no *crookedness* of mine go unpunished.

¹⁵**If** I am **wrong**, **woe** to me! And if I am righteous, I *would not* lift up my head – filled with *shame* and **seeing** my *grief*!

¹⁶**If** I lift it up high, You hunt me as a lion and again You would **show Yourself** marvellous *against* me.

¹⁷You renew **Your witnesses** *against* me and increase **Your** vexation toward me; *changes* and a host are with me.

¹⁸So why have You brought me forth from the womb? Oh, that I had *perished* and no eye had **seen** me!

¹⁹I should have been as though I had not been – brought from the womb to the grave.

²⁰Are not my days few? **Then** cease! Leave me alone, so that I brighten up a little,

²¹Before I go and not return, to the land of *darkness* and the *shadow of death*,

²²a land as dark as *darkness* itself, as the *shadow of death*, without any order, whose **light** is as *darkness*.”

11 And Tsophar the Na’amathite answered and said,

²“**Should** a multitude of **words** go unanswered? And should a man of lips be **declared** right?

³**Should** your babblings silence men? And should you *mock* and no one make you ashamed?

⁴Since you have said, ‘My discourse is flawless and I have been **clean** in **Your** eyes.’

⁵**But** if only Eloah would speak and **open His lips** *against* you,

⁶and **show** you the **secrets** of **wisdom**, doubling your ability. Know then that Eloah *forgets some* of your *crookedness* for you.

⁷Would you find out Eloah by **searching** or **search** out the **end** of the Almighty?

⁸It is higher than the heavens – what would you do? Deeper than the grave – what would you **know**?

⁹Their measure is longer than the earth and broader than the sea.

¹⁰**If He** passes through and shuts up and gathers, then who does reverse it?

¹¹For **He knows false** men. **When He sees wickedness** does **He** not consider it?

¹²**But** a senseless man takes **heart** when a wild donkey's colt is born a man!

¹³**If** you would **prepare** your **heart** and stretch out your hands toward Him;

¹⁴if *wickedness* were in your **hand**, put it far away and *do not* let *perverseness* dwell in your tents;

¹⁵then indeed you **shall** lift up your face without spot; and you **shall stand** firm and not be *afraid*,

¹⁶**because** you would *forget sorrow* and **remember** it as waters that have passed away,

¹⁷and your **life** would be brighter than noon. You would soar upward, you would be like the morning.

¹⁸And you **shall trust**, **because** there is expectancy. And when you have searched you **shall lie** down in safety.

¹⁹And you **shall** rest and no one would make you *afraid* and many **shall seek** your **favour**.

²⁰**But** the eyes of the **wrong** are *consumed* and they **shall** not **escape** and their expectancy is the breathing out of **life!**"

12 And Iyob answered and said,

²⁶**Truly** you are the people and **wisdom** would *die* with you!

³**But** I, like you, have a **heart** too; I am not less than you. And who *does not know* such as these?

⁴I have become a laughing-stock to my

friends – one who has called on Eloah and **He** answered **Him!** A laughing-stock is the **righteous**, the **perfect** one!

⁵A **lamp** is *despised* in the thought of one who is at ease – prepared for those whose feet slip.

⁶The tents of **robbers** are at peace and those who **provoke** El are complacent, to him who brings Eloah into his **hand!**

⁷**But now ask** the beasts and they **teach** you; and the birds of the heavens and they **declare** it to you;

⁸or **speak** to the earth and it **teaches** you; and the fish of the sea inform you.

⁹**Who** among **all** these *does not know* that the **hand** of אַיָּאֵל has done this,

¹⁰in whose **hand** is the **life** of **all** that **live** and the breath of **all** mankind?

¹¹Does the ear not try **words**? And the **mouth** taste food for itself?

¹²With the aged is **wisdom** and **understanding** with length of days.

¹³With **Him** are **wisdom** and **might**, **He** has counsel and **understanding**.

¹⁴Look, **He** breaks down and it is not rebuilt. **If He** imprisons a man, there is no release.

¹⁵Look, **He** withholds the waters and they dry up. And **He sends** them out and they overwhelm the earth.

¹⁶With **Him** are strength and ability. The misled and the misleader are **His**.

¹⁷**He** leads counsellors away stripped and makes judges go mad.

¹⁸**He** loosens the bonds of sovereigns and binds a girdle on their loins;

¹⁹who leads away priests as a spoil and overthrows the mighty;

²⁰turning aside the lip of the **trusted** ones, and takes away the discernment of the elders;

²¹pouring *scorn* on nobles and loosens the girdle of the strong;

²²revealing deep matters out of *darkness* and **He** brings the *shadow of death* to **light**;

²³making nations great and **He** destroys them; spreading out the nations and **He** leads them out.

²⁴turning aside the **heart** of the chiefs of the people of the earth and **He** makes

them *wander* in a pathless waste.

²⁵They grope in *darkness*, having no **light** and **He** makes them *stagger* like a drunkard.

13 “Look, my eye has **seen** it **all**, my ear has **heard** and understood it.

²**What** you **know**, I **know** too; I am not less than you.

³**But** I would **speak** to the **Almighty** and I **delight** to **reason** with **Ēl**.

⁴**But** you smear with *falsehood*, *worthless* healers, **all** of you!

⁵**If** you would only be silent, then it would be your **wisdom**!

⁶Please **hear** my reasoning and **listen** to the pleadings of my lips.

⁷Would you **speak** perversely for **Ēl** and **speak** *deceit* for Him?

⁸Would you be partial towards Him? Would you plead for **Ēl**?

⁹Would it be well when **He** searches you out? Or could you *deceive* **Him** as one deceives a man?

¹⁰**He** would certainly **reprove** you if you **secretly show** partiality.

¹¹**Should** not **His** excellence make you *afraid* and the *dread* of **Him** *fall* upon you?

¹²Your weighty sayings are proverbs of ashes, your shields are shields of clay.

¹³Be *silent* before me and let me speak and let *whatever* come upon me!

¹⁴**Why** do I take my *flesh* in my *teeth* and put my **life** in my hands?

¹⁵Though, **He** does *slay* me – I wait! **But** I show my ways to be right before **Him**.

¹⁶**He** also is my **deliverance**, for a *defiled* one *does not* come before **Him**.

¹⁷**Listen** closely to my **words** and with your **ears** to what I say.

¹⁸Look, please, I have prepared my case, I **know** that I am in the right.

¹⁹**Who** is he who would *strive* with me? For then I would keep *silent* and *die*.

²⁰Only two matters *do not* do to me, then I am not *hidden* from **Your** face:

²¹Withdraw Your hand far from me and

let not *dread* of You make me *afraid*.

²²**Then** call and let me answer; or let me speak and You reply to me.

²³**How** many are my *crookednesses* and *sins*? **Let** me **know** my *transgression* and my *sin*.

²⁴**Why** do **You** hide **Your** face and reckon me as **Your** enemy?

²⁵Would You frighten a leaf *driven* to and fro? And would You pursue dry stubble?

²⁶For You **write** *bitter charges* *against* me and make me inherit the *crookednesses* of my youth,

²⁷and put my feet in the stocks and look closely to **all** my paths. You set a limit for the soles of my feet.

²⁸And he, like that which is rotten, wastes away, as a garment that is moth-eaten.

14 “Man born of woman is of **few** days and turmoil-filled.

²**He** comes forth like a flower and withers. **He** flees like a shadow and *does not* continue.

³Yet on such a one You **open** **Your** eyes and bring me to **right-ruling** with **Yourself**!

⁴**Who** brings the **clean** out of the unclean? No one!

⁵Since his days are decided, the number of his months is with **You**, You have **appointed** his bounds which he *does not* pass over.

⁶Look away from him and let him rest, til like a hired man he enjoys his day.

⁷For there is expectancy for a *tree*, if it is *cut down*, that it does sprout again and that its tender branch *does not* cease.

⁸Though its root grows old in the earth and its stump dies in the ground,

⁹at the scent of water it buds and brings forth foliage like a plant.

¹⁰**But** man dies and is powerless and man expires and where is he?

¹¹Water disappears from the sea and a river dries up and is parched,

¹²and man *shall* lie down and not rise.

Til the heavens are no more, they awake not, nor are aroused from their sleep.

¹³**If** only You would hide me in the grave, *conceal* me until **Your wrath** turns away. Set me a **time** and **remember** me!

¹⁴**If** a man dies, would he **live** again? All the days of my struggle I wait, til my *change* comes.

¹⁵You would call and I would answer **You**. You have yearned for the **work** of **Your** hands.

¹⁶For **now** You count my steps – do You not **watch** over my *sin*?

¹⁷My *transgression* is **sealed up** in a bag and You cover over my *crookedness*.

¹⁸**But** a falling mountain crumbles away and a rock is moved from its place,

¹⁹as water wears away stones, its outpouring washes away the soil of the earth – so You have **destroyed** the expectancy of man.

²⁰You overpower him, **forever** and he is gone – his face *changes* and You send him away.

²¹His sons **come** to esteem and he *does not know* it. And they are brought low and he *does not perceive* it.

²²He feels only the pain of his *flesh* and he mourns over himself.”

15 And Eliphaz the Tēmanite answered and said,

²⁴“Would a **wise** man answer with vain **knowledge**, or fill his belly with the east wind?

³Would he **reason** with useless talk, or by speeches with which *do not* profit?

⁴Indeed, you do away with reverence and withhold prayer before Ēl.

⁵For your *crookedness* **teaches** your **mouth** *what to say* and you choose the tongue of the *crafty*.

⁶Not I, but your own **mouth** condemns you. And your own lips **witness** *against* you.

⁷Were you the **first** one born? Or were you made before the hills?

⁸Have you **heard** the **secret** counsel of Eloah? And do you limit **wisdom** to

yourself?

⁹**What** do you **know** that we *do not know* – *understand*, that is not within us?

¹⁰Both the grey-haired and the aged are among us, much older than your father.

¹¹Are the **comforts** of Ēl not enough for you – and a **word** that deals gently with you?

¹²**What** have you taken to heart? And why do your eyes flash?

¹³That you should turn your spirit *against* Ēl and let *such words* go out of your mouth?

¹⁴**What** is man, that he should be clean? And one born of a woman, that he should be righteous?

¹⁵Look, **He** puts no **trust** in **His** set-apart ones and the heavens are not **clean** in **His** eyes,

¹⁶how much less one who is loathsome and *corrupt*, drinking *unrighteousness* like water!

¹⁷**Let** me **show** you – **hear** me – and this I have **seen** and **declare**,

¹⁸which the **wise** **declare** and have not *hidden* from their fathers,

¹⁹to them alone the land was **given** and no stranger passed over into their **midst**:

²⁰All the days of the *wrong* one he is paining himself and **few** years have been stored up for the ruthless.

²¹A frightening sound is in his ears; in **peace** a destroyer **comes** to him.

²²He **believes** not to **return** from *darkness* and he is reserved for the *sword*.

²³He wanders about for food – where is it? He **knows** that a **day of darkness** is prepared for him.

²⁴Distress and pain frighten him – they overwhelm him, like a sovereign **ready** for the attack.

²⁵**Because** he has **stretched** out his **hand** *against* Ēl and acts **mightily** *against* the Almighty.

²⁶He runs *against* **Him** defiantly, with thick-bossed shields.

²⁷For he has covered his face with his fatness and he has put layers of fat on his loins.

²⁸**But** he dwells in *ruined* cities, in

houses which no one lives in, which have been **ready** to become heaps.

²⁹He **shall** not be rich and his wealth **shall** not rise and his possessions **shall** not overspread the earth.

³⁰He *does not* turn away from *darkness*. The *flame* dries up his branches and he turns aside by the breath of **His mouth**.

³¹Let him not **trust** in *falsehood*, *deceiving* himself, for *falsehood* is his reward.

³²Before his day it is **accomplished** and his branch **shall** not be green.

³³He shakes off his unripe grape like a vine and throws off his blossom like an olive *tree*.

³⁴For the company of the *defiled* ones is *barren* and *fire* consumes the tents of bribery.

³⁵They conceive *trouble* and bring forth *wickedness*, even their womb prepares **deception**.”

16 And Iyob answered and said,

^{2c}I have **heard** many matters like these; **all** of you are comforters of trouble!

³Is there an end to **words** of wind? Or what provokes you that you answer?

⁴I might also **speak** like you, if you were in my place. I might heap up words *against* you and *shake* my head at you.

⁵I might strengthen you with my **mouth** and my moving lips might bring relief.

⁶*If* I speak, my pain is not relieved; and if I refrain, does it leave me?

⁷**But now He** has wearied me. You have stunned **all** my company.

⁸And You have *plucked* me and it is a **witness**. And my failure rises up *against* me, it bears **witness** to my face.

⁹He has *torn* in **His wrath** and **He hates** me. **He** has gnashed at me with **His teeth**; my adversary sharpens **His eyes** upon me.

¹⁰They **open** wide their mouths at me, in *scorn* they have *smitten* my cheeks, they mass themselves **together against** me.

¹¹El has handed me over to the perverse

and *cast* me into the hands of the *wrong*.

¹²I was at ease, but **He** broke me. And **He** took me by my neck and shattered me and **He** has set me up for **His target**.

¹³**His** archers surround me, **He** splits my kidneys in two and *does not spare*, **He** pours out my bile on the ground.

¹⁴**He** made a *breach* in me, *breach* upon breach. **He** runs upon me like a mighty man.

¹⁵I sewed sackcloth over my skin and laid my horn in the dust.

¹⁶My face is reddened from *weeping* and on my eyelids is the shadow of death;

¹⁷though no *violence* was on my **hand** and my prayer sincere.

¹⁸O earth, *do not* cover my **blood** and let my cry have no resting place!

¹⁹**See**, even **now** my **witness** is in the heavens and my defender is on high.

²⁰My friends are they that *scorn* me; my eyes **pour out** tears to Eloah.

²¹O that one might plead for a man with Eloah, as a man with his neighbour!

²²**When** a few years are past, then I **shall** go the **way** of no return.

17 “My spirit has been *broken*, my days have been extinguished, *graves* are for me.

²**Truly**, mockeries are with me and my eye rests on their insults!

³Please lay down a **pledge** for me with **Yourself**. **Who** would *strike* hands with me?

⁴For You have *hidden* their **heart** from **understanding**, therefore *you do not exalt* them.

⁵He who denounces friends for a share, even the eyes of his children **shall** fail.

⁶**But He** has made me a byword of the people, whereas in former times I was as a drum.

⁷And from *sorrow* my eye has grown dim and **all** my members are like shadows.

⁸Upright ones are astonished at this and the **innocent** stirs himself up *against* the *defiled* one.

⁹And the **righteous** holds to his way and he who has **clean** hands becomes stronger and stronger.

¹⁰**But** please, **come back** again, **all** of you, for I *do not* find a **wise** one among you.

¹¹My days have passed by, my plans have been broken off – the desires of my **heart**.

¹²They would turn night into day, saying that **light** is near, in the presence of *darkness!*

¹³**If** I wait – the grave is my house, I **shall** make my bed in *darkness*,

¹⁴I **shall** say to *corruption*, ‘You are my father,’ – to the worm, ‘You are my mother and my sister.’

¹⁵Where then is my expectancy? As for my expectancy, who would **see** it?

¹⁶Would it sink down into the grave? Would we **together** go down into the dust?”

18 And Bildad the Shuhite answered and said,

^{2a}**When** do you put an end to **words**? Understand and let us then talk.

³**Why** should we be reckoned as beasts, as *stupid* in your eyes?

⁴You who *tear* yourself to pieces in *displeasure* – would the earth be **forsaken** for your sake? Or the rock move from its place?

⁵Indeed, the **light** of the *wrong* goes out and the *flame* of his *fire* *does not* shine.

⁶The **light shall be** dark in his tent and his **lamp** beside him is put out.

⁷The steps of his strength are impeded and his own counsel overthrows him.

⁸For he is **sent** into a *net* by his own feet and he walks on a pit-fall.

⁹The *net* seizes his heel, a *snare* **prevails** over him.

¹⁰A noose is *hidden* on the ground for him and a *trap* for him in the path.

¹¹Alarms frighten him on **all** sides and chase him at his heels.

¹²His strength is starved and *calamity* is

ready at his side.

¹³It devours parts of his skin, the first-born of *death* devours his parts.

¹⁴He is *torn* from the shelter of his tent and they parade him before the sovereign of alarms.

¹⁵In his tent dwells that which is none of his; brimstone is *scattered* on his house.

¹⁶His roots below dry up and his branch is *cut off* above.

¹⁷**remembrance** of him perishes from the earth and he has no name on the street.

¹⁸They **thrust** him from **light** into *darkness* and chase him out of the world.

¹⁹He leaves no offspring or descendant among his people, nor any survivor in his dwellings.

²⁰Those in the west are astonished at his day, as those in the east are frightened.

²¹Indeed, such are the dwellings of the **perverse** and this is the place of him who *does not know* El.”

19 And Iyob answered and said,
^{2a}**How** long would you grieve my **life** and *crush* me with **words**?

³These ten times you have insulted me, shamelessly you attack me.

⁴Even if I have **truly** gone *astray*, my *straying* remains with me.

⁵**If** indeed you would **exalt** yourselves above me and plead *against* me my reproach,

⁶know then that Eloah has *overthrown* me and has surrounded me with **His** net.

⁷**See**, I cry, ‘Violence!’ but I am not **heard**. I cry aloud, but there is no right-ruling.

⁸**He** has fenced up my **way** and I pass not over and **He** has placed *darkness* in my paths.

⁹**He** has stripped me of my esteem and taken the crown from my head.

¹⁰**He** breaks me down on **every** side and I am gone; and uproots my expectancy like a *tree*.

¹¹And **He** kindled **His** *wrath* *against* me and **He** counts me as one of **His**

enemies.

¹²His companies **come together** and they *cast up* their way against me and encamp **all** around my tent.

¹³He has removed my brothers far away from me and my friends are **completely** estranged from me.

¹⁴My **near** ones have fallen away and my close friends have *forgotten* me.

¹⁵The guests in my house and my female servants, reckon me for a stranger – I am a foreigner in their eyes.

¹⁶I have called my servant, but he gives no answer – I have to *beg* him with my **mouth**.

¹⁷My spirit is *strange* to my wife and my **kindness** to the children of my own body.

¹⁸Even young children have *scorned* me. I rise and they **speak against** me.

¹⁹All my intimate friends loathe me and those whom I **love** have turned against me.

²⁰My bone **clings** to my skin and to my *flesh* and I have **escaped** by the skin of my *teeth*.

²¹Show **favour** to me, **show favour** to me, O you my friends, for the **hand** of Eloah has *struck* me!

²²**Why** do you *persecute* me like Ēl *does* and are not **satisfied** with my *flesh*?

²³Oh, that my words were written down! Oh, that they were inscribed in a book,

²⁴engraved on a rock with an iron pen and lead, **forever**!

²⁵For I **know** that my **Redeemer** lives and as the Last **shall** rise over the dust;

²⁶and after my skin has been *struck* off, then in my *flesh* I **shall see** Eloah,

²⁷whom I myself **shall see** on my side and not a stranger. **My** kidneys have failed within me!

²⁸**If** you say, ‘**Why** do we *persecute* him?’ **seeing** the root of the matter has been **found** in me,

²⁹**fear** the sword yourselves, for *wrath* brings the *punishment* of the sword, so that you **know** there is a judgment.”

20 *Then* Tsophar the Na’amathite answered and said,

²⁶**Truly**, my *thoughts* make me respond, even **because** of my haste within me.

³I have **listened** to the *reproof* which insults me and the spirit of my **understanding** makes me answer.

⁴You have **known** this of old, since man was placed on earth,

⁵that the singing of the **wrong** is shortlived and the **joy** of the *defiled* one is but for a moment?

⁶Although his pride mounts up to the heavens and his head does reach to the clouds,

⁷he perishes **forever** like his own dung. Those who have **seen** him say, ‘Where is he?’

⁸He flies away like a **dream** and is not found. And he is *driven* away like a **vision** of the night.

⁹Eyes that **saw** him do so no more, nor does his place **see** him any more.

¹⁰His sons **seek** the **favour** of the *poor* and his hands give back his wealth.

¹¹His bones **shall be** filled with his youth, but it lies down with him in the dust.

¹²Though *evil* is **sweet** in his **mouth**, he hides it under his tongue,

¹³*though* he fondles it and *does not forsake* it, but still keeps it in his **mouth**,

¹⁴his food is turned in his stomach, the *bitterness* of cobras is in him.

¹⁵He has swallowed down riches, then vomits them up – Ēl drives it out of his stomach.

¹⁶He sucks the **poison** of cobras; the tongue of the poisonous snake *slays* him.

¹⁷He looks not on streams, the rivers flowing with honey and cream.

¹⁸He is giving back what he laboured for and *does not* eat it – like wealth from his trade, but he *does not* enjoy.

¹⁹For he has *oppressed*, he has **forsaken** the *poor*, he has *seized* a house which he *did not* build.

²⁰For he **shall not know** ease in his innermost, neither **save** what he desires.

²¹There is no left-over after he has eaten, therefore his **good does not last**.

²²With **all his** plenty he is in distress; the **hand of every labourer comes against** him.

²³It **shall be**, at the filling of his stomach, that **He** casts on him **His burning wrath** and rains it down on him while he is eating.

²⁴He **shall flee** from the iron weapon, a bronze bow pierce him through.

²⁵It is drawn and **comes** out of the body and the gleaming point **comes** out of his gall. **fears come** upon him.

²⁶All **darkness** waits for his treasures. A **fire** not blown consumes him, it destroys what remains in his tent.

²⁷The heavens **reveal** his *crookedness* and the earth rises up **against** him.

²⁸The increase of his house departs, flowing away in the **day of His wrath**.

²⁹This is the portion from **Elohim** for a **wrong** man and the heritage Ēl has decreed for him.”

21 And Iyob answered and said,

²⁴**Listen** closely to my **word and** let this be your comfort.

³Bear with me and let me speak and after I have **spoken**, keep mocking.

⁴As for me, is my complaint **against** man? And why should I not be impatient?

⁵Look at me and be appalled, then put your **hand** on your **mouth**.

⁶And when I consider it I am frightened and my body shudders.

⁷**Why** do the **wrong live**, become old and become mighty in power?

⁸Their seed is **established** with them before their face and their offspring before their eyes.

⁹Their houses are **peace** without **fear**, neither is the **rod** of Eloah upon them.

¹⁰Their bull breeds and *does not* fail, their cow calves without miscarriage.

¹¹They send forth their *little* ones like a flock and their children dance.

¹²They sing to the tambourine and lyre and **rejoice** to the sound of the flute.

¹³They spend their days in **goodness**

and in a moment go down to the grave.

¹⁴And they say to Ēl, ‘Turn aside from us, for we have no desire **to know Your** ways.

¹⁵**Who** is the **Almighty**, that we should **serve** Him? And what profit do we have if we pray to Him?’

¹⁶**See**, is their **good** not in their own **hand?** (The counsel of the **wrong** has been far from me).

¹⁷**How** often is the **lamp** of the **wrong** put out and does **come** upon them their *calamity*, sorrows **He** allots in **His** displeasure?

¹⁸They are like straw before the wind and like chaff that a *storm* steals away.

¹⁹*You say*, ‘Eloah stores up one’s *wickedness* for his children.’ **Let Him repay** him, so that he **knows** it.

²⁰**Let** his eyes **see** his **destruction** and let him drink of the *wrath* of the Almighty.

²¹For what is his **delight** in his house after him, when the number of his months is *cut* off?

²²Does anyone **teach** Ēl **knowledge**, since **He** judges those that are exalted?

²³One dies in his **perfect** strength, **completely** at ease and satisfied;

²⁴His pails are filled with milk and his bones are juicy with marrow.

²⁵Another one dies in the *bitterness* of his being and never eats with pleasure.

²⁶Together they *lie* down in the dust and worms cover them.

²⁷Look, I **know** your thoughts and the plots with which you would **wrong** me.

²⁸For you say, ‘Where is the house of the noble one? And where is the tent, the dwelling place of the **wrong** ones?’

²⁹Have you not asked those passing by the **way?** And do you not **know** their signs?

³⁰That the *wicked* is kept for the **day of calamity**. They are brought to the **day of wrath**.

³¹**Who** declares his **way** to his face? And who **repays** him for what he has done?

³²As for him, he is brought to the grave and a **watch** is kept over the tomb.

³³The clods of the wadi **shall be sweet** to him and *all men* **follow** him, innumerable are those before him.

³⁴**How** then do you comfort me in vain, **seeing** that *perverseness* remains in your answers?"

22 And Eliphaz the Tēmanite answered and said,

²⁴“Would a **strong** man be of use to Ēl? Even he who is **wise** be of use to Him?

³Is it a **delight** to the Almighty that you are righteous? Or *gain*, that you make *your ways* **perfect**?

⁴Is it **because** of your **fear** of **Him** that **He** reproves you, or enters into **right-ruling** with you?

⁵Is not your *evil* great? And is there no end to your *crookednesses*?

⁶For you take pledges from your brother for *naught* and strip the naked of their garments.

⁷You *do not* give the *weary* water to drink and you have withheld **bread** from the hungry.

⁸**But** the man of strength, he has the earth and the highly respected man dwells in it.

⁹You have **sent** widows away empty and the arms of the fatherless are crushed.

¹⁰Therefore *snares* are **all** around you and **sudden fear** alarms you,

¹¹or *darkness*, so that you *do not see* and a *flood* of water covers you.

¹²Is not Eloah in the height of heaven? **See** the highest stars, how lofty they are!

¹³And you have said, ‘*What* does Ēl **know**? Would **He** **judge** through the dark cloud?’

¹⁴Clouds screen **Him**, so that **He** *does not see* and **He** moves about the circuit of the **heavens**.’

¹⁵**Do** you **observe** the old **way** which *wicked* men have trod,

¹⁶who were *cut down* before their **time**, whose foundations were swept away by a flood?

¹⁷They said to Ēl, ‘Turn aside from us!’ And what did the Almighty do to them?

¹⁸Yet **He** filled their houses with the **good**! (**But** the counsel of the *wrong* has been far from me).

¹⁹The **righteous** see it and are glad and the **innocent** mock at them *and say*,

²⁰‘**Truly**, our adversaries are *cut off* and *fire* has *consumed* their excess.’

²¹Be of service to **Him** and be at peace; thereby **blessing shall come** to you.

²²Please **accept** the **Torah** from **His** **mouth** and lay up **His** **words** in your **heart**.

²³**If** you **return** to the **Almighty**, you are built up. **If** you remove *unrighteousness* far from your tents,

²⁴and lay *your* gold in the dust and *the gold* of Ophir among the stones of the wadis,

²⁵then the Almighty **shall be** your gold and your silver, strength to you.

²⁶**Then** you **shall** certainly **delight** in the **Almighty** and lift up your face to Eloah,

²⁷make your prayer to **Him**. **He shall hear** you and you **shall** pay your vows.

²⁸And *whatever* you decide on **shall be established** for you and **light** shine on your ways.

²⁹For they have made low and you say, ‘Up!’ And **He** **saves** the lowly of eyes.

³⁰Would **He** **deliver** one who is not innocent? So by the **cleanness** of your hands you **shall be delivered**.”

23 And Iyob answered and said,

²⁴“Even today my complaint is bitter; my **hand** is *heavy* on account of my groaning.

³**If** only I **knew** where to find **Him**, I would **come** to **His** dwelling-place!

⁴I would present my case before **Him** and fill my **mouth** with proofs.

⁵I would **know** the **words** which **He** would answer me and **understand** what **He** would say to me.

⁶Would **He** contend with me in **great** power? No! **But** **He** would pay attention to me.

⁷There the **upright** might **reason** with **Him** and I would go safe **forever** from

my Judge.

⁸See, I go forward, but **He** is not; and backward, but I *do not perceive* Him;

⁹to the left where **He** is working, but I *do not see*; **He** turns to the right, but I *do not see*.

¹⁰For **He knows** the way that I take. **When He** has tried me, I would **come** forth as gold.

¹¹My foot has held fast to **His** steps. I have **guarded His way** and *did not* turn aside.

¹²I have not *strayed* from the **command** of **His** lips. I have treasured the **words** of **His mouth** more than my *daily* portion.

¹³**But He** is **One** and who does turn Him? And **He** does *whatever* **His** being has desired.

¹⁴For **He** completes my portion and many like these are with **Him**.

¹⁵Therefore I am *troubled* at **His** presence; I consider and I am *afraid* of **Him**.

¹⁶For **Ĕl** has made me faint-hearted and the Almighty has *alarmed* me;

¹⁷**because** I was not *cut off* before *darkness* and from my face **He** has covered the thick *darkness*.

24 “Times are not *hidden* from the **Almighty** and why have not those who **know Him seen His** days?

²They remove landmarks; they rob and feed on flocks;

³they *drive* away the donkey of the fatherless; they take the widow’s ox as a pledge;

⁴they turn the needy out of the way; the *poor* of the earth have *hidden* together.

⁵See, as wild donkeys in the wilderness they go about their tasks, eager seekers for prey; the desert *gives* his bread, for the children.

⁶They reap his fodder in a field and they glean the vineyard of the *wrong*.

⁷They spend the night naked, without a garment and without covering in the

cold.

⁸They are wet with the showers of the hills and have embraced a rock for lack of shelter.

⁹They *snatch* away the fatherless from the breast and take a **pledge** from the *poor*;

¹⁰naked, they *shall* go about without a garment; and hungry, they *shall* take away sheaves.

¹¹They press out oil within their walls; winepresses they *shall* tread, yet *suffer* thirst.

¹²Men groan in the city and the beings of the *wounded* cry out and Eloah *does not* regard it as *foolish*.

¹³They have become **rebels** *against* the **light**; they have not **known His ways** nor remained in **His** paths.

¹⁴The murderer rises at daylight, he *slays* the *poor* and needy and in the night he is as a thief.

¹⁵And the eye of the adulterer watches for dusk, saying, ‘No eye sees me.’ And he puts a covering on the face.

¹⁶In the dark he has broken into houses; by day they shut themselves up; they have not **known light**.

¹⁷For **all** of them morning is the **same** as the *shadow of death*, when he *discerns* the **extreme fears** of the *shadow of death*.

¹⁸**He** is *swift* on the face of the waters; their portion is *cursed* in the earth; he *does not* turn into the **way** of vineyards.

¹⁹Drought and *heat* *snatch* away snow waters – the grave *those who* have *sinned*.

²⁰The womb *forgets* him, the worm feeds sweetly on him; he is **remembered** no more and *wickedness* is broken like a tree;

²²**But He** *draws* the mighty away with **His power** – **He** rises up and no one is certain of **life**.

²³**He** gives him safety and he leans on it; yet **His** eyes are on their ways.

²⁴They are lifted up for a **little while**, then they are gone, then they *shall* **be** brought low. Like **all** *else* they are gathered up and they are *cut off* like the heads of grain.

²⁵And if it is not so, who does prove me a liar and make my **word** *worthless*?"

25 And Bildad the Shuhite answered and said,

²⁶Rule and **fear** belong to **Him**, making **peace** in **His** *high places*.

³Is there any number to **His** armies? And on whom does **His** **light** not rise?

⁴So how could man be **righteous** before Ēl? Or how could he be flawless who is born of a woman?

⁵Even the moon *does not* shine and the stars have not been flawless in **His** eyes,

⁶how much less man, a maggot and a son of man, a worm?"

26 And Iyob answered and said, ²⁶**How** have you helped the powerless, **saved** an arm not strong?

³**How** have you **given** counsel to the unwise, or **declared** sound advice to many?

⁴With whom have you **spoken words**? And whose spirit came from you?

⁵The *dead* wait – those under the waters and those inhabiting them.

⁶The grave is naked before **Him** and **destruction** has no covering.

⁷**He** *it was* who **stretched** out the north over *emptiness*, *hanging* the earth upon space,

⁸binding up waters in **His** thick clouds and the cloud is not *torn* under them,

⁹covering the surface of **His** throne, spreading **His** cloud over it.

¹⁰**He** drew a limit on the surface of the waters, at the boundary of **light** and *darkness*.

¹¹The columns of the heavens *tremble* and are stunned at **His** *reproof*.

¹²By **His** **power** **He** has calmed the sea and by **His** **understanding** **He** *struck* down Rahab.

¹³By **His** **Spirit** **He** adorned the heavens. **His** **hand** whirled the *fleeing* serpent.

¹⁴**See**, these are the fringes of **His** ways and how *little* a matter is **heard** of **Him**! And who **understands** the *thunder* of **His** power?"

27 And Iyob again took up his discourse and said,

²⁴As Ēl lives, who has turned aside my right-ruling and the **Almighty**, who has made my **life** bitter,

³as long as my breath is in me and the spirit of Eloah in my nostrils,

⁴my lips *do not* speak *unrighteousness*, nor my tongue utter *deceit*.

⁵Far be it from me that I grant that you are right. Until I *die* I *would not* turn aside my integrity from me.

⁶My **righteousness** I hold fast and I *do not* let it go. My **heart** *does not* reproach me as long as I **live**.

⁷**Let** my enemy be like the *wrongdoer* and he who rises up *against* me like the unrighteous.

⁸For what is the expectancy of the *defiled* one, when **He** *does* cut off, when Eloah takes away his **life**?

⁹Would Ēl **hear** his cry when *distress* comes upon him?

¹⁰Would he **delight** himself in the Almighty – **call on** Eloah at **all** times?

¹¹**Let** me **teach** you by the **hand** of Ēl, that which is with the Almighty I *do not* hide.

¹²**See**, **all** of you have **seen** it. *Why* then are you **altogether** vain?

¹³This is the portion of a *wrong* man with Ēl and the **inheritance** of cruel ones, which they receive from the Almighty:

¹⁴**If** his children are increased, it is for the sword; and his offspring *shall* not have enough to eat.

¹⁵Those who remain of him are buried in *death* and their widows *do not* weep.

¹⁶Though he heaps up silver like dust and lays up garments like clay –

¹⁷he lays up, but the **righteous** puts it on and the **innocent** divides the silver.

¹⁸He built his house like a moth, like a booth which a watchman made.

¹⁹He lies down, a rich man, but he is not gathered. **When** he opens his eyes, it is no more!

²⁰Alarms overtake him like a flood; a *storm wind shall* steal him away in the night.

²¹The east *wind* takes him away and he is gone; for it sweeps him from his place.

²²And it hurls itself *against* him and *does not spare*; he swiftly flees from its power.

²³It claps its hands at him and it hisses him out of his place.

28 “Indeed, there is a mine for silver and a place where gold is refined. ²Iron is taken from the earth and copper is smelted from ore.

³An end to *darkness* he has set and to **every** limit he is searching, to rocks in deepest *darkness*.

⁴He opens a shaft far away from people; they are *forgotten* by feet; they hang far away from men; they swing to and fro.

⁵Earth, out of which grows food, is turned underneath as by *fire*;

⁶its stones are the place of sapphires and it has dust of gold.

⁷No bird of prey **knows** the path, nor has the hawk’s eye **seen** it.

⁸The *proud* beasts have not trodden it, nor has the **fierce** lion passed over it.

⁹He puts his **hand** on the flint; he **shall overturn** the mountains at the roots.

¹⁰He *cuts* out channels in the rocks and his eye sees **every precious gem**.

¹¹He dams up the sources of the rivers; and he brings to **light** what is *hidden*.

¹²And **wisdom** – where is it found? And where is the place of **understanding**?

¹³Man *does not know* its value and it is not **found** in the land of the **living**.

¹⁴The deep has said, ‘It is not in me,’ and the sea has said, ‘It is not with me.’

¹⁵Gold is not **given** for it, nor is silver weighed out as its price.

¹⁶It is not valued in the gold of Ophir, in **precious** shoham or sapphire.

¹⁷Gold or crystal are not to be compared with it, nor is it exchanged for a vessel of fine gold.

¹⁸No mention is made of coral or crystal, for the price of **wisdom** is above rubies.

¹⁹The topaz of Kush is not to be compared with it, nor is it valued in **clean** gold.

²⁰And **wisdom** – from where does it **come**? And where is the place of **understanding**?

²¹It has been *hidden* from the eyes of **all living** and *concealed* from the birds of the **heavens**.

²²Destruction and *death* have said, ‘With our **ears** we have **heard** a report of it.’

²³**Elohim** has understood its **way** and **He** has **known** its place.

²⁴For **He** looks to the ends of the earth, sees under **all** the heavens,

²⁵making a weight for the wind and measuring out the waters by measure.

²⁶**When He** made a **law** for the rain and a **way** for the lightning of thunder,

²⁷then **He saw wisdom** and **declared** it; **He** prepared it and also searched it out.

²⁸And **He** said to man, ‘**See, the fear of אַיָּאֵל, that is wisdom** and to turn from *evil* is **understanding**.’”

29 And Iyob again took up his discourse and said,

²“Oh, that I were as in months past, as in the days when Eloah **protected** me;

³when **His lamp** shone on my head, when I walked in the dark by **His light**;

⁴as I was in the days of my autumn, when the intimacy of Eloah was on my tent;

⁵when the Almighty was still with me, when my children were around me;

⁶when my steps were bathed with cream and the rock **poured out** rivers of oil for me.

⁷**When** I went out to the gate by the city, to take my seat in the **open** square,

⁸the young men **saw** me and hid and the aged rose up, they stood;

⁹rulers held back their **words** and laid a **hand** on their mouth;

¹⁰the **voice** of leaders was hushed and their tongue *clung* to the roof of their **mouth**.

¹¹For when the ear **heard**, it **blessed** me and when the eye **saw**, it gave **witness** of me;

¹²**because** I rescued the *poor* who *cried out* and the fatherless who had no helper.

¹³The **blessing** of the *perishing* one would **come** upon me and I made the widow's **heart** sing for joy.

¹⁴I put on **righteousness** and it robbed me; **right-ruling** was my *cloak* and turban.

¹⁵I was eyes to the *blind* and I was feet to the lame.

¹⁶I was a father to the *poor* and I investigated the case that I *did* not know.

¹⁷And I broke the jaws of the *perverse*, and snatched the prey from his *teeth*.

¹⁸**Then** I thought I would *die* in my nest and increase my days as the sand,

¹⁹my root reaching out to the waters and dew *lying all* night on my branch,

²⁰my **esteem** **fresh** within me and my bow **renewed** in my **hand**.

²¹To me they **listened** and they waited and kept silence at my counsel.

²²After my **words** they *did not speak* again and my speech settled on them.

²³And they waited for me like the rain and they opened their **mouth** wide as for the **latter** rain.

²⁴I smiled at those who *did not believe* and the light of my face they did not dim.

²⁵I **chose** the **way** for them and sat as chief and I dwelt like a sovereign in the army, like one who **comforts** mourners.

30 “**But now** they laugh at me, those younger than I, whose fathers I would have *refused* to put with my sheep dogs.

²Of what use to me is the strength of their hands, since their manhood **power** has perished?

³They are dried up from lack and

hunger, they **fleet** to a parched land, formerly a *waste* and *ruin*.

⁴They pluck **salt** herbs by the bushes and broom *tree* roots for their food.

⁵They were *driven* out from among *men*, they *shouted* at them as at a thief,

⁶to dwell in the gullies of wadis, holes of the ground and clefts.

⁷Among the bushes they cry out, under the nettles they huddled **together** –

⁸sons of fools, even sons without a name, they have been whipped out of the land.

⁹And **now** I have become their song and I am a by-**word** to them.

¹⁰They have *loathed* me, they have kept far from me and *did not* refrain from spitting in my face.

¹¹**Because He** has loosed my bowstring and *afflicted* me, they have *thrown off* restraint in my presence.

¹²At my **right hand** a brood rises; they pushed away my feet and they **raise up** *against* me their *destructive* ways.

¹³They have broken up my path, they *gain* by my ruin; no one restrains them.

¹⁴They **come** as *through* a wide breach; rushing on me under the ruins.

¹⁵Destructions are turned upon me; they pursue my **life** as the wind and my welfare has passed like a cloud.

¹⁶And **now** my **life** pours itself out; days of *affliction seize* me.

¹⁷My bones have been *pierced* in me at night and my gnawings never *lie* down.

¹⁸By great exertion is my garment changed – it girds me as the collar of my coat,

¹⁹throwing me into the mud and I have become like dust and ashes.

²⁰I cry out to You but *you do not* answer me; I **stand** up, but You *only* look at me.

²¹You have become cruel to me; with the **power** of **Your hand** You *oppose* me.

²²You lift me up to the wind, making me to ride it; and You melt me in a storm.

²³For I have **known** that You bring me to *death* and to the house **appointed** for **all living**.

²⁴Yet *does not* one in a heap of ruins stretch out his **hand**, or in *calamity* cry out for help?

²⁵Did I not *weep* for him who was in trouble? Was my being not *grieved* for the *poor*?

²⁶**When** I looked for **good**, then *evil* came to me. And when I waited for **light**, *darkness* came.

²⁷My inward parts boiled and *did not* rest; days of *affliction* went before me.

²⁸I went about blackened, but not by the sun; I stood up in the **assembly**, I cried for help.

²⁹I became a brother of jackals and a companion of ostriches.

³⁰My skin became black upon me and my bones *burned* with heat.

³¹So my lyre becomes mourning and my flute the sound of *weeping*.

31 “I have made a **covenant** with my eyes. **How** then could I gaze at a maiden?

²For what is the portion of Eloah from above and the **inheritance** of the Almighty from on high?

³Is it not *calamity* to the **perverse**, and strangeness to the workers of *wickedness*?

⁴Does **He** not **see** my ways and number **all** my steps?

⁵**If** I have walked with *falsehood*, or if my foot has hurried to *deceit*,

⁶let **Him** weigh me in a **right** scale and let Eloah **know** my integrity.

⁷**If** my step does turn from the **way**, or my **heart** has gone after my eyes, or if any spot has *clung* to my hands,

⁸let me sow and another eat; and let my harvest be rooted out.

⁹**If** my **heart** has been enticed by a woman, or if I have lurked at my neighbour’s **door**,

¹⁰let my wife grind for another and let others bow down over her.

¹¹For that would be a *wicked* scheme and a punishable *crookedness*.

¹²For that would be a *fire* that burns to

destruction and take root among **all** my increase.

¹³**If** I have *refused* the plea of my male servant or my female servant when they complained *against* me,

¹⁴then what should I do when **Ēl** rises up? And when **He** *punishes*, what should I answer Him?

¹⁵Did not **He** who made me in the womb make him? And *did not One* fashion us in the womb?

¹⁶**If** I have withheld the *poor* from pleasure, or **caused** the widow’s eyes to fail,

¹⁷or eaten my piece of **bread** by myself and the fatherless *did not* eat of it –

¹⁸but from my youth he grew up with me as *with* a father and from my mother’s womb I guided her –

¹⁹if I have **seen** anyone *perish* for lack of garments, or a *poor* one without covering;

²⁰if his loins have not **blessed** me and he warmed himself with the fleece of my sheep;

²¹if I have **raised** my **hand** *against* the fatherless, when I **saw** I had help in the gate;

²²let my arm *fall* from my shoulder and my arm be broken from the bone.

²³For I am in *dread* of *destruction* from **Ēl** and from **His** excellence I *could not escape*.

²⁴**If** I have put my **trust** in gold, or called fine gold my refuge;

²⁵if I have rejoiced **because** my wealth was great and **because** my **hand** had gained much;

²⁶if I have **looked** at the sun when it shines, or the moon moving in brightness,

²⁷so that my **heart** has been **secretly** enticed and my **mouth** has kissed my **hand** –

²⁸that too is a punishable *crookedness*, for I would have *denied* **Ēl** above.

²⁹**If** I have rejoiced when he who *hated* me was *ruined*, or lifted myself up when *evil* **found** him –

³⁰also I have not allowed my **mouth** to *sin* by **asking** for a *curse* on his **life** –

³¹if the men of my tent *did not* say, ‘**Who** is there that has not been **satisfied** with his meat?’

³²The stranger *did not* have to spend the night in the street, for I have opened my **doors** to the way.

³³**If** I have covered my *transgressions* like Aḏam, by hiding my *crookedness* in my bosom,

³⁴then let me **fear** the **great** crowd and *dread* the *scorn* of clans, then I would be silent and go out of the **door**!

³⁵**Who** would give me a **hearing**? **See**, my signature, let the Almighty answer me and let my *accuser* **write** a bill!

³⁶Would I not take it up on my shoulder, bind it on me for a crown?

³⁷I would **declare** to **Him** the number of my steps – I would approach **Him** like a prince.

³⁸**If** my land cries out *against* me, or its furrows *weep* together;

³⁹if I have eaten its **fruit** without payment, or **caused** its owners to die;

⁴⁰let thistles grow instead of wheat and useless weed instead of barley.”
The **words** of Iyob are ended.

32 *Then* these three men ceased to answer Iyob, **because** he was **right**eous in his own eyes.

²And the *wrath* of Elihu, son of Barakʿel the Buzite, of the clan of Ram, *burned against* Iyob. **His wrath burned because** he declared himself **right** rather than **Elohim**.

³And *against* his three friends his *wrath burned*, **because** they had **found** no answer and pronounced **Elohim wrong**.

⁴And **because** they were years older than he, Elihu had waited to **speak** to Iyob.

⁵And when Elihu **saw** that there was no answer in the **mouth** of these three men, his *wrath burned*.

⁶And Elihu, son of Barakʿel the Buzite, responded and said, “I am young in years and you are aged. Therefore I was *afraid* to let you **know** my opinion.

⁷I said, ‘Days should speak and many years should **teach wisdom**.’

⁸**But truly** it is the spirit in man and the breath of the Almighty that gives him **understanding**.

⁹The multitude are not **wise**, nor do the aged **understand** right-ruling.

¹⁰Therefore I have said, ‘**Listen** to me, let me also make my opinion **known** to you.’

¹¹Look, I waited for your **words**, I **listened** to your *reasonings*, while you searched out what to say.

¹²And I paid close attention to you. **But** look, not one of you proved Iyob *wrong*, nor answered his **words**.

¹³Lest you say, ‘We have found wisdom’ – it is **Ēl** that drives him away, not man.

¹⁴**Now** he has not ordered **words against** me, so I *would not* answer him with your **words**.

¹⁵They have broken down; they have not answered again; **words** have departed from them.

¹⁶And I have waited, but they *do not* speak, **because** they have stood still, they answered no more.

¹⁷**Let** me answer on my part, let me also make my opinion **known**.

¹⁸For I am filled with **words**; the spirit within me presses me.

¹⁹Within me it is like **wine** not opened; it **shall** burst like new wineskins.

²⁰**Let** me speak, so that I find relief; let me **open** my lips and answer.

²¹Please, let me not **show** partiality to anyone, nor let me flatter any man.

²²For I *do not know* how to flatter, lest my Maker should soon take me away!

33 “And yet, O Iyob, please **hear** my speech and **listen** to **all** my **words**.

²**See**, please! I **shall open** my **mouth**, my tongue **shall speak** in my **mouth**.

³My **words** are from the **uprightness** of my **heart**, my lips **shall speak knowledge** clearly.

⁴The **Spirit** of **Ēl** has made me and the breath of the Almighty gives me **life**.

⁵**If** you are able, answer me, set yourself **in order** before me, take your stand.

⁶**See**, I am like you before Ēl, I too have been formed out of clay.

⁷**See**, no **fear** of me should *alarm* you, nor should *pressure* by me be *heavy* on you.

⁸**But** you have **spoken** in my **hearing** and the sound of **words** I **hear**, *saying*,

⁹I am clear, without transgression; I am innocent and I have no *crookedness*.

¹⁰**See**, **He** finds occasions *against* me, **He** counts me as **His** enemy;

¹¹**He** puts my feet in the stocks, **He** watches **all** my paths.’

¹²**See**, in this you have not been **right** eous. **Let** me answer you: Eloah is greater than man!

¹³**Why** have you complained *against* Him? **Because** **He** *does not* answer **all** **His** matters?

¹⁴For Ēl does **speak** once, or twice – *though one does not* notice it –

¹⁵in a **dream**, in a **vision** of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men, while slumbering on a bed,

¹⁶then **He** opens the **ears** of men and seals their **instruction**,

¹⁷to turn man *from his deed* and *conceal* pride from man.

¹⁸**He** keeps back his being from the Pit and his **life** from passing away by the *sword*.

¹⁹And he is reproved with pain on his bed and with unceasing *distress* in his bones,

²⁰so that his **life** loathes bread and his being desirable food.

²¹His *flesh* wastes away and his bones which were not **seen** stick out.

²²And his being **draws near** the Pit and his **life** to the destroyers.

²³**If** there is a messenger for him, a mediator, one among a thousand, to **show** man **His** straightness,

²⁴then **He** shows **favour** to him and says, ‘Release him from going down to the Pit, I have **found** an atonement.

²⁵**Let** his *flesh* become fresher than a child’s, let him **return** to the days of his youth.’

²⁶**He** prays to Eloah and **He** accepts him. And he sees **His** face with joy and **He** restores to man his **righteousness**.

²⁷**He** sings to men and says, ‘I have *sinned* and I have *perverted* what was right and it *did not* profit me.’

²⁸**He** has redeemed my being from going down to the Pit and my **life** sees the **light**.

²⁹**See**, Ēl does **all** these – twice, *three times* with a man,

³⁰to bring back his being from the Pit, to be **enlightened** with the **light** of the **living**.

³¹Pay attention, Iyob, **listen** to me, keep silent and let me speak.

³²**If** there are **words**, answer me; speak, for I desire to **declare** you right.

³³**If** not, **listen** to me, keep silent and let me **teach** you **wisdom**.”

34 *Then* Elihu responded and said,

²“Hear my **words**, you **wise** men; give ear to me, you who have **knowledge**.

³For the ear tries **words** as the palate tastes food.

⁴**Let** us choose what is **right** for us; let us **know** among us what is **good**.

⁵For Iyob has said, ‘**I am righteous**, but Ēl has taken away my right.

⁶Would I *lie* concerning my right? My wound is incurable – without *transgression*.’

⁷**What** man is like Iyob, who drinks *mocking* like water,

⁸who goes in company with the workers of *wickedness* and walks with men of *wrongness*?

⁹For he has said, ‘It *does not* profit a man that he takes **delight** in **Elohim**.’

¹⁰Therefore, **listen** to me, you men of heart: far be it from Ēl to do *wrong* and from the Almighty to *commit unrighteousness*.

¹¹For **He** **repays** man’s **work** to him and makes man to find a reward **according** to his path.

¹²The **truth** is, Ēl *does not* do *wrong* and the Almighty *does not* *twist* right-ruling.

¹³*Who* has assigned to **Him** the earth?
And who has laid out **all** the world?

¹⁴*If He* sets **His heart** on him, should **He gather** to **Himself** his spirit and his breath,

¹⁵all *flesh* would expire **together** and man **return** to dust.

¹⁶*If you have understanding, hear* this! Give ear to the sound of my **words**:

¹⁷*Should* the one who *hates* **right-ruling** govern? Or would you **declare** a most **righteous** one *wrong*?

¹⁸*Who shall* say to a sovereign: ‘Beliya’al,’ to nobles: ‘Wrong one’? –

¹⁹who is not partial to princes, nor regards the rich more than the *poor*? For they are **all** the **work** of **His** hands.

²⁰In a moment they *die*, in the middle of the night; the people are *shaken* and pass away; and the mighty are taken away without a **hand**.

²¹For **His** eyes are on the **ways** of man and **He sees all** his steps.

²²There is no *darkness* nor *shadow of death* where the workers of *wickedness* hide themselves.

²³For **He** sets a man no stated **time** to appear before **Ēl** in right-ruling.

²⁴**He** breaks in pieces the mighty, without inquiry and puts others in their place.

²⁵**Truly, He knows** their works and **He shall overthrow** in the night and they are crushed.

²⁶As *wrong* ones **He** slaps them in the presence of onlookers,

²⁷**because** they turned from **following Him** and they regarded not **all His** ways,

²⁸so as to **cause** the cry of the *poor* to come to Him; for **He hears** the cry of the *afflicted*.

²⁹And when **He** is silent, who would then *condemn*? And when **He** hides **His** face, who then sees **Him**, whether it is *against* a nation or a man alone?

³⁰So that a *defiled* one should not reign, lest the people be ensnared.

³¹For has anyone said to **Ēl**, ‘I have taken away, I *do not act corruptly*.’

³²Teach me what I *do not see*. *If* I have done *unrighteousness*, I **shall** not do so

again’?

³³**Should He repay** you **because** you have *refused*? For you choose and not I, therefore **speak** what you **know**.

³⁴**Let** men of **heart** say to me and a **wise** man who **listens** to me:

³⁵*Iyob does not speak* with **knowledge** and his **words** are without **wisdom**.⁷

³⁶Would that Iyob be tried to **the end**, since his answers are like those of *wicked* men!

³⁷For he adds *rebellion* to his *sin* – he claps *his hands* among us and multiplies his **words against** **Ēl**.⁷

35

And Elihu responded and said,

²⁴**Do** you *think* this is right? **Do** you say, ‘My **righteousness** is more than that of **Ēl**’?

³For you say, ‘Of what use is it to you? **What** do I *gain* more than if I had *sinned*?’

⁴**Let** me answer you and your friends with you.

⁵Look to the heavens and **see**. And consider the clouds which are higher than you.

⁶*If you sin*, what would you do *against* Him? *If* your *transgressions* are increased, what would you do to Him?

⁷*If* you are **righteous**, what do you give Him? Or what does **He** receive from your **hand**?

⁸Your **wrong** is for a man like yourself and your **righteousness** for a son of man.

⁹**Because** of the multitude of oppressions they cry out; they cry out for help **because** of the arm of the many.

¹⁰And no one says, ‘Where is Eloah my Maker, who gives songs in the night,

¹¹**teaching** us more than the beasts of the earth and makes us wiser than the birds of the heavens?’

¹²There they cry, but **He** answers not, **because** of the pride of *evil* ones.

¹³Only, it is *false* that **Ēl** *does not hear* and that the Almighty pays no attention to it.

¹⁴Although you say *you do not see Him*, yet **right-ruling** is before **Him** and you wait for **Him**.

¹⁵And **now**, is it for naught that **His displeasure** has **come**? Yet **He** has not taken note of extreme arrogance,

¹⁶so Iyob opens his **mouth** in vain, he increases **words** without **knowledge**.”

36 *Then* Elihu continued and said,
²⁴“Bear with me a little and let me **show** you there is still more to say for **Elohim**.

³¹I bring my **knowledge** from afar and ascribe **righteousness** to my Maker.

⁴For **truly** my **words** are not false; the **One perfect** in **knowledge** is with you.

⁵**See**, **Ēl** is mighty, but *rejects* no one – mighty in **power** and **heart**.

⁶**He does not** keep the **wrongdoer** alive but **He** gives **right-ruling** to the oppressed ones.

⁷**He does not** withdraw **His** eyes from the **righteous** and sovereigns on the throne and seats them **forever** and they are exalted.

⁸And if they are *bound* in shackles, caught in the cords of *affliction*,

⁹then **He** reveals to them their **work** and their *transgressions*, that they behaved *proudly*.

¹⁰And **He** opens their ear for discipline and **commands** that they **turn back** from *wickedness*.

¹¹*If* they **obey** and **serve**, they **complete** their days in **blessedness** and their years in **pleasantness**.

¹²**But** if they *do not obey*, they *perish* by the *sword* and *die* without **knowledge**.

¹³**But** the *defiled* ones in **heart** become **enraged** – let them not cry for help when **He** binds them.

¹⁴Their being dies in youth and their **life** among the male prostitutes.

¹⁵**He** rescues the *afflicted* one in his *affliction* and opens their **ears** in oppression.

¹⁶And **He** also would have brought you out of *distress*, into a broad place where

there is no restraint. And what is set on your table would be filled with rich food.

¹⁷**But** you are filled with the judgment of the *wrong*, judgment and **right-ruling** take hold of you.

¹⁸*Beware*, that *rage does not* entice you to scoffing. And *do not* let a large *bribe* turn you aside.

¹⁹Would **He** value your riches? No, not **precious** ore, nor **all** your strength!

²⁰**Do not** long for the night, when people go up in their place.

²¹*Beware*, *do not* turn to *wickedness*, for you have **chosen** this rather than *affliction*.

²²**See**, **Ēl** is exalted by **His** power; who is a **Teacher** like Him?

²³*Who* has **appointed Him His way**, or who has said, ‘You have worked *unrighteousness*’?

²⁴**Remember** to extol **His work**, of which men have sung.

²⁵All men have **seen** it, man looks on it from afar.

²⁶**See**, **Ēl** is great, beyond our **understanding** and we *do not know* the number of **His** years.

²⁷For **He** **draws** up drops of water, which distil as rain from the mist,

²⁸which the clouds drop down – pour down in showers on man.

²⁹Also, who **understands** the spreading of clouds, the crashing from **His** booth?

³⁰**See**, **He** has spread his **light** upon it and **He** has covered the depths of the sea.

³¹For by these **He** judges the peoples; **He** gives plenty of food.

³²**He** has covered **His** hands with lightning and **commands** it to strike.

³³Its noise **declares** concerning **Him**, also the cattle, as to what is **coming** up.

37 “At this too my **heart** trembles and leaps from its place.

²**Listen**, listen to the *trembling* of **His voice** and the sound that **comes** from **His mouth**.

³**He** lets it loose under **all** the heavens and **His** lightning to the ends of the

earth.

⁴After it a **voice** roars. **He** thunders with the **voice** of **His** excellency and **He** *does not* hold them back when **His voice** is **heard**.

⁵Ēl thunders wondrously with **His voice**; doing **great deeds**, which we *do not understand*.

⁶For **He** says to the snow, ‘Be on the earth,’ also to the gentle rain and the *heavy* rain of **His** strength.

⁷**He** seals up the **hand** of every man, **for all men to know His work**.

⁸**Then** the beast goes into its lair and they stay in their dens.

⁹From the room of the south **comes** the whirlwind and cold from the scattering winds of the north.

¹⁰By the breath of Ēl ice is **given** and the expanse of water becomes solid.

¹¹**He** also loads the thick clouds with moisture; **He** scatters **His bright** clouds.

¹²And they swirl about, being turned by **His** guidance, to do *whatever* **He** **commands** them on the face of the earthly world.

¹³**He** **causes** it to come, whether as a rod, or for **His** land, or for **kindness**.

¹⁴**Listen** to this, O Iyob, **stand** still and consider the **wonders** of Ēl.

¹⁵**Do** you **know** when Eloah placed them and **caused** the lightning of **His** cloud to shine?

¹⁶**Do** you **know** the balancing of the clouds, the **wonders** of the **One perfect in knowledge**?

¹⁷**Why** are your garments hot, when the earth is stilled from the south?

¹⁸Did you, with **Him**, spread out the clouds, **strong** as a hard mirror?

¹⁹Teach us what we should say to Him; we *do not* set **in order** because of *darkness*.

²⁰**Should** **He** be told that I would speak? Would any man **ask** to be swallowed up?

²¹And **now**, they *shall* not look on the **light** that is **bright** behind the clouds, when the *wind* has passed and cleared them.

²²From the golden north it **comes** – with Eloah is **awesome** excellency.

²³The **Almighty**, we have not **found Him** out, **He** is exalted in **power** and **right-ruling** and **great** in **righteousness** – **He** *does not* oppress.

²⁴Therefore men **fear Him**. **He** *does not* regard any who are **wise** of **heart**.”

38 *Then* אַיָּאֵל answered Iyob **out of the whirlwind** and **said**,

²⁴**Who** is this who darkens counsel by **words** without **knowledge**?

³**Now** gird up your loins like a man and I **ask** you and you answer **Me**.

⁴**Where** were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? **Declare**, if you have **understanding**.

⁵**Who** set its measurements, if you know? Or **who** stretched the line upon it?

⁶Upon what were its foundations sunk? Or **who** laid its corner-stone,

⁷when the morning stars sang together and **all** the sons of **Elohim** *shouted* for joy?

⁸Or **who** enclosed the sea with **doors**, when it burst forth and came from the womb;

⁹when I made the clouds its garment and thick *darkness* its swaddling band;

¹⁰and assigned for it **My law**, and set bars and **doors**;

¹¹and said, ‘This far you have come, but no farther and here you *proud* waves stop?’

¹²Have you ever **commanded** the morning and **caused** the dawn **to know** its place,

¹³to take hold of the ends of the earth and the **wrong** be *shaken* out of it?

¹⁴It is *changed* like clay under a **seal** and they **stand** out like a garment.

¹⁵And their **light** is withheld from the **wrong** and the arm lifted up is broken.

¹⁶Have you **come** to the sources of the sea? Or have you walked about in the recesses of the deep?

¹⁷Were the gates of *death* **revealed** to you? Or have you **seen** the gates of the shadow of death?

¹⁸Have you understood the breadth of the earth? **Declare**, if you **know** it **all**.

¹⁹Where is the **way** to the dwelling of **light**? And *darkness*, where is its place,
²⁰that you should take it to its boundary and **know** the paths to its home?

²¹**Do** you **know**? For you would have been born then and the number of your days been many!

²²Have you entered into the storehouses of snow, or have you **seen** the storehouses of hail,

²³which I have kept for the time of distress, for the day of *fighting* and battle?

²⁴Where is the **way** that **light** is divided, or the east *wind scattered* over the earth?

²⁵**Who** has cleft a channel for the overflowing water, or a **way** for the thunderclaps,

²⁶to make rain *fall* on land where no one is, a wilderness in which there is no man;

²⁷to satisfy the wild and *waste* places and to make the seeds of grass to sprout?

²⁸Does the rain have a **Father**? Or **who** has brought forth the drops of dew?

²⁹From whose belly **comes** the ice? And who gave birth to the frost of the heavens?

³⁰The waters *harden* like stone and the surface of the deep is frozen.

³¹**Do** you bind the bands of Kimah, or loosen the cords of Kesil?

³²**Do** you bring out the constellations in its season? Or do you lead the Bear with its sons?

³³**Do** you **know** the **laws** of the heavens? Or do you set their **rule** over the earth?

³⁴**Do** you lift up your **voice** to the clouds, so that floods of water cover you?

³⁵**Do** you send out lightnings and they go and say to you, 'Here we are!'

³⁶**Who** has put **wisdom** in the inward parts? Or **who** has **given understanding** to the heart?

³⁷**Who** has **wisdom** to count the clouds, or to tip over the bottles of the heavens,

³⁸when the dust hardens in clumps and the clods **cling** together?

³⁹**Do** you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,

⁴⁰when they crouch in dens, sit in the cover of their hiding place?

⁴¹**Who** provides food for the raven, when its young ones cry to Ēl and *wander* about without food?

39 **“Do** you **know** the **time** when the wild mountain goats bear young? Or do you **observe** when the deer gives birth?

²**Do** you number the months they **complete**? Or do you **know** the **time** when they bear young?

³They bow down, they bring forth their young, their labour *pains* are ended.

⁴Their young ones are thriving, they grow up in the field. They **shall** leave and **shall** not **return** to them.

⁵**Who** set the wild donkey free? **Who** loosed the bonds of the wild donkey,

⁶whose home I have made the desert and the **salt** land his dwelling?

⁷He laughs at the commotion of the city; he *does not hear* the shouts of the driver.

⁸The range of the mountains is his pasture and he searches for **all** that is green.

⁹Would the wild ox be pleased to **serve** you? Or spend the night by your feeding trough?

¹⁰**If** you bind the wild ox in the furrow with ropes, would he plough the valleys behind you?

¹¹Would you **rely** on his **great** strength? Or would you leave your labour to him?

¹²Would you **trust** him to bring home your grain and **gather** it to your threshing floor?

¹³The wings of the ostrich flap joyously, but they are not the pinions and plumage of **kindness**!

¹⁴She leaves her **eggs** on the ground and warms them in the dust;

¹⁵and she *forgets* that a foot might *crush* them, or a wild beast tread on them.

¹⁶She treats her young harshly, as if not hers; her toil is in vain, without **fear**,

¹⁷**because** Eloah has made her *forget wisdom* and *did not* endow her with **understanding**.

¹⁸**When** she lifts herself on high, she laughs at the horse and its rider.

¹⁹Have you **given** the horse strength? Have you covered his neck with a mane?

²⁰Would you make him leap like a locust? His splendid snorting is frightening.

²¹He paws in the valley and **rejoices** in strength. He gallops into the clash of arms.

²²He laughs at **fear** and is not frightened; nor does he **turn back** from the *sword*.

²³The quiver rattles *against* him, the glittering spear and lance.

²⁴He eats up the ground with **fierceness** and *rage* and he *does not stand* still when the ram's horn sounds.

²⁵At the blast of the ram's horn he says, 'Aha!' And from afar he smells the battle, the *thunder* of commanders and shouting.

²⁶Does the hawk fly by your **wisdom**, spreading its wings toward the south?

²⁷Does the eagle mount up at your **command** and make its nest on high?

²⁸It dwells on the rock and lodges on the crag of the rock and the stronghold.

²⁹From there it searches out the prey, its eyes **see** it from afar.

³⁰And its young ones suck up blood. And where the *slain* are, there it is!"

40 And אַיָּאל answered Iyob and said,

²⁴**Should** a reprovor contend with the Almighty? **Let** him who reproves Eloah answer it."

³And Iyob answered אַיָּאל and said,

⁴⁴**See**, I am insignificant, what would I answer **You**? I lay my **hand** over my **mouth**.

⁵Once I have **spoken**, but I have no answer – and twice, but I say no more."

⁶**Then** אַיָּאל answered Iyob **out of the whirlwind** and said,

⁷⁴**Now** gird up your loins like a man;

I **ask** you and you answer **Me**.

⁸Would you also set aside **My** judgment? Would you **pronounce Me wrong** and you be **declared** righteous?

⁹Or do you have an arm like ÉI? Or do you *thunder* with a **voice** like **His**?

¹⁰Deck yourself, please, with excellency and grandeur and put on **esteem** and splendour.

¹¹Scatter abroad the *rage* of your *wrath* and look on everyone who is *proud* and bring him low.

¹²Look on everyone who is *proud*, humble him. And tread down the *wrongdoers* in their place.

¹³Hide them in the dust together, bind their faces in obscurity.

¹⁴**Then** even I would confess to you that your own **right hand** does **save** you.

¹⁵See **now**, Behemoth, which I made along with you – he eats grass like an ox.

¹⁶See **now**, his strength is in his loins and his **power** is in his stomach muscles.

¹⁷He bends his tail like a cedar; the sinews of his thighs are knit together.

¹⁸His bones are like tubes of bronze, his ribs like bars of iron.

¹⁹He is the beginning of the **ways** of ÉI. His Maker brings **near His sword**.

²⁰For the mountains yield food for him and **all** the beasts of the field play there.

²¹He lies under the slender trees, under cover of reed and swamp.

²²The slender trees cover him with their shade; the willows by the stream surround him.

²³**See**, if a river rages, he is not *alarmed*; he feels safe, even if the Yardén gushes into his **mouth**,

²⁴Before his eyes, **shall** he be caught, with *snares*? Or *his* nose pierced?

41 "Would you draw out Liwiathan with a hook, or *snare* his tongue with a line which you lower?

²Would you put a cord through his nose, or pierce his jaw with a hook?

³Would he keep on pleading with you? Would he **speak** softly to you?

⁴Would he make a **covenant** with you to be taken as a servant **forever**?

⁵Would you play with him as with a bird? Or leash him for your young girls?

⁶Would *trading* partners bargain over him? Would they divide him among the merchants?

⁷Fill his skin with harpoons? Or his head with fishing spears?

⁸Put your **hand** on him – *think* of the struggle! **Do** not do it again!

⁹**See**, any expectation of him is **disappointed** – he is laid low even at the **sight** of **Him**!

¹⁰No one is so foolhardy to wake him up. **Who** then is able to **stand** *against Me*?

¹¹**Who** has **given** to **Me** first, that I should **repay** him – under **all** the heavens that is **Mine**?

¹²I *would not* keep *silent* concerning his limbs, or his mighty power, or his fair frame.

¹³**Who** shall take off the surface of his skin? **Who** approaches him with a double bridle?

¹⁴**Who** shall open the doors of his face, with his frightening *teeth* **all** around?

¹⁵Rows of scales are *his* pride – closed up, a binding seal.

¹⁶One to the other they fit closely, not even a breath enters between them.

¹⁷They are joined one to another, they stick **together** and are not separated.

¹⁸His sneezings flash forth **light** and his eyes are like the eyelids of the morning.

¹⁹Out of his **mouth** go *firebrands* – sparks of *fire* shoot out.

²⁰Out of his nostrils **comes** smoke, like a boiling pot or kettle.

²¹His breath sets coals on *fire* and a *flame* goes out of his **mouth**.

²²Strength dwells in his neck and **fear** leaps before him.

²³The folds of his *flesh* cleave together. They are firm on him, immovable.

²⁴His **heart** is as hard as stone, even as hard as the lower millstone.

²⁵**When** he raises himself up, the mighty are *afraid*. **Because** of his crashings they are bewildered.

²⁶No *sword* that reaches him does prevail, *neither* spear, dart, or lance.

²⁷He reckons iron as straw, bronze as *rotten* wood.

²⁸The arrow *does not* make him **flee**, sling-stones become like stubble to him.

²⁹Clubs are reckoned as straw, he laughs at the rattle of a lance.

³⁰His undersides are like sharp potsherds. He sprawls on the mud like a threshingledge.

³¹He makes the deep boil like a pot, he makes the sea like a pot of ointment.

³²He leaves a shining path behind him. One would *think* the deep to be grey haired.

³³No one on earth is like him – one made without **fear**.

³⁴He **sees** **all** that is haughty. He is sovereign over **all** the sons of pride.”

42 And Iyob answered אַיָּאָל and said,

²⁶**You** know that **You** are able to do **all** and that no purpose is withheld from **You**.

³**Who** is this that hides counsel without **knowledge**? Therefore I **declared** but I *did not understand*, matters too marvellous for me, which I *did not know*.

⁴**Listen**, please and let me speak. I **ask** **You**, then would **You** make it **known** to me??"

⁵I have **heard** of **You** by the **hearing** of the ear but **now** my eye sees **You**.

⁶Therefore I *despise myself* and **repent** in dust and ashes.”

⁷And it came to be, after אַיָּאָל had **spoken** these **words** to Iyob, that אַיָּאָל said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “My *wrath* has *burned* *against* you and your two friends, for you have not **spoken** of **Me** what is right, as did **My** servant Iyob.

⁸And **now**, take seven bulls and seven rams and go to **My** servant Iyob and offer up a burnt offering for yourselves. And let **My** servant Iyob pray for you

– **for I accept him** – lest I *punish* you; **because** you have *not* **spoken** of **Me** what is right, as did **My** servant Iyob.”

⁹So Eliphaz the Tēmanite and Bildad the Shuhite, Tsophar the Na’amathite went and did as **אֱלֹהִים** **commanded** them. And **אֱלֹהִים** accepted the face of Iyob.

¹⁰And **אֱלֹהִים** turned the captivity of Iyob when he prayed for his friends. And **אֱלֹהִים** gave Iyob twice as much as he had before.

¹¹And **all** his brothers and **all** his sisters and **all** those who had been his friends before, came to him and ate food with him in his house. And they sympathised with him and comforted him for **all** the *evil that אֱלֹהִים had brought upon him*. And they each gave him a piece of silver and each one a ring of gold.

¹²And **אֱלֹהִים** **blessed** the **latter** days of Iyob more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep and six thousand camels and one thousand yoke of oxen and one thousand female donkeys.

¹³And he had seven sons and three daughters.

¹⁴And he called the name of the **first** Yemimah and the name of the second Qetsi’ah and the name of the third QerenHappuk.

¹⁵And in **all** the land were **found** no women so pretty as the daughters of Iyob. And their father gave them an **inheritance** among their brothers.

¹⁶And after this Iyob lived one hundred and forty years and **saw** his children and grandchildren for four generations.

¹⁷And Iyob died, old and **satisfied** with days.

SHIR haSHIRIM

SONG OF SONGS

1 The song of songs, which is
Shelomoh's.
²Let him kiss me with the kisses of his
mouth,
 For your loves are better than **wine**.
³For fragrance your oils are **good**.
Your Name is oil poured forth,
 Therefore the maidens **love** you.
⁴Draw me! We run after you.
 The sovereign has brought me into his
inner rooms.
 We exult and **rejoice** in you.
 We **praise** your loves more than **wine**.
 Rightly do they **love** you.
⁵I am dark, but lovely,
 O daughters of Yerushalayim,
 Like the tents of Qēḏar,
 Like the curtains of Shelomoh.
⁶**Do not** look upon me, **because**
 I am dark,
Because the sun has tanned me.
 My mother's sons were *displeased*
 with me.
 They made me the keeper of the
vineyards,
 My own vineyard I have not kept.
⁷Make **known** to me, O you whom my
being loves, where you feed *your*
flock and where you make it rest at
noon.
 For why should I be as one who is
veiled
 Beside the flocks of your companions?
⁸*If you do not know*, O fairest among
women,
 Go in the footsteps of the flock,
 And feed your *little* goats beside the
shepherds' dwellings.
⁹I have compared you, my **love**,
 To my filly among Pharaoh's chariots.

¹⁰Your cheeks are pretty with
ornaments,
 Your neck with strings of beads.
¹¹Let us make you ornaments of gold
with studs of silver.
¹²While the sovereign is at his table,
My nard shall give its fragrance.
¹³My beloved is a bundle of myrrh to
me, lying between my breasts.
¹⁴My beloved is to me a cluster of
henna blooms
 In the vineyards of Ĕn Gedi.
¹⁵See, you are fair, my love!
See, you are fair!
Your eyes are as doves.
¹⁶See, you are handsome, my beloved!
 Yea, pleasant!
 Also our bed is green.
¹⁷The beams of our houses are cedar,
 our rafters are of fir.

2 I am the rose of Sharon,
 The lily of the valleys.
²Like a lily among thorns,
 So is my **love** among the daughters.
³Like an apple *tree* among the trees
of the forest,
 So is my beloved among the sons.
 I **delighted** in his shade and sat down,
 And his **fruit** was **sweet** to my taste.
⁴He brought me to the house of **wine**,
 And his banner over me was **love**.
⁵“Strengthen me with raisin cakes,
 Refresh me with apples,
 for I am faint with **love**.”
⁶His left **hand** is under my head,
 And his **right hand** embraces me.
⁷I have put you under oath,
 O daughters of Yerushalayim,
 By the gazelles or by the does of the
field, *do not* stir up nor awaken **love**
until it pleases.

⁸The **voice** of my beloved! **See**, he is **coming**, leaping on the mountains and skipping on the hills.

⁹My beloved is like a gazelle or like a young stag.

See, he is standing behind our wall, Looking through the windows, Peering through the lattice.

¹⁰My beloved responded and said to me, "Rise up, my **love**, my fair one, and **come** away.

¹¹"For look, the winter is past, the rain is over, gone.

¹²"The flowers have appeared in the earth; the **time** of singing has come, And the **voice** of the turtledove has been **heard** in our land.

¹³"The fig *tree* has ripened her figs, And the vines with the tender grapes have **given a good** fragrance. Rise up, my **love**, my fair one and **come** away!

¹⁴"O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, In the covering of the cliff,

Let me see your appearance,

Let me hear your **voice**;

For your **voice** is sweet, And your appearance is lovely."

¹⁵Catch the foxes for us, The *little* foxes that spoil the vines, And our vines are **all** blossom.

¹⁶My beloved is mine and I am his. **He** feeds *his flock* among the lilies.

¹⁷Until the day breaks and the shadows have fled, Turn, my beloved and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of Bethel.

3 On my bed at night I sought the beloved of my being;

I sought him, but I *did not* find him.

²"**Come**, let me arise and go about the city, in the streets and in the broad places.

I **seek** the beloved of my being."

I sought him, but I *did not* find him.

³The watchmen who go about the city found me, to whom I said, "Have you **seen** the beloved of my being?"

⁴Scarcely had I passed by them, **When** I found the beloved of my being.

I held him and *would not* let him go, Until I had brought him to the house of my mother,

And into the room of her who conceived me.

⁵I have put you under oath, O daughters of Yerushalayim, By the gazelles or by the does of the field, *do not* stir up nor awaken **love** until it pleases.

⁶**Who** is this **coming** out of the wilderness like columns of smoke, Perfumed with myrrh and frankincense,

From **all** the merchant's fragrant powders?

⁷**See**, it is Shelomoh's couch – Sixty mighty men are around it, Of the mighty men of Yisra'el,

⁸All of them holding **swords**, Skilled in battle, Each one has his *sword* on his thigh **Because** of **fear** in the night.

⁹Sovereign Shelomoh made himself A litter of the **wood** of Lebanon;

¹⁰**He** made its posts of silver, Its support of gold, its seat of purple, Within it was decked with **love** By the daughters of Yerushalayim.

¹¹Go forth, O daughters of Tsiyon and **see** Sovereign Shelomoh with the crown

With which his mother crowned him on the **day** of his wedding and on the **day** of his **gladness** of heart.

4 **See**, you are fair, my love!

See, you are fair! Your eyes are as doves behind your veil.

Your hair is like a flock of goats,

Going down from Mount Gil'ad.
²Your *teeth* are like a flock of shorn *sheep* which have **come** up from the washing,
 All of them bear twins and not one loses her young.
³Your lips are like a cord of **scarlet**,
 And your speech is lovely.
 Your cheeks behind your veil are like a piece of pomegranate.
⁴Your neck is like the tower of Dawid,
 Built for an armoury,
 On which hang a thousand shields,
 All the armour of mighty men.
⁵Your two breasts are like two fawns,
 Twins of a gazelle,
 pasturing among the lilies.
⁶Until the day breaks and the shadows have fled,
 I **shall** go my **way** to the mountain of myrrh and to the hill of frankincense.
⁷You are **all** fair, my **love**,
 and not a blemish is on you.
⁸Come with me from Lebanon,
 My bride, with me from Lebanon.
 Look from the top of Amana,
 From the top of Shenir and Hermon,
 From the dens of lions,
 From the mountains of the leopards.
⁹You have put **heart** into me,
 My sister, my bride;
 You have put **heart** into me
 With one *glance* of your eyes,
 With one bead of your necklace.
¹⁰**How** *sweet* have been your loves,
 My sister, my bride!
How much better than **wine** are you
 loves and the fragrance of your
 perfumes than **all** spices!
¹¹Your lips, O my bride, drip as the
 honeycomb;
 Honey and milk are under your
 tongue.
 And the fragrance of your garments
 Is like the fragrance of Lebanon.
¹²A garden locked is my sister, my
 bride,

A fountain locked, a spring **sealed** up.
¹³Your plants are an orchard of
 pomegranates with pleasant fruits,
 with henna, nard,
¹⁴Nard and saffron,
 Calamus and cinnamon,
 With **all** trees of frankincense,
 Myrrh and aloes,
 With **all** the chief spices;
¹⁵A garden spring,
 A well of **living** waters,
 And streams from Lebanon.
¹⁶Awake, O north wind and come,
 O south!
 Blow upon my garden, let its spices
 flow out.
Let my beloved **come** to his garden
 And eat its pleasant fruits.

5 I have **come** to my garden,
 My sister, my bride;
 I have *plucked* my myrrh
 with my spice;
 I have eaten my honeycomb
 with my honey;
 I have drunk my **wine**
 with my milk.
 Eat, O friends! Drink and drink deeply,
 O beloved ones!
²I was sleeping but my **heart** was
 awake—the **voice** of my beloved!
 He knocks, “Open for me, my sister,
 My **love**, my dove, my **perfect** one;
 For my head is drenched with dew,
 My locks with the drops of the night.”
³I have taken off my robe, should I put
 it on?
 I have washed my feet, should I dirty
 them?
⁴My beloved put his **hand** by the
 latch and my feelings were deeply
 moved for him.
⁵I rose to **open** for my beloved,
 And my hands dripped with myrrh,
 My fingers with flowing myrrh,
 On the handles of the lock.
⁶I opened for my beloved but my

beloved had turned away and had gone.
 My being went out when he spoke.
 I sought him, but I *could not* find him;
 I called him, but he gave me no answer.
⁷The watchmen who went about the city **found** me.
 They *struck* me, they bruised me;
 The keepers of the walls lifted my veil from me.
⁸I have put you under oath,
 O daughters of Yerushalayim,
If you find my beloved ,
 That you inform him that I am faint with love!
⁹**What kind** of a beloved is your beloved, O fairest among women?
What kind of a beloved is your beloved,
 That you have put us under oath?
¹⁰My beloved is dazzling and ruddy,
 Chief among ten thousand.
¹¹His head is refined gold;
 His locks are wavy, black as a raven.
¹²His eyes are like doves by streams of waters, washed with milk and fitly set.
¹³His cheeks are like a bed of spices,
 Raised bed of scented plants.
 His lips are lilies, dripping flowing myrrh.
¹⁴His hands are rods of gold set with beryl and His body is *carved* ivory, covered with sapphires.
¹⁵His legs are columns of marble
 Founded on sockets of fine gold.
 His appearance is like Lebanon,
 Choice as the cedars.
¹⁶His **mouth** is most sweet,
 And he is **altogether** lovely.
 This is my beloved,
 and this is my friend,
 O daughters of Yerushalayim!

6 “Where has your beloved gone,
 O fairest among women?
 Where has your beloved turned aside?

Let us seek him with you.”
²My beloved went down to his garden, to the beds of spices,
 To feed *his flock* in the gardens,
 And to **gather** lilies.
³I am my beloved’s and my beloved is mine.
 He feeds *his flock* among the lilies.
⁴O my **love**, you are as fair as Tirtsah,
 Lovely as Yerushalayim,
 Awesome as an army with banners!
⁵Turn your eyes away from me,
Because they overcome me.
 Your hair is like a flock of goats
 That have hopped down from Gil’ad.
⁶Your **teeth** are like a flock of sheep
 That have **come** up from the washing;
 All of them bear twins and not one among them has *lost* her young.
⁷Your cheeks behind your veil are like a piece of pomegranate.
⁸There are sixty sovereignesses and eighty concubines and innumerable maidens.
⁹My dove, my **perfect** one,
 Is the only one, the only one of her mother,
 The choice of the one who bore her
 The daughters **saw** and called her **blessed**,
 Sovereignesses and concubines,
 And they **praised** her.
¹⁰**Who** is she who shines forth as the morning,
 Fair as the moon, clear as the sun,
 Awesome as an army with banners?
¹¹I went down to the garden of nuts
 To **see** the budding of the wadi,
 To **see** whether the **vine** had budded and the pomegranates had bloomed.
¹²I *did not know*, my desire made me as the chariots of my noble people.
¹³**Return, return**, O Shulamith;
Return, return and let us look upon you!
Why should you look upon the Shulamith, as it were the dance of two armies?

7 *How* fair are your feet in sandals,
 O daughter of a noble!
 The curves of your thighs are like
 ornaments,
 The **work** of a craftsman's hands.
²Your navel is a rounded bowl
Let it not lack mixed **wine**.
 Your body is a heap of wheat,
 Hedged about with lilies.
³Your two breasts are like two fawns,
 twins of a gazelle.
⁴Your neck is like an ivory tower,
 Your eyes pools in Heshbon
 By the gate of Bath Rabbim.
 Your nose is like the tower of
 Lebanon looking to Damascus.
⁵Your head upon you is like Mount
 Karmel,
 And the hair of your head like purple;
 The sovereign is held captive by the
 ringlets.
⁶*How* fair and how pleasant you are,
 O **love**, in delights!
⁷This stature of yours compares to
 palm *tree* and your breasts to clusters.
⁸I said, "**Let** me go up to the palm *tree*,
Let me take hold of its tips."
 And please, let your breasts be like
 clusters of the vine,
 And the fragrance of your breath like
 apples,
⁹And your palate like the best **wine**,
 Going down smoothly for my beloved,
 Flowing gently, slumbering lips.
¹⁰I am my beloved's and his desire is
 toward me.
¹¹**Come**, my beloved, let us go forth to
 the field;
Let us stay in the villages.
¹²**Let** us get up early to the vineyards;
Let us **see** whether the **vine** has
 budded,
 The grape blossoms have opened,
 The pomegranates have bloomed.
 There I give you my loves.
¹³The love-apples have given

fragrance,
 And at our gates are **all** pleasant **fruit**,
 New and old, which I have laid up for
 you, my beloved.

8 *Who* would make you a brother to
 me,
Who nursed at my mother's breasts!
Should I find you outside, I would kiss
 you; I *would not* be *despised*.
²I would lead you, I would bring you
 into the house of my mother,
 She who has **taught** me.
 I would give you spiced **wine** to drink,
 Of the juice of my pomegranate.
³His left **hand** is under my head,
 And his **right hand** embraces me.
⁴I have put you under oath,
 O daughters of Yerushalayim,
Do not stir up or awake **love** until
 it pleases.
⁵*Who* is this **coming** up from the
 wilderness,
 Leaning upon her beloved?
 Under the apple *tree* I awakened you
 There your mother was in labour
 with you;
 There she was in labour and gave birth
 to you.
⁶Set me as a **seal** upon your **heart**,
 As a **seal** upon your arm;
 For **love** is as **strong** as *death*,
 Jealousy as cruel as the grave;
 Its *flames* are *flames* of *fire*,
 a *flame* of Yah!
⁷Many waters are *unable* to extinguish
love and floods *do not* wash it away.
If one would give **all** the wealth of
 his house for **love**,
 It would be *utterly scorned*.
⁸We have a *little* sister and she has
 no breasts.
What do we do for our sister in the
 day when she is **spoken** for?
⁹**If** she is a wall, we build upon her a
 battlement of silver.

And if she is a **door**, we would
enclose her with boards of cedar.

¹⁰I am a wall and my breasts like
towers;

So I became in his eyes as one who
found peace.

¹¹Shelomoh had a vineyard in Ba'al
Hamon;

He let out the vineyard to keepers;
Each one was to bring for its **fruit** a
thousand pieces of silver.

¹²My own vineyard is before me.
O Shelomoh, a thousand belongs to
you,

And two hundred to those who keep
its **fruit**.

¹³You who sit in the gardens,
The companions **listen** for your **voice**;

Let me hear it!

¹⁴Hurry, my beloved and be like
a gazelle or a young stag
On the mountains of spices.

The Song of Songs begins with the beloved's
wish for her lovers kiss and ends with her urgent
invitation to him for love's intimacy.

Wisdom and **love** are gifts from our **Father** and are
to be received with gratitude and celebration.

The voice of **love** in this song is that of a woman.

Love is a gift of Yahuah to man.

RUTH

1 And it came to be, in the days when the rulers ruled, that there was a *scarcity of food* in the land. And a man from Bēyth Lehem, Yahudah, went to sojourn in the fields of Mo’ab, he and his wife and his two sons.

²And the name of the man was Elimelek and the name of his wife was Na’omi and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilyon – Ephrathites of Bēyth Lehem, Yahudah. And they went to the fields of Mo’ab and came to be there.

³And Elimelek, husband of Na’omi, died. And she was left with her two sons.

⁴And they took wives of the women of Mo’ab, the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. And they dwelt there about ten years.

⁵And Mahlon and Kilyon also died, both of them, so the woman was bereaved of her two sons and of her husband.

⁶And she rose up, with her daughters-in-law and returned from the fields of Mo’ab, for she had **heard** in the fields of Mo’ab that אַיָּאל had **visited His** people in giving them bread.

⁷And she left the place where she was and her two daughters-in-law with her. And they went on the **way** to **return** to the land of Yahudah.

⁸And Na’omi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go, **return** each to her mother’s house. אַיָּאל **show kindness** to you, as you have shown to the *dead* and to me.

⁹“אַיָּאל grant that you find rest, each in the house of her husband.” **Then** she kissed them and they lifted up their **voices** and wept.

¹⁰And they said to her, “No, we **shall** go back with you to your people.”

¹¹**But** Na’omi said, “Go back, my

daughters, why go with me? Have I still sons in my womb, that they should become your husbands?

¹²“Go back, my daughters, go your **way**, for I am too old to have a husband. **If** I should say I have expectancy, even if I should have a husband tonight and should also bear sons,

¹³would you wait for them til they were grown? Would you shut yourselves up, not to have a husband? No, my daughters, for it is much more *bitter* for me than for you, **because** the **hand** of אַיָּאל has gone out *against* me!”

¹⁴And they lifted up their **voices** and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth *clung* to her.

¹⁵And she said, “Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her *mighty ones*. Go back, **follow** your sister-in-law.”

¹⁶**But** Ruth said, “**Do not** urge me to leave you, or to go back from **following** after you. For wherever you go, I go; and wherever you stop over, I stop over. **Your people** is my people and your **Elohim** is my **Elohim**.”

¹⁷“Where you *die*, I *die* and there I **shall be** buried. אַיָּאל do so to me and more also – for *death* itself parts you and me.”

¹⁸And when she **saw** that she was strengthening herself to go with her, she ceased to **speak** to her.

¹⁹And both of them went until they came to Bēyth Lehem. And it came to be, when they had **come** to Bēyth Lehem, that **all** the city was moved **because** of them and they said, “Is this Na’omi?”

²⁰And she said to them, “**Do not call** me Na’omi, **call** me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt **very bitterly** with me.

²¹“I went out filled and אַיָּאל has brought me back empty. **Why** do you

call me Na'omi, since אַיָּאֵל has **witnessed** *against* me and the Almighty has done *evil* to me?"

²²Thus Na'omi returned and Ruth the Mo'abite her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the fields of Mo'ab and they came to Bēyth Lehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

2 And Na'omi had a relative on her husband's side, a man of **great** wealth, of the clan of Elimelek and his name was Bo'az.

²And Ruth, the Mo'abite, said to Na'omi, "Please let me go to the field and glean heads of grain after him in whose eyes I find **favour**." So she said to her, "Go, my daughter."

³And she left and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers. As it turned out, she came to the part of the field belonging to Bo'az, the **near** relative of Elimelek.

⁴And **see**, Bo'az had **come** from Bēyth Lehem and said to the reapers, "אַיָּאֵל be with you!" And they answered him, "אַיָּאֵל **bless** you!"

⁵And Bo'az said to his servant who was **appointed** over the reapers, "**Whose** young woman is this?"

⁶So the servant who was **appointed** over the reapers answered and said, "It is the young Mo'abite woman who came back with Na'omi from the fields of Mo'ab,

⁷and she said, 'Please let me glean and **gather** among the sheaves behind the reapers.' And she came and has remained from morning until **now** – she sat a *little* in the house."

⁸And Bo'az said to Ruth, "You have **heard**, have you not, my daughter? **Do not** go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close to my young women.

⁹**Let** your eyes be on the field which they reap and you **shall** go after them. Have I not **commanded** the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from

what the young men have drawn."

¹⁰And she fell on her face, bowed down to the ground and said to him, "**Why** have I **found favour** in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, **seeing** I am a foreigner?"

¹¹And Bo'az answered and said to her, "I have been told **all** that you have done for your mother-in-law since the *death* of your husband and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth and have **come to** a people whom you *did not know* before.

¹²"אַיָּאֵל **repay** your work and your reward is **complete** from אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** of Yisra'el, under whose wings you have **come to seek** refuge."

¹³And she said, "**Let** me find **favour** in your eyes, my master, **because** you have comforted me and have **spoken** to the **heart** of your female servant, though I am not like one of your female servants."

¹⁴And Bo'az said to her, "**Come** here at mealtime. **Then** you **shall** eat of the **bread** and dip your piece of **bread** in the vinegar." And she sat beside the reapers and he passed roasted grain to her. And she ate and was satisfied and had left over.

¹⁵And she rose up to glean and Bo'az **commanded** his young men, saying, "**Let** her glean even among the sheaves and *do not* embarrass her.

¹⁶"Rather, draw out from the bundles for her and leave it for her to glean and *do not* restrain her."

¹⁷And she gleaned in the field until **evening** and beat out that which she had gleaned and it was about an ephah of barley.

¹⁸And she took it up and went into the city and her mother-in-law **saw** what she had gleaned. And she brought out and gave to her what she had left over after she was satisfied.

¹⁹**Then** her mother-in-law asked her, "Where have you gleaned today? And where did you work? **Blessed** be the one who took notice of you." And she told her mother-in-law with whom she had

worked and said, “The **Name** of the man I worked today with is Bo’az.”

²⁰And Na’omi said to her daughter-in-law, “**Blessed** be he of אַיָּאֵל, who has not **forsaken His kindness** to the living and the dead!” And Na’omi said to her, “The man is a relative of ours, one of our redeemers.”

²¹And Ruth the Mo’abitess said, “He also said to me, ‘Stay close to my young people until they have **completed all** my harvest.’”

²²And Na’omi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, “It is **good**, my daughter, that you go out with his young women and that they *do not* meet you in any other field.”

²³And she stayed close by the young women of Bo’az to glean, til the completion of barley harvest and wheat harvest, but she dwelt with her mother-in-law.

3 And Na’omi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, should I not **seek** rest for you, so that it is well with you?”

²⁴And **now**, is not Bo’az, with whose young women you have been, our relative? **See**, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing-floor.

³⁴And, you **shall** bathe and **anoint** yourself and put your garments on and go down to the threshing-floor. **Do not** make yourself **known** to the man until he has **finished** eating and drinking.

⁴⁴And it **shall be**, when he lies down, that you **shall** notice the place where he lies and **shall** go in and uncover his feet and *lie* down. And let him make **known** to you what you should do.”

⁵And she said to her, “All that you say to me, I do.”

⁶And she went down to the threshing-floor and did **according to all** that her mother-in-law **instructed** her.

⁷And Bo’az ate and drank and his **heart** was glad and he went to *lie* down at **the end** of the heap of grain. And she came softly and uncovered his feet and lay down.

⁸And it came to be at midnight that the man was startled and turned himself and **saw** a woman *lying* at his feet!

⁹And he said, “**Who** are you?” And she answered, “I am Ruth, your female servant. **Now** you **shall** spread your covering over your female servant – for you are a redeemer.”

¹⁰And he said, “**Blessed** are you of אַיָּאֵל, my daughter! For you have shown more **kindness** at **the end** than at the beginning, not to go after young men, whether *poor* or rich.

¹¹“And **now**, my daughter, *do not* fear. All that you say I do for you, for **all** the people of my town **know** that you are a capable woman.

¹²“And **now**, it is **true** that I am your redeemer. However, there is a redeemer nearer than I.

¹³“**Stop** over tonight and in the morning it **shall be** that if he does **redeem** you, **good** – let him do it. **But** if he is *not pleased to redeem* you, then I **shall** **redeem** you, as אַיָּאֵל lives! Lie down until morning.”

¹⁴And she lay at his feet until morning and she arose before one could recognise another. And he said, “**Let** it not be **known** that the woman came to the threshing floor.”

¹⁵And he said, “Bring the shawl that is on you and hold it.” So she held it and he measured six *measures* of barley and laid it on her. And she went into the city.

¹⁶And when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, “Is that you, my daughter?” And she **explained** to her **all** that the man had done for her.

¹⁷And she said, “He gave me these six *measures* of barley, for he said to me, ‘**Do not** go empty-handed to your mother-inlaw.’”

¹⁸And she said, “Wait, my daughter, until you **know** how the matter falls, for the man is not going to rest until he has **completed** the matter this day.”

4 And Bo’az went up to the gate and sat down there. And **see**, the redeemer of

whom Bo'az had **spoken** came by. And Bo'az said, "Turn aside, So-and-so, sit down here." And he turned aside and sat down.

²And he took ten men of the elders of the city and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down.

³He then said to the redeemer, "Na'omi, who has **come back** from the fields of Mo'ab, sold the piece of land which belonged to our brother Elimelek.

⁴And I thought that I should disclose it to you, saying, 'Buy it back in the presence of the inhabitants and the elders of my people. **If** you do redeem it, **redeem** it but if *you do not* **redeem** it, inform me, so that I **know**. For there is no one but you to **redeem** it and I am next after you.'" And he said, "I **redeem** it."

⁵And Bo'az said, "On the day you buy the field from the **hand** of Na'omi, you **shall** also acquire Ruth the Mo'abites, the wife of the **dead**, to **raise** up the name of the **dead** on his inheritance."

⁶And the redeemer said, "I am not able to **redeem** it for myself, lest I **ruin** my own inheritance. Redeem my **right** of redemption for yourself, for I am not able to **redeem** it."

⁷And this was formerly done in Yisra'el concerning redeeming and exchanging, to **confirm every** word: one man took off his sandal and gave it to the other and this was a **witness** in Yisra'el.

⁸So the redeemer said to Bo'az, "Buy it for yourself." **Then** he took off his sandal.

⁹And Bo'az said to the elders and to **all** the people, "You are **witnesses** this day that I have bought **all** that was Elimelek's and **all** that was Kilyon's and Mahlon's, from the **hand** of Na'omi.

¹⁰And also, Ruth the Mo'abites, the wife of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife, to **raise** up the name of the **dead** on his inheritance, so that the name of the **dead** should not be **cut off** from among his brothers and from the gate of his place. You are **witnesses** today."

¹¹And **all** the people who were at the

gate and the elders, said, "Witnesses! **אָזַל** make the woman who is **coming** to your house as Rahel and as Le'ah, the two who built the house of Yisra'el. And prove your worth in Ephrathah and **proclaim** the **Name** in Beyth Lehem.

¹²And let your house be like the house of Perets, whom Tamar bore to Yahuḏah, of the seed which **אָזַל** does give you from this young woman."

¹³And Bo'az took Ruth and she became his wife. And he went in to her and **אָזַל** granted her conception and she bore a son.

¹⁴And the women said to Na'omi, "**Blessed** be **אָזַל**, who has not left you this day without a redeemer. And let **His Name be proclaimed in Yisra'el!**

¹⁵And he **shall be** to you a restorer of **life** and a sustainer of your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him."

¹⁶And Na'omi took the child and laid him on her bosom and became a nurse to him.

¹⁷And the women, her neighbours, gave him a name, saying, "There is a son born to Na'omi." And they called his name Obed. He was the father of Yishai, the father of Dawid.

¹⁸And this is the genealogy of Perets: Perets brought forth Hetsron.

¹⁹And Hetsron brought forth Ram and Ram brought forth Amminadab.

²⁰And Amminadab brought forth Nahshon and Nahshon brought forth Salmon.

²¹And Salmon brought forth Bo'az and Bo'az brought forth Obed.

²²And Obed brought forth Yishai and Yishai brought forth Dawid.

The Book of Ruth records that the people had no problem calling Yahuah by His Name! This piece of history is also a great example of how a gentile is grafted in among the Chosen People. Ruth, an ex-Mo'abite, became the great-grandmother of Dawid!

ĒKAH

LAMENTATIONS

1 *How* alone she sits,
 The city once **great** with people!
 Like a widow she has become,
 One **great** among the nations!
 A princess among provinces has
 become a slave!
²She weeps *bitterly* at night,
 And her tears are upon her cheeks
 Among **all** her *lovers* there is no
 comforter for her.
 All her friends have *betrayed* her,
 They have become her enemies.
³Yahudah has gone into exile,
Because of *affliction* and **because**
 of harsh labour.
 She has dwelt among *gentiles*,
 She has **found** no rest.
 All her pursuers have overtaken her
 Between **narrow** places.
⁴The **ways** to Tsiyon mourn
 For no one **comes** to the **appointed**
 times.
 All her gates are deserted,
 Her priests sigh, her maidens are
afflicted and she has *bitterness*.
⁵Her adversaries have become chief,
 Her enemies have become at ease.
 For אַיָּאֵל has *afflicted* her
Because of her many *transgressions*.
 Her children have gone into captivity
 before the enemy.
⁶And **all** the splendour has departed
 From the daughter of Tsiyon.
 Her rulers have become like buck,
 They have **found** no pasture,
 And they go powerless before the
 pursuer.

⁷In the days of her *affliction* and
 wandering,
 Yerushalayim **remembered all** her
 precious matters
 She had in the days of old.
When her people fell into the **hand**
 of the enemy,
 With no one to help her,
 The adversaries **saw** her,
 They *mocked* at her **Sabbaths**.
⁸Yerushalayim has *sinned* greatly,
 Therefore she has become *defiled*.
 All who esteemed her *despised* her
Because they have **seen** her
 nakedness.
 She herself has sighed and turned
 away.
⁹Her *uncleaness* is in her skirts.
 She *did not* keep in **mind** her **latter**
 end,
 And has gone down appallingly,
 There was no one to comfort her.
 “**See, O אַיָּאֵל**, my *affliction*,
 For the enemy has made himself
great!”
¹⁰The adversary has spread his **hand**
 Over **all** her **precious** matters;
 Indeed, she has seen:
 The *gentiles* have entered her set-apart
 place,
 Those whom You **commanded** not to
 enter **Your** assembly.
¹¹All her people are *sighing*, **seeking**
 bread.
 They have given their precious matters
 For food, to bring back **life**.
 “**See, O אַיָּאֵל** and look,
 For I have become *despised*.”

¹²“Is it naught to you,
All you who pass by?
Look and **see** if there is any pain
like my pain,
Which has been brought on me,
Which אַיָּאֵל has inflicted on me
In the **day of His** *burning displeasure*.

¹³“From above **He** has **sent fire** into
my bones and it overpowered them;
He has spread a *net* for my feet and
turned me back;
He has laid me *waste* and faint **all** the
day.

¹⁴“The yoke of my *transgressions*
Has been *bound* by **His hand**,
Woven **together** and *thrust* upon my
neck.

He has made my strength *stumble*,
אַיָּאֵל has **given** me into hands
Which I am *unable* to withstand.

¹⁵“אַיָּאֵל has trodden down **all** my
strong men in my **midst**,
He has called an **appointed time**
Against me to *crush* my young men
אַיָּאֵל has trodden down as in a
winepress

The maiden daughter of Yahudāh.

¹⁶“This is why I weep.

My eye, my eye is running down with
water, **because** the comforter,
Who could bring back my **life**,
Has been far from me.

My children are stunned,
Because the enemy has prevailed.”

¹⁷Tsiyon spreads out her hands,
There is no comforter for her.
אַיָּאֵל has **commanded** concerning
Ya‘aqob,

His neighbours are his adversaries.
Yerushalayim has become an
uncleanness among them.

¹⁸אַיָּאֵל is **righteous**,
for I *rebelled against* **His mouth**.

Hear now, **all** peoples,
and **see** my pain.

My maidens and my young men have

gone into captivity.

¹⁹I called for my *lovers*, but they
deceived me.

My priests and my elders breathed
their **last** in the city,
While they sought food to bring back
their **life**.

²⁰“**See**, O אַיָּאֵל, that I am in *distress*
My inward parts are boiling up,
My **heart** is overturned within me,
For I have been **very rebellious**.
From without the *sword* has bereaved,
At home it is like *death*.

²¹“They have **heard** that I sighed,
With no one to comfort me.

All my enemies have **heard** of my
calamity,
They have rejoiced that You have
done it.

You **shall** bring on the day that You
have **announced**,
So let them become like me.

²²“**Let all** their *evil* **come** before **You**,
And do to them as You have done
to me for **all** my *transgressions*.
For my sighs are many and my **heart**
is faint.”

2 How אַיָּאֵל in His *displeasure*

Has covered the daughter of Tsiyon
with a cloud!

He has *cast* down from the heavens to
the earth the comeliness of Yisra’ēl,
And has not **remembered His** foot-
stool in the **day of His** *displeasure*.

²אַיָּאֵל has swallowed up, without
compassion,

All the pastures of Ya‘aqob.
In **His wrath** **He** has *thrown* down
The *strongholds* of the daughter of
Yahudāh.

He has brought them down to the
ground.

He has *profaned* the **reign** and its rulers.

³In the *heat* of *displeasure*

He has *cut off every* horn of Yisra'el.

He has withdrawn **His right hand** from before the enemy.

And He burns *against* Ya'aqob like a flaming *fire*, *consuming all* around.

⁴He has bent **His** bow like an enemy

He has set **His right hand** like an adversary.

And He *slays all* who **delighted** the eye in the tent of the daughter of Tsiyon,

He has **poured out His** *wrath* like *fire*.

⁵אֵיזֶל has been like an enemy.

He has swallowed up Yisra'el,

He has swallowed up **all** her palaces,

He has **destroyed** her *strongholds*.

And He increases *mourning* and lamentation

In the daughter of Yahuḏah.

⁶He has demolished **His** booth like a garden and He has **destroyed His** place of meeting.

אֵיזֶל has made the **appointed times** and **Sabbaths** to be *forgotten* in

Tsiyon,

And despises sovereign and priest

In **His** raging *displeasure*.

⁷אֵיזֶל has *cast off His* altar,

He has *rejected His* set-apart place,

He has **delivered** the walls of her palaces

Into the **hand** of the enemy.

They have made a noise in the House of אֵיזֶל

As on the **day of an appointed time**.

⁸אֵיזֶל has planned to *destroy*

The wall of the daughter of Tsiyon.

He has **stretched** out a line.

He has not turned back **His hand** from destroying and He has made the

rampart and wall to lament;

Together they have languished.

⁹Her gates have sunk into the ground

He has **destroyed** and broken her bars.

Her sovereign and her rulers are among the *gentiles*.

The **Torah** is no more and her prophets have **found** no **vision** from אֵיזֶל.

¹⁰The elders of the daughter of Tsiyon Sit on the ground, are silent.

They have *thrown* dust on their heads, They have girded themselves with sackcloth.

The maidens of Yerushalayim have let their heads hang to the ground.

¹¹My eyes are spent with tears,

My inward parts ferment,

My bile has been poured on the

ground **because** of the **destruction** of

the daughter of my people,

As children and the infants languish

In the streets of the city.

¹²They say to their mothers,

“Where is grain and **wine**?”

As they languish like the wounded

In the streets of the city,

As their **life** is **poured out** in their mothers' bosom.

¹³**How shall** I admonish you,

To what **shall** I compare you,

O daughter of Yerushalayim?

To what **shall** I liken you to comfort you,

O maiden daughter of Tsiyon?

For your *breach* is as **great** as the sea.

Who shall heal you?

¹⁴Your prophets have **seen** falsehood

and folly for you and have not shown

you your *crookedness* so to **turn back** your captivity.

Their **visions** for you are *false* and

misleading messages.

¹⁵All who pass by have clapped their hands at you.

They have whistled and they *shake*

their heads at the daughter of

Yerushalayim,

“Is this the city that is

called ‘The perfection of loveliness,

The joy of **all** the earth'?"

¹⁶All your enemies have opened their **mouth** *against* you;

They have whistled and they gnash their *teeth* and they say, "We have swallowed her up!

This is certainly the day we waited for; We have **found** it, we have **seen** it."

¹⁷אָיָאָל has done what **He** planned,

He has filled **His** word

Which **He** **commanded** in days of old

He has *torn* down, without **compassion** and **He** has let your enemy **rejoice** over you.

He has exalted the horn of your adversaries.

¹⁸Their **heart** *cried out* to אָיָאָל, "O wall of the daughter of Tsiyon, **Let** tears run down like a river day and night.

Give yourself no numbness, **Let** your eyes have no rest.

¹⁹"Arise, cry out in the night, At the beginning of the watches, Pour out your **heart** like water before the face of אָיָאָל and lift your hands toward **Him** for the **life** of your young children, who languish from hunger at the head of **every** street.

²⁰"See, O אָיָאָל and look attentively To whom have You done thus.

Should the women eat their offspring, Infants of a **hand** breadth?

Should the priest and **prophet** be *slain* In the set-apart place of אָיָאָל?

²¹"Young and old *lie* on the ground in the streets.

My maidens and my young men have fallen by the *sword*.

You have *slain* them in the **day** of **Your** *displeasure*,

You have slaughtered without **compassion**.

²²"Would You **proclaim**, as in a **day** of **appointed** time, The *fears* that surround me?

And no one **escaped** or survived In the **day** of the *displeasure* of אָיָאָל.

Those whom I have nursed and brought up

My enemy has **destroyed**."

3 I am the man who has **seen** affliction by the **rod** of **His** *wrath*.

²**He** has led me and made me **walk** In *darkness* and not **light**.

³Indeed, **He** has turned back, **He** has turned **His** **hand** *against* me **all** the day.

⁴**He** has worn out my *flesh* and my skin and **He** has broken my bones.

⁵**He** has piled up *against* me and surrounded me with *bitterness* and hardship.

⁶**He** has made me dwell in dark places Like the *dead* of old.

⁷**He** has hedged me in and I *do not* go out,

He has made my chain heavy.

⁸Also, when I cry and shout, **He** shuts out my prayer.

⁹**He** has blocked my **ways** with hewn stone, **He** has made my paths crooked.

¹⁰**He** is to me like a bear *lying* in wait, A lion in hiding.

¹¹**He** has turned aside my **ways**

And *torn* me in pieces,

He has laid me *waste*.

¹²**He** has bent **His** bow and set me up as a target for the arrow.

¹³**He** made the arrows of **His** quiver pierce my kidneys.

¹⁴I have been a *mockery* to **all** my people, their *mocking* song **all** the day.

¹⁵**He** has filled me with *bitterness*, **He** drenched me with wormwood.

¹⁶And **He** has broken my *teeth* with gravel, **He** has covered me with ashes.

¹⁷And **You** have removed my being far from peace, I have *forgotten* **goodness**.

¹⁸And I said, “My strength and my expectancy have *perished* from אַיָּאֵל.”

¹⁹**Remember** my *affliction* and my anguish, the wormwood and the gall.

²⁰**Your** being indeed **remembers** and bows down upon me.

²¹This I recall to my mind, therefore I wait:

²²The **kindnesses** of אַיָּאֵל!

For we have not been *consumed*,

For **His** **compassions** have not ended.

²³They are new **every** morning, Great is **Your** trustworthiness.

²⁴“אַיָּאֵל is my Portion,” says my being, “Therefore I wait for **Him!**”

²⁵אַיָּאֵל is **good** to those waiting for **Him**, to the being who seeks **Him**.

²⁶It is **good** – both to wait and to be silent, for the **deliverance** of אַיָּאֵל.

²⁷It is **good** for a man to bear a yoke in his youth.

²⁸**Let** him sit alone and be silent, **because** **He** has laid it on him.

²⁹**Let** him put his **mouth** in the dust, There might yet be expectancy.

³⁰**Let** him give his cheek to the one who smites him – he is filled with *reproach*.

³¹For אַיָּאֵל *does not* cast off **forever**.

³²For though **He** *afflicted*, yet **He shall show compassion according** to the greatness of **His** **kindnesses**.

³³For **He** has not *afflicted* from **His** **heart** nor does **He** grieve the children of men.

³⁴To *crush* under **His** feet all the prisoners of the earth,

³⁵To turn aside the **right-ruling** of man Before the face of the **Most High**,

³⁶Or *wrong* a man in his **cause** – This אַיָּאֵל *does not* approve.

³⁷**Who** was it that spoke and it came to be!

Has אַיָּאֵל not **commanded** it?

³⁸**Do not** the *evils* and the **good** come out of the **mouth** of the Most High?

³⁹**What? Should** mankind complain,

A **living** man, **because** of his *sins*?

⁴⁰**Let** us **search** and examine our ways,

And **turn back** to אַיָּאֵל.

⁴¹**Let** us lift our **hearts** and hands To Ēl in the heavens *and say*:

⁴²*We, we have transgressed and rebelled* and **You, You have not forgiven**.

⁴³**You** have wrapped **Yourself** with *displeasure* and *pursued* us.

You have *slain* and **You have not shown compassion**.

⁴⁴**You** have wrapped **Yourself** with a cloud so that prayer *does not* pass through.

⁴⁵**You** make us as scum and *refuse* in the **midst** of the peoples.

⁴⁶All our enemies have opened their **mouth** *against* us.

⁴⁷**Fear** and a *snare* have **come** upon us with shame and *ruin*.

⁴⁸Streams of water run down my eye For the *ruin* of the daughter of my people.

⁴⁹My eye flows out and *does not* cease, Without stopping,

⁵⁰Until אַיָּאֵל looks down and sees from the **heavens**.

⁵¹My eye *pains* my being **because** of **all** the daughters of my city.

⁵²My enemies hunted me down like a bird, without **cause**.

⁵³They have *cut off* my **life** in the pit, And they threw stones at me.

⁵⁴Waters flowed over my head; I said, “I am *cut off!*”

⁵⁵I called on **Your Name**, O אַיָּאֵל, from the lowest pit.

⁵⁶**You** have **heard** my **voice**, **Do not** hide **Your** ear from my groaning and from my outcry!

⁵⁷**You** drew **near** on the day I called on **You** and **You** said, “**Do not fear!**”

⁵⁸O אַיָּאֵל, **You** did plead the case for my being;

You have redeemed my **life**.

⁵⁹O אַיָּאֵל, You have **seen** my oppression; Judge my case.

⁶⁰You have **seen all** their **vengeance**, All their plans *against* me.

⁶¹You have **heard** their reproach, O אַיָּאֵל, **all** their plans *against* me,

⁶²The lips of those rising *against* me, And their scheming *against* me **all** the day.

⁶³Look at their sitting down and their rising up; I am their song.

⁶⁴Repay them, O אַיָּאֵל, **according** to the **work** of their hands.

⁶⁵Give them a veiled **heart**, **Your** *curse* upon them!

⁶⁶Pursue and *destroy* them in *displeasure* from under the heavens of אַיָּאֵל.

4 *How* dim the gold has become,
The fine gold *changed!*
The stones of the set-apart place
Are *scattered* at the head of **every**
street.

²The **precious** sons of Tsiyon
Who were weighed *against* fine gold,
How they have been reckoned as
clay pots,

The **work** of the hands of the potter!

³Even jackals have presented their
breasts,

They have nursed their young.

The daughter of my people has
become as cruel,

As ostriches in the wilderness.

⁴The tongue of the infant has *clung*
To the roof of its **mouth** for thirst;
Children asked for bread and no one
breaks it for them.

⁵Those who ate delicacies have been
laid *waste* in the streets;

Those who were brought up in **scarlet**
Have embraced dunghills.

⁶*And the crookedness of the daughter*

*of my people is greater than the
punishment of the sin of Sedom,*

Which was *overthrown* in a moment,
And no hands were wrung over her!

⁷Her Nazirites were brighter than snow
And whiter than milk;

More ruddy in body than rubies,
Their *cut* like sapphire.

⁸Their appearance has become blacker
than soot;

They have become unrecognised in
the streets;

Their skin has shrivelled on their
bones,

It has become dry, it has become as
wood.

⁹Better off were those *pierced* by the
sword than those *pierced* by hunger;

For these pine away,

Pierced through for lack of the fruits
of the field.

¹⁰The hands of the **compassionate**
women

Have boiled their own children;

They became food for them in the
destruction of the daughter of my
people.

¹¹אַיָּאֵל has **completed His** *wrath*,
He has **poured out His** *burning*
displeasure.

And **He** kindled a *fire* in Tsiyon,
And it *consumed* her foundations.

¹²The sovereigns of the earth *did not*
believe nor any of the inhabitants of
the world,

That an adversary and enemy would
enter the gates of Yerushalayim.

¹³It was **because** of the *sins* of her
prophets,

The *crookednesses* of her priests,
Who shed in her **midst** the **blood** of
the righteous.

¹⁴They staggered, *blind*, in the streets;

They have *defiled* themselves with
blood so that no one was able to touch
their garments.

¹⁵They *shouted* at them, “Away!

Unclean! Away! Away! Touch not!”

When they fled and staggered,
They said, among the *gentiles*,
“They **shall** stay no longer.”

¹⁶The face of אַיָּאֵל scattered them
He no longer regards them.

They showed no respect for the priests
Nor **favour** to the elders.

¹⁷While we exist, our eyes are con-
sumed watching vainly for our help.
In our watch-tower we watched for
a nation that *could not* save.

¹⁸They have hunted our steps from
going in our streets.

Our end was near and our days were
completed,

For our end had come.

¹⁹Our pursuers were swifter
Than the eagles of the **heavens**.
They came hotly after us on the
mountains and lay in wait for us in
the wilderness.

²⁰The breath of our nostrils, the
anointed of אַיָּאֵל,
Was *caught* in their pits,
In whose shadow we had thought
To **live** among the *gentiles*.

²¹Rejoice and be glad,
O daughter of Eḏom,
You who dwell in the land of Uz!
**The cup is to pass over to you too,
So that you become drunk and make
yourself naked.**

²²Your *crookedness* has been
completed, O daughter of Tsiyon.
He no longer prolongs your exile.
He shall punish your *crookedness*,
O daughter of Eḏom,
He shall uncover your *sins*!

to strangers and our houses to
foreigners.

³We have become orphans, fatherless,
Our mothers are like widows.

⁴We had to pay for our drinking water
and our **wood comes** at a price.

⁵We have been pursued close onto our
neck,
We have laboured and had no rest.

⁶To Mitsrayim we have **given** a hand;
To Ashshur, to be **satisfied** with bread.

⁷Our fathers *sinned*, they are no more
We have borne their *crookednesses*.

⁸Servants have ruled over us;
There is no one to **deliver** from their
hand.

⁹With our lives we bring in our bread,
Because of the *sword* of the
wilderness.

¹⁰Our skin has become as hot as an
oven, **because** of the *burning heat* of
scarcity of food.

¹¹They have humbled the women in
Tsiyon,

The maidens in the cities of Yahudāh.

¹²Rulers were hung up by their hands,
And elders were not respected.

¹³They have taken young men to grind,
And youths *stumbled* under *loads of*
wood.

¹⁴Elders have ceased from the gate,
Young men from their song.

¹⁵The **joy** of our **heart** has ceased,
Our dancing has turned into mourning.

¹⁶The crown has fallen from our head.
Woe to us, for we have *sinned*!

¹⁷**Because** of this our **heart** has been
sick,

Because of these our eyes have
become dim,

¹⁸**Because** of Mount Tsiyon which is
laid waste;

Foxes have gone roaming in it.

¹⁹**You**, O אַיָּאֵל, remain **forever**,
Your throne from generation to
generation.

²⁰**Why** do **You** *forget* us **forever**,
Forsake us for length of days?

5 Remember, O אַיָּאֵל, what has
come upon us. Look and **see** our
reproach!

²Our **inheritance** has been turned over

²¹Turn us back to **You**,

O אַיָּאָל,

And let us turn back,

Renew our days as of old.

²²For have **You completely**

rejected us?

You have been *wroth* with us,
exceedingly!

QOHELETH

ECCLESIASTES – CONVENER

1 The **words** of Qoheleth, son of Dawid, sovereign in Yerushalayim.

²“Futility! Futility!” says Qoheleth. “Futility, futility, **all** is futile!”

³**What** does man *gain* from **all** his labour in which he toils under the sun?

⁴A generation passes away and a generation comes, but the earth stands **forever**.

⁵The sun also rises and the sun sets and hurries back to the place where it arose.

⁶Going to the south and turning round to the north, turning, turning and on its rounds the *wind* returns.

⁷All the rivers run into the sea, yet the sea never overflows. To the place from which the rivers come, there they **return** again.

⁸All matters are wearisome, no one **is able** to **speak** of it. The eye is not **satisfied** with seeing, nor the ear filled with **hearing**.

⁹**What** has been is what **shall be**, what has been done is what **shall be** done and there is no new matter under the sun.

¹⁰Is there a matter of which it is said, “**See**, this is new”? It was here already, long ago.

¹¹There is no **remembrance** of former ones, nor is there any **remembrance** of those that are to **come** by those who **come** later on.

¹²I, Qoheleth, was sovereign over Yisra’el in Yerushalayim.

¹³And I set my **heart** to **seek** and **search** out by **wisdom** concerning **all** that has been done under the heavens; this *evil* task **Elohim** has **given** to the sons of man, to be humbled by it.

¹⁴I have **seen** **all** the **works** that are done under the sun. And **see**, **all** was futile and feeding on wind.

¹⁵The *crooked* *could not* be straightened and what is lacking *could not* be counted.

¹⁶So I spoke to my **heart**, saying, “**See**, I have attained greatness and have gained more **wisdom** than **all** who were before me in Yerushalayim. And my **heart** has **seen** much **wisdom** and **knowledge**.”

¹⁷And I set my **heart** to **know** **wisdom** – and to **know** *madness* and folly. I **know** that this too is feeding on wind.

¹⁸For in much **wisdom** is much grief and he who increases **knowledge** increases suffering.

2 I said in my **heart**, “**Come now**, let me try you with rejoicing and find out what is **good**.” **But see**, that too was futile.

²I said of laughter, “It is *madness*,” and of rejoicing, “**What** does it do?”

³I searched in my **heart** how to stimulate my body with **wine**, while guiding my **heart** with **wisdom** and how to lay hold on folly, until I could **see** what was **good** for the sons of men to do under the heavens **all** the days of their **lives**.

⁴I made my **works** great, I built myself houses, I planted vineyards for myself.

⁵I made gardens and parks for myself and I planted **all** kinds of **fruit** trees in them.

⁶I made pools of water for myself, to water from them a plantation of growing trees.

⁷I bought male and female servants and I came to have sons of the household. Also, I had greater possessions of herds and flocks than **all** who were before me in Yerushalayim.

⁸I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasures of sovereigns and of the provinces. I provided male and female singers for myself and the pleasures of men – a woman and women.

⁹Thus I became **great** and increased more than **all** who were before me in Yerushalayim. Also my **wisdom** remained with me.

¹⁰And **all** that my eyes desired I *did not* keep from them. I *did not* withhold my **heart** from any pleasure, for my **heart** rejoiced in **all** my labour. And this was my portion from **all** my labour.

¹¹**But** when I **looked** on **all** the **works** that my hands had done and on the labour in which I had toiled, **see, all** was futile and feeding on wind and there was no *gain* under the sun.

¹²And I turned myself to look at **wisdom** and *madness* and folly. For what would the man do who **comes** after the sovereign *except* what already has been done?

¹³**Then** I **saw** that **wisdom** is better than folly, as **light** is better than *darkness*.

¹⁴The **wise** one's eyes are in his head, but the *fool* walks in *darkness*. And I also **knew** that one event befalls them **all**.

¹⁵And I said in my **heart**, "As the event of the *fool*, even so it befalls me and why was I then more wise?" **Then** I said in my **heart**, "This also is futile."

¹⁶For there is no more lasting **remembrance** of the **wise** than of the *fool*, since in the days to **come** **all** is *forgotten*. And how does a **wise** man *die*? With the fool!

¹⁷And I *hated* **life** because the **work** that was done under the sun was *evil* on me, for **all** is futile and feeding on wind.

¹⁸And I *hated* **all** my labour in which I had toiled under the sun, because I leave it to a man who would **come** after me.

¹⁹And who **knows** whether he is **wise** or foolish? Yet he *shall* **rule** over **all** my labour in which I toiled and in which I have shown myself **wise** under the sun. That too is futile.

²⁰So I turned my **heart** and despaired of **all** the labour in which I had toiled under the sun.

²¹For a man might labour with **wisdom, knowledge** and skill; yet he leaves his heritage to a man who has not laboured for it. That too is futile and a **great** *evil*.

²²For what does a man get for **all** his labour and strain of his **heart** with which he has toiled under the sun?

²³For **all** his days are sufferings and his **work** grievous; even in the night his **heart** takes no rest. That too is futile.

²⁴A man could do no better but to eat and drink and enjoy himself in his labour! That too, I **saw**, was from the **hand** of **Elohim**.

²⁵For who eats or who finds enjoyment without Him?

²⁶For **He** gives **wisdom** and **knowledge** and **joy** to a man who is **good** in **His** eyes. **But** to the *sinner* **He** gives the task of gathering and collecting, to give to *him* who is **good** before **Elohim**. That too is futile and feeding on wind.

3 For every matter there is an **appointed time**, even a **time** for every pursuit under the heavens:

²A **time** to be born and a **time** to die;

a **time** to plant and a **time** to uproot;

³a **time** to *slay* and a **time** to heal;

a **time** to *break down* and a **time** to build up;

⁴a **time** to weep and a **time** to laugh;

a **time** to mourn and a **time** to dance;

⁵a **time** to *throw* away stones and a **time** to **gather** stones; a **time** to embrace and a **time** to refrain from embracing;

⁶a **time** to **seek** and a **time** to lose;

a **time** to keep and a **time** to *throw* away;

⁷a **time** to tear and a **time** to sew;

a **time** to be *silent* and a **time** to speak;

⁸a **time** to **love** and a **time** to hate;

a **time** for battle and a **time** for peace.

⁹**What** does the worker *gain* from his toil?

¹⁰I have **seen** the task **Elohim** has **given** to the sons of men to be humbled by it.

¹¹**He** has made it **all**, pretty in its **time**. Even the ages **He** has put in their **hearts**, **except** that no one finds out the **work** that **Elohim** does from beginning to end.

¹²I **know** that there is no **good** for them but to **rejoice** and to do **good** in their lives,

¹³and also that **every** man should eat and drink and enjoy the **good** of **all** his labour, it is a gift of **Elohim**.

¹⁴I **know** that **whatever** **Elohim** does is **forever**. There is no adding to it and there is no taking from it. **Elohim** does it, that men should **fear** before **Him**.

¹⁵**Whatever** is has already been and what **shall be** has been before. **But** **Elohim** seeks out what has been pursued.

¹⁶**Then** again I **saw** under the sun: In the place of right-ruling, *wrongness* was there. And in the place of **righteousness**, *wrongness* was there.

¹⁷I said in my **heart**, “**Elohim** judges the **righteous** and the **wrong**, for there is a **time** for **every** matter and for **every** work.”

¹⁸I said in my **heart**, “Concerning the matter of the sons of men, **Elohim** selects them, so as to **see** that they themselves are beasts.”

¹⁹For the event of the sons of men is also the event of beasts – one event befalls them: as one dies, so dies the other. Indeed, they **all** have one breath – man has no advantage over beasts. For **all** is futile.

²⁰All are going to one place – **all** came from the dust and **all** return to dust.

²¹**Who** **knows** the spirit of the sons of men, which goes upward and the spirit of the beast, which goes down to the earth?

²²So I **saw** that man could do no better but to **rejoice** in his own **works**, for that is his portion. For who would bring him to **see** what **shall be** after him?

4 **Then** I looked again at **all** the *oppression* that is done under the sun: And see! The tears of the *oppressed*, but they have no comforter; and **power** on the side of their oppressors, but they have no comforter.

²Therefore I commended the *dead* who were already *dead*, more than the **living** who are still **alive**.

³And better than both is he who has never existed, who has not **seen** the *evil* **work** that is done under the sun.

⁴And I **saw** that **all** the toil and **skill** of the **work** bring *envy* between man and his neighbour. That too is futile and feeding on wind.

⁵The *fool* folds his hands and consumes his own *flesh*.

⁶Better is a **hand** filled with rest than both hands filled with toil and feeding on wind.

⁷**Then** I looked again at futility under the sun:

⁸There is one, without a second, who has neither son nor brother. And there is no end to **all** his labours. **His** eye also is not **satisfied** with riches. “And for whom am I toiling and depriving myself of **good**?” That too is futility and an *evil* task.

⁹Two are better than one, **because** they have a **good** reward for their labour.

¹⁰For if they fall, one lifts his companion up. **But** **woe** to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up.

¹¹Also, if two *lie* down together, they keep warm; but how does one keep warm *by himself*?

¹²Although one might be overpowered, two withstand him. And a threefold cord is not readily broken.

¹³A *poor* and **wise** youth is better than an old and *foolish* sovereign who no longer **knows** how to take **warning**.

¹⁴For he **comes** out of prison to be sovereign, although in his **reign** he was born *poor*.

¹⁵I have **seen all the living** who walk under the sun; they were with the second youth who stands in his place.

¹⁶There was no end of **all the people**; **all** of whom he headed. **But** the ones who **come** afterward *do not rejoice* in him. For that too is futile and feeding on wind.

5 **Guard** your steps when you go to the House of **Elohim**. And draw **near to listen** rather than to give the slaughtering of fools, for they *do not know* that they do *evil*.

²**Do not** be *hasty* with your **mouth** and let not your **heart** hurry to bring forth a **word** before **Elohim**. For **Elohim** is in the heavens and you on earth, therefore let your **words** be few.

³For a **dream comes** through the greatness of the task and a fool's **voice** is **known** by his many **words**.

⁴**When** you make a vow to **Elohim**, *do not* delay to pay it, for **He takes** no pleasure in fools. Pay that which you have vowed.

⁵It is better not to vow than to vow and not pay.

⁶**Do not** allow your **mouth** to **cause** your *flesh* to *sin*, nor say before the messenger of **Elohim** that it was a *mistake*. **Why** should **Elohim** be *wroth* at your **voice** and *destroy* the **work** of your hands?

⁷For in much **dreaming** and many **words** there is futility. **But fear Elohim**.

⁸**If** you **see** the *oppression* of the *poor* and denial of **right-ruling** and **righteousness** in a province, *do not* be astonished at the matter. For a higher than the high is **guarding** and there are higher ones over them.

⁹And the increase of the land is for **all**. The sovereign himself is **served** from the field.

¹⁰**He** who loves silver is not **satisfied** with silver; nor he who loves wealth and increase. That too is futile.

¹¹With the increase of goods, there is an increase of those *consuming* them. **What**

advantage then is there to their owners, but to look on?

¹²Sweet is the sleep of a labourer whether he eats *little* or much, but the plenty of the rich *does not* let him sleep.

¹³There is a sickly *evil* I have **seen** under the sun: riches kept for their owner, for his *evil*.

¹⁴**But** those riches *perish* through *evil* use. And he brings forth a son and there is naught in his **hand**.

¹⁵As he came naked from his mother's womb, so he returns, to go as he came. And from his labour which goes into his **hand** he takes none whatsoever.

¹⁶And this too is a *grievous evil* – exactly as he came, so he goes. And what *gain* has he since he toiled for the wind?

¹⁷All his days he also eats in *darkness* and with much *sorrow* and *sickness* and *wrath*.

¹⁸See what I have seen: It is **good** and pleasant for one to eat and drink and to enjoy the **good** of **all** his labour in which he toils under the sun **all** the days of his **life** which **Elohim** gives him, for it is his portion.

¹⁹Further, when **Elohim** has **given** any man riches and wealth and permitted him to enjoy them and to receive his portion and **rejoice** in his labour, this is a gift of **Elohim**.

²⁰Though it not be much, let him **remember** the days of his **life**, **because** **Elohim** bears **witness** by the **gladness** of his **heart**.

6 There is an *evil* which I have **seen** under the sun and it is **great** among men:

²A man to whom **Elohim** has **given** riches and wealth and esteem, so that his being lacks none at **all** of what he desires, but **Elohim** *does not* permit him to eat of it and a foreigner consumes it. This is futile and it is an *evil disease*.

³**If** a man brings forth a hundred *children* and lives many years, so that

the days of his years are many, but his being is not **satisfied** with **goodness**, or indeed he has no burial, I say that a premature birth is better than he,

⁴for it **comes** in futility and goes away in *darkness* and in *darkness* its name is covered;

⁵even the sun it has not **seen** – it has more rest than that man.

⁶And though he lives a thousand years twice over, yet he **shall not see goodness**. **Do not all** go to one place?

⁷All the labour of man is for his **mouth** and yet the appetite is not satisfied.

⁸For what advantage has the **wise** over the fool? **What advantage** does the *poor* have who **knows** how to **walk** before the **living**?

⁹**What** the eyes **see** is better than what the desire goes after. That too is futile and feeding on wind.

¹⁰**Whatever shall be**, has already been named and it is **known** that he is son of Adam. And he is *unable* to contend with **Him** who is mightier than he.

¹¹The more **words**, the more futility – what is to man the advantage?

¹²For who **knows** what is **good** for man in **life**, **all** the days of his futile **life**, which he passes like a shadow? For who **declares** to man what **shall be** after him, under the sun?

7 A **good** name is better than **precious** oil and the **day of death** than the **day of one's birth**.

²It is better to go to the house of *mourning* than to go to the house of feasting, for that is **the end of all men**. And the **living** take it to **heart**.

³Sorrow is better than laughter, for by the sadness of the face the **heart** becomes better.

⁴The **heart** of the **wise** is in the house of mourning, but the **heart** of fools is in the house of rejoicing.

⁵It is better to **hear** the *rebuke* of the **wise** than for man to **hear** the song of

fools.

⁶For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of a fool. That too is futile.

⁷For *oppression* makes a **wise** one mad and a *bribe* destroys the **heart**.

⁸The end of a matter is better than its beginning. The patient in **spirit** is better than the *proud* in spirit.

⁹**Do not** be *hasty* in your spirit to be vexed, for vexation rests in the bosom of fools.

¹⁰**Do not** say, "**Why** were the former days better than these?" For it is not **wise** of you to have asked about this.

¹¹Wisdom is **good** with an inheritance and an advantage to those who **see** the sun.

¹²For **wisdom** protects as silver protects, but the advantage of **knowledge** is that **wisdom** gives **life** to those who have it.

¹³See the **work of Elohim**: For who is **able** to **make straight** what **He** has made crooked?

¹⁴Be **glad** in the **day of prosperity**, but in the *evil* day take note that **Elohim** has also **appointed** the one as well as the other, so that man should not uncover **whatever shall be** after him.

¹⁵I have **seen** it **all** in my days of futility: There is a **righteous** one *perishing* in his **righteousness** and there is a **wrong** one **living** long in his *evil*.

¹⁶**Do not** be over**righteous**, neither be overwise – why *destroy* yourself?

¹⁷**Do not** be **wrong** overmuch and *do not* be a *fool* – why *die* before your time?

¹⁸It is **good** that you should take hold of this and also not withhold your **hand** from the other. For he who *fears Elohim* **comes** forth with **all** of them.

¹⁹Wisdom makes the **wise strong**, more than ten rulers that are in the city.

²⁰For there is not a **righteous** man on earth who does **good** and *does not sin*.

²¹Also *do not* take to **heart all** the **words** they speak, lest you **hear** your servant cursing you.

²²For you **know** in your **heart** that many times you have *cursed* others.

²³All this I have proved by **wisdom**. I said, “I am **wise**,” but it was far from me.

²⁴That which is, is far off and exceedingly deep – who does find it?

²⁵I have turned round, even my **heart**, **to know** and to search and to **seek** out **wisdom** and a conclusion, **to know** the *wrongness* of folly, even of foolishness and *madness*.

²⁶And I **found** more *bitter* than *death*, the woman whose **heart** is *snares* and nets, whose hands are shackles. **He** who **pleases Elohim escapes** from her, but the *sinner* is captured by her.

²⁷“**See**, this I have found,” says Qoheleth, “*Counting* one by one, to find a conclusion,

²⁸which my being still seeks but have not found: I have **found** one man among a thousand, but a woman among **all** these I have not found.

²⁹**Truly**, this only I have found: that **Elohim** made man **straight**, but they have sought out many devices.”

8 *Who* is like a **wise** one? And who **knows** the meaning of a matter? A man’s **wisdom** makes his face shine and the *hardness* of his face is *changed*.

²I say, “**Guard** the sovereign’s **command because** of the **oath** before **Elohim**.

³**Do not** be in a hurry to go from his presence. **Do not** take a **stand** in an *evil* matter, for he does *whatever* he pleases.”

⁴Where the **word** of a sovereign is, there is power. And who says to him, “*What* are you doing?”

⁵**He** who guards the **command knows** no *evil* matter. And the **heart** of the **wise** discerns both **time** and right-ruling,

⁶**Because** for **every** matter there is a **time** and right-ruling, though the *trouble* of man is *heavy* upon him.

⁷For he *does not know* what *shall* be; so who **declares** to him when it *shall* be?

⁸No one has **power** over the spirit to

retain the spirit and no one has **power** in the **day of death**. There is no discharge in battle and *wrongness does not* release those who are **given** to it.

⁹All this I have seen; I applied my **heart to every work** that is done under the sun: There is a **time** in which a man rules over a man for his *evil*.

¹⁰And so I **saw** the *wrong* ones buried and they came and went from the place of set-apartness and they were *forgotten* in the city where they had so done. That too is futile.

¹¹**Because** the *sentence against* an *evil deed* is not *executed speedily*, therefore the **heart** of the sons of men is filled in them to do *evil*.

¹²Although a *sinner* is doing *evil* a hundred times and his **life** is prolonged, yet I **know** that there is **good** to those who **fear Elohim**, who **fear** before **Him**.

¹³**But** it *shall* not be well with the *wrong* one, nor would he prolong his days as a shadow, **because** he *does not fear* before **Elohim**.

¹⁴There is a futility which has been done on earth, that there are **righteous** ones who get **according** to the **deeds** of the *wrong*. And there are *wrong* ones who get **according** to the **deeds** of the righteous. I said that this too is futile.

¹⁵Therefore I **praised** enjoyment, **because** there is no **good** to man *except* to eat and to drink and to **rejoice** – and it remains with him in his labour for the days of his **life** which **Elohim** has **given** him under the sun.

¹⁶**When** I gave my **heart to know wisdom** and to **see** the task which has been done on earth, even though one sees no sleep day or night,

¹⁷then I **saw all the work** of **Elohim**, that man is *unable* to find out the **work** that has been done under the sun. For though a man labours to seek, yet he *does not* find it. And even though a **wise** one claims **to know**, he is *unable* to find it.

9 For **all** this I took to **heart**, even to

search out **all** this: that the **righteous** and the **wise** and their **deeds** are in the **hand of Elohim**. No man **knows** whether **love** or hatred awaits him.

²It is the **same** for all: **One** event to the **righteous** and to the wrong; to the **good** and to the **clean** and to the unclean; and to the one slaughtering and to the one not slaughtering. As is the **good** one, so is the sinner; the one swearing as the one **fearing** an oath.

³This is an **evil** in **all** that is done under the sun: there is one event to **all**. **Truly** the **hearts** of the sons of men are filled with **evil** and **madness** is in their **hearts** while they **live** and then – to the dead!

⁴**But** for him who is joined to **all** the **living** there is **trust**, for a **living** dog is better than a **dead** lion.

⁵For the **living** know that they **shall die**, but the **dead** know **naught**, nor do they have any more reward, for their **remembrance** is **forgotten**.

⁶Also their **love** and their hatred and their **envy** have **now** perished; and they no longer have a share in **all** that is done under the sun.

⁷Go, eat your **bread** with joy and drink your **wine** with a **glad** heart; for **Elohim** has already approved your works.

⁸**Let** your garments be white at **all** times and let your head lack no oil.

⁹See **life** with the wife whom you **love** **all** the days of your futile **life** which **He** has **given** you under the sun, **all** your days of futility. For that is your share in **life** and in your toil which you have laboured under the sun.

¹⁰All that your **hand** finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no **work** or planning or **knowledge** or **wisdom** in the grave where you are going.

¹¹I again **saw** under the sun that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the mighty, nor even **bread** to the **wise**, nor even riches to men of **understanding**, nor even **favour** to men of **knowledge** – for **time** and chance meets with them **all**.

¹²For even man **does not know** his **time**. Like **fish** taken in an **evil** net and like birds **caught** in a **snare**, so the sons

of men are snared in an **evil time**, when it **come** down on them **suddenly**.

¹³Also this I **saw** as **wisdom** under the sun and it is **great** to me:

¹⁴A **little** city and **few** men in it and a **great** sovereign came **against** it and besieged it and built huge siege-works **against** it.

¹⁵And there was **found** in it a **poor** **wise** man and by his **wisdom** he **delivered** the city, yet no one **remembered** that **poor** man.

¹⁶And I said, “Wisdom is better than might. **But** the **wisdom** of the **poor** man is **despised** and his **words** are not **heard**.”

¹⁷The **words** of the **wise**, spoken calmly, should be **heard** rather than the shout of a ruler of fools.

¹⁸Wisdom is better than weapons of conflict, but one **sinner** destroys much **good**.

10 Dead flies make the perfumer’s ointment stink, ferment; a **little** folly outweighs **wisdom**, esteem.

²A **wise** man’s **heart** is at his **right hand**, but a fool’s **heart** at his left.

³And also, when a **fool** walks along the **way**, his **heart** fails and he shows everyone that he is a fool.

⁴**If** the spirit of the ruler rises **against** you, **do not** leave your post, for calmness lays to rest **great** faults.

⁵There is an **evil** I have **seen** under the sun, as a **mistake** **coming** from the ruler:

⁶Folly is set in many high **positions**, while the rich sit in a humble place.

⁷I have **seen** servants on horses – and rulers walking on the ground like servants.

⁸He who digs a pit falls into it and **whoever** breaks through a wall is bitten by a snake.

⁹He who quarries stones is hurt by them. He who splits **wood** is endangered by it.

¹⁰**If** an iron tool is blunt and one **does not** sharpen the edge, then he needs more

strength and **wisdom** is advantageous to make right.

¹¹*If* the snake bites without enchantment, then ‘the master of the tongue’ is no better!

¹²**Words** of a **wise man’s mouth show favour**, but the lips of a *fool* swallow him up;

¹³the beginning of the **words** of his **mouth** is foolishness and the **end** of his talk is *wicked madness*.

¹⁴And a *fool* increases **words**; a man **knows** not what *shall come to be*; and who **declares** to him what *shall be* after him?

¹⁵The labour of fools wears them, **because** not one **knows** how to go to the city!

¹⁶**Woe** to you, O land, when your sovereign is a youth and your rulers feast in the morning!

¹⁷**Blessed** are you, O land, when your sovereign is the son of nobles and your rulers feast in due season – for strength and not for drunkenness!

¹⁸**Because** of laziness the framework tumbles and through idleness of hands the house leaks.

¹⁹A feast is made for laughter and **wine** gladdens **life**; and the silver answers **all**.

²⁰*Do not curse* the sovereign, even in your thought; *do not curse* the rich, even in your bedroom; for a bird of the heavens conveys the **voice** and a bird in flight makes the matter **known**.

11 Send out your **bread** on the face of the waters, for after many days you shall find it.

²Give a portion to seven and also to eight,

for *you do not know* what *evil* might be on the earth.

³*If* the clouds are filled with rain, they *empty* themselves upon the earth. And if a *tree* falls to the south or the north, in the place where the *tree* falls, there it is.

⁴He who watches the *wind does not* sow and he who looks at the clouds *does not* reap.

⁵*As you do not know* what is the **way** of the wind, or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child, so *you do not know* the **works** of **Elohim** who makes **all**.

⁶Sow your seed in the morning and until **evening** *do not* let your **hand** rest; since *you do not know* which prosper, this or that, or whether both alike are **good**.

⁷Sweet also is the **light** and **good** for the eyes to **see** the sun;

⁸*But* if a man lives many years, let him **rejoice** in them **all**. *But* let him **remember** the days of *darkness*, for they are many. All that is **coming** is futility.

⁹Rejoice, O young man, in your youth and let your **heart** gladden you in the days of your youth. And **walk** in the **ways** of your **heart** and in the **sight** of your eyes, but **know** that for **all** these **Elohim** brings you into right-ruling.

¹⁰Therefore remove vexation from your **heart** and put away *evil* from your *flesh*, for youth and dawn of **life** are futility.

12 *remember* also your **Creator** in the days of your youth, before the *evil* days come and the years draw **near** when you say, ‘I have no pleasure in them’:

²Before the sun and the **light**, the moon and the stars, are darkened and the clouds **return** after the rain;

³in the day when the guards of the house *tremble* and the **strong men shall** bow down; when the grinders *shall* cease **because** they are few and those that look through the windows *shall* become dim;

⁴and the **doors shall be** shut in the streets and the sound of grinding is low; and one rises up at the sound of a bird and **all** the daughters of song are bowed down;

⁵furthermore, they are *afraid* of what is high and of low places in the way; and the almond *tree* blossoms and the grasshopper becomes a *burden* and

desire perishes. For man is going to his **everlasting** home and the mourners **shall** go about the streets.

⁶**Remember Him** before the silver cord is loosed, or the golden bowl is *broken*, or the jar shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the well,

⁷and the dust returns to the earth as it was and the spirit returns to **Elohim** who gave it.

⁸“Futility! Futility!” said the Qoheleth, “All is futile.”

⁹And besides being **wise**, Qoheleth also **taught** the people **knowledge** and he **listened** and sought out – set **in order** many proverbs.

¹⁰Qoheleth sought to find out **words** of delight and **words of truth, rightly written**.

¹¹The **words** of the **wise** are like goads and as nails *driven* by the masters of collections – they were **given** by one Shepherd.

¹²And besides these, my son, be **warned** – the making of many **books** has no end and much **study** is a *wearying* of the *flesh*.

¹³**Let us hear** the **conclusion** of the entire matter: **Fear Elohim** and **guard His commands**, for this *applies to all* mankind!

¹⁴For **Elohim shall** bring **every work** into **right-ruling**, including **all** that is *hidden*, whether **good** or whether *evil*.

ESTĒR

1 And it came to be in the days of Ahashwērosh – he is the Ahashwērosh who reigned from India to Kush, a hundred and twenty-seven provinces –

²in those days, when Sovereign Ahashwērosh sat on the throne of his reign, which was in the citadel of Shushan,

³that in the third year of his **reign** he made a feast for **all** his officials and servants. The **power** of Persia and Media, the nobles and the princes of the provinces were before him,

⁴when he showed the riches of his esteemed **reign** and the splendour of his excellent greatness for many days, a hundred and eighty days.

⁵And when these days were completed, the sovereign made a feast lasting seven days for **all** the people who were present in the citadel of Shushan, from **great** to small, in the courtyard of the garden of the sovereign's palace.

⁶White and blue tapestries were fastened with cords of fine linen and purple on silver rods and marble columns – the couches were of gold and silver on a mosaic pavement of porphyry, marble, mother-of-pearl and black marble.

⁷And they **served** drinks in golden vessels, the vessels being different from one another, with much royal **wine**, **according** to the **hand** of the sovereign.

⁸And drinking was **according** to the **law**, no one was compelled, for so the sovereign had ordered **all** the officers of his house, that they should do **according** to each one's pleasure.

⁹Sovereigness Vashti also made a feast for the women in the royal palace which Sovereign Ahashwērosh owned.

¹⁰On the **seventh day**, when the **heart** of the sovereign was **glad** with **wine**, he ordered Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona,

Bigtha and Abagtha, Zethar and Karkas, the seven eunuchs who were in attendance in the presence of Sovereign Ahashwērosh,

¹¹to bring Sovereigness Vashti before the sovereign, with her royal crown, **in order** to **show** her loveliness to the people and the officials, for she was lovely to look upon.

¹²**But** Sovereigness Vashti *refused* to **come** at the sovereign's **command** brought by his eunuchs. And the sovereign was **very wrath** and his *rage burned* within him.

¹³So the sovereign said to the **wise** men who understood the times (for in this **way** the sovereign's matter *came* before **all** who **knew law** and right-ruling,

¹⁴and who were close to him: Karshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, Memukan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, who **saw** the sovereign's face, who sat **first** in the reign):

¹⁵“According to **law**, what is to be done to Sovereigness Vashti, **because** she *did not* perform the **command** of Sovereign Ahashwērosh, through the eunuchs?”

¹⁶And Memukan answered before the sovereign and the princes, “Sovereigness Vashti has misbehaved not only toward the sovereign, but also toward **all** the princes and **all** the people who are in **all** the provinces of Sovereign Ahashwērosh.

¹⁷“For the matter of the sovereigness **shall** go forth to **all** women, to make their husbands *despised* in their eyes, when they say, ‘Sovereign Ahashwērosh **commanded** Sovereigness Vashti to be brought in before him, but she *did not* come.’”

¹⁸“And this day the princesses of Persia and Media **shall** say to **all** the sovereign's officials that they have **heard** of the matter of the sovereigness – with plenty of *scorn* and *wrath*.”

^{19c}**If** it pleases the sovereign, let a royal decree go out from him and **let it be** recorded in the **laws** of the Persians and the Medes, so that it *does not* pass away, that Vashti **shall come** no more before Sovereign Ahashwērosh. And let the sovereign give her royal position to another who is better than she.

^{20c}And the sovereign's decree which he makes **shall be proclaimed** throughout **all his rule**, great as it is and **all** the wives give **esteem** to their husbands, both **great** and small."

²¹And the **word** was **good** in the eyes of the sovereign and the princes and the sovereign did **according** to the **word** of Memukan.

²²So he **sent** letters to **all** the sovereign's provinces, to each province in its own **writing**, and to **every** people in their own **language**, that each man should be master in his own house and **speak** in the **language** of his people.

2 After these events, when the *wrath* of Sovereign Ahashwērosh had ceased, he **remembered** Vashti, what she had done and what had been decreed *against* her.

²**Then** the sovereign's servants who attended him said, "**Let** lovely young maidens be sought for the sovereign,

³and let the sovereign **appoint** officers in **all** the provinces of his reign and let them **gather all** the lovely young maidens to the citadel of Shushan, into the women's quarters, under the **hand** of Hēgai the sovereign's eunuch, guardian of the women, to give their **preparations**.

^{4c}And let the young woman who **pleases** the sovereign be sovereignty instead of Vashti." And the **word** pleased the sovereign and he did so.

⁵In the citadel of Shushan there was a certain man, a Yehūdite whose name was Mordekai son of Ya'ir, son of Shim'i, son of Qish, a Binyamite,

⁶who had been exiled from Yerushalayim with the captives who had been exiled with Yeḳonyah sovereign

of Yahudah, whom Nebukadnettsar the sovereign of Babel had exiled.

⁷And it came to be that he was raising Hadassah, that is Estēr, his uncle's daughter, for she had neither father nor mother. The young woman was lovely and of **good** appearance. And when her father and mother died, Mordekai took her as his own daughter.

⁸And it came to be, when the sovereign's **command** and decree were **heard** and when many young women were gathered at the citadel of Shushan, into the **hand** of Hēgai, that Estēr, too, was taken to the sovereign's palace, into the **hand** of Hēgai, guardian of the women.

⁹And the young woman pleased him and she received **kindness** from him. So he hastened to give her **preparations** and her portions and gave her seven choice female servants from the sovereign's palace. And he moved her and her female servants to the best *place* in the house of the women.

¹⁰Estēr had not made **known** her people or her relatives, for Mordekai had **commanded** her not to make it **known**.

¹¹And **every** day Mordekai walked about in front of the courtyard of the women's quarters, to **learn** of Estēr's welfare and what is done to her.

¹²**Now** when the turn of each young woman came to go in to Sovereign Ahashwērosh after she had **completed** twelve months **according** to the regulations for the women – for the days of their **preparation** were **completed** as **follows**: six months with oil of myrrh and six months with perfumes and with the **preparations** of women –

¹³thus prepared, the young woman went to the sovereign and *whatever* she asked for was **given** to take with her from the house of the women to the sovereign's palace.

¹⁴In the **evening** she went and in the morning she returned to the second house of the women, into the **hand** of Sha'ashgaz, the sovereign's eunuch, guardian of the concubines. She *would not come* in to the sovereign again

unless the sovereign **delighted** in her and called for her by name.

¹⁵And when the turn came for Estĕr, the daughter of Aḃihayil the uncle of Mordeḃai, who had taken her as his daughter, to **come** in to the sovereign, she sought no matter but what Hĕḡai the sovereign's eunuch, guardian of the women, advised. And Estĕr **found favour in the eyes of all** who **saw** her.

¹⁶And Estĕr was taken to Sovereign Aḃashwĕrosh, into his royal palace, in the tenth month, which is the month of Tĕbĕth, in the seventh year of his reign.

¹⁷And the sovereign **loved** Estĕr more than **all** the women and she **found favour and kindness** in his eyes more than **all** the maidens. And he set the royal crown upon her head and made her sovereignty instead of Vashti.

¹⁸And the sovereign made a **great** feast, the Feast of Estĕr, for **all** his officials and servants. And he **proclaimed** a release in the provinces and gave gifts **according** to the means of a sovereign.

¹⁹And when maidens were **assembled** a second **time**, Mordeḃai sat within the sovereign's gate.

²⁰Estĕr had not made **known** her relatives and her people *yet*, as Mordeḃai **commanded** her, for Estĕr **obeyed** the **command** of Mordeḃai as when she was being **raised** by him.

²¹In those days, while Mordeḃai sat within the sovereign's gate, two of the sovereign's eunuchs, Bigthan and Teresh, doorkeepers, were *wroth* and sought to lay hands on Sovereign Aḃashwĕrosh.

²²And the matter became **known** to Mordeḃai, who informed Sovereign Estĕr and Estĕr spoke to the sovereign in Mordeḃai's name.

²³And when the matter was searched into, it was confirmed and both were impaled on a stake. And it was **written** in the **book** of the annals in the presence of the sovereign.

wĕrosh promoted Haman, son of Hammedatha the Aḡaḡite and exalted him and seated him higher than **all** the princes with him.

²And **all** the sovereign's servants who were in the sovereign's gate bowed and did obeisance to Haman, for so the sovereign had **commanded** concerning him. *But* Mordeḃai *would not* bow or do obeisance.

³And the sovereign's servants who were in the sovereign's gate said to Mordeḃai, "**Why** do you **disobey** the sovereign's **command**?"

⁴And it came to be, when they spoke to him daily and he *would not listen* to them, that they told Haman, to **see** whether the **words** of Mordeḃai would **stand** – for he had told them that he was a Yehudite.

⁵And when Haman **saw** that Mordeḃai *did not* bow or do obeisance, Haman was filled with *wrath*.

⁶*But* it was *despicable* in his eyes to lay hands on Mordeḃai alone, for they had informed him of the people of Mordeḃai. Therefore Haman sought to *destroy* **all** the Yahudim who were throughout **all** the **reign** of Aḃashwĕrosh, the people of Mordeḃai.

⁷In the **first** month, which is the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of Sovereign Aḃashwĕrosh, someone *cast* Pur – that is, the **lot** – before Haman from day to day and from month to month, until it fell on the twelfth month, which is the month of Aḃar.

⁸Haman then told Sovereign Aḃashwĕrosh, "There is a certain people *scattered and dispersed* among the people in **all** the provinces of your reign, whose **laws** are different from **all** people and they *do not* do the sovereign's **laws**. Therefore it is not in the sovereign's interest to let them remain.

⁹*If* it **pleases** the sovereign, let a decree be **written** to *destroy* them and let me pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who do the **work**, to bring it into the sovereign's treasuries."

3 After these events Sovereign Aḃash

¹⁰And the sovereign took his **signet** ring from his **hand** and gave it to Haman, son of Hammedatha the Aġaġite, the enemy of the Yahuḏim.

¹¹And the sovereign said to Haman, “The silver and the people are **given** to you, to do with them as seems **good** to you.”

¹²And the sovereign’s *scribes* were called on the thirteenth **day** of the **first** month and a decree was **written according to all** that Haman **commanded** – to the viceroys of the sovereign and to the governors who were over each province and to the officials of **all** people, to **every** province **according** to its **writing**, and to **every** people in their **language**. It was **written** in the name of Sovereign Ahashwērosh and **sealed** with the sovereign’s **signet** ring.

¹³And the letters were **sent** by the runners into **all** the sovereign’s provinces, to *cut* off, to *slay* and to *destroy* **all** the Yahuḏim, both young and old, *little* children and women, in one day, on the thirteenth **day** of the twelfth month, which is the month of Aḏar and to plunder their possessions.

¹⁴A copy of the **writing**, to be made **law** in **every** province, was **published** for **all** people, to be **ready** for that day.

¹⁵The runners went out, hastened by the sovereign’s **command** and the decree was **given** out in the citadel of Shushan. The sovereign and Haman then sat down to drink, but the city of Shushan was in *confusion*.

4 And Mordekai **learned** of **all** that had been done and Mordekai tore his garments and put on sackcloth and ashes and went out into the **midst** of the city and *cried out* with a loud and *bitter* cry.

²And he went up to the front of the sovereign’s gate, for no one might enter the sovereign’s gate wearing sackcloth.

³And in **every** province where the sovereign’s **command** and decree came, there was **great mourning** among the Yahuḏim and fasting and *weeping* and

wailing. And many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

⁴And Estēr’s young women and eunuchs came and told her and the sovereignty was deeply pained and **sent** garments to Mordekai to wear and to take away his sackcloth from him, but he *refused*.

⁵And Estēr called Hathak, one of the sovereign’s eunuchs whom he had **appointed** to attend her and she gave him a **command** concerning Mordekai, to **learn** what and why this was.

⁶And Hathak went out to Mordekai, to an **open** space of the city, in front of the sovereign’s gate.

⁷And Mordekai told him **all** that befell him and **all** about the silver that Haman **promised** to pay into the sovereign’s treasuries to *destroy* the Yahuḏim.

⁸And he gave him a copy of the **written** decree to *destroy* them, which was **given** at Shushan, to **show** it to Estēr and explain it to her and to **command** her to go in to the sovereign to make supplication to him and plead before him for her people.

⁹And Hathak came and told Estēr the **words** of Mordekai.

¹⁰And Estēr spoke to Hathak and gave him a **command** for Mordekai,

¹¹“All the sovereign’s servants and the people of the sovereign’s provinces **know** that any man or woman who goes into the inner court to the sovereign, who has not been called, he has but one law: to be put to *death*, **except** the one to whom the sovereign holds out the golden sceptre, who then **shall live**. **But** I have not been called to **come** in to the sovereign these thirty days.”

¹²And they **declared** to Mordekai the **words** of Estēr.

¹³And Mordekai **commanded** them to answer Estēr, “**Do not think** within yourself to **escape** in the sovereign’s palace any more than **all** the other Yahuḏim.

¹⁴“For if you keep entirely *silent* at this **time**, relief and **deliverance shall** arise for the Yahuḏim from another

place, while you and your father's house *perish*. And who **knows** whether you have **come to the reign** for such a **time** as this?"

¹⁵And Estĕr **commanded** to reply to Mordeḳai,

¹⁶"Go, **gather all** the Yahudim who are present in Shushan and fast for me and *do not* eat or drink for three days, night or day. I too and my young women **shall** fast in the **same way**, then I **shall** go to the sovereign, which is *against* the law. And if I **shall perish**, I **shall** perish!"

¹⁷Mordeḳai then went away and did **according to all** that Estĕr **commanded** him.

5 And it came to be on the third day that Estĕr put on royal apparel and stood in the inner court of the sovereign's palace, in front of the sovereign's house, while the sovereign sat on his royal throne in the royal house, opposite the entrance of the house.

²And it came to be, when the sovereign **saw** Sovereigness Estĕr standing in the court, that she **found favour** in his eyes and the sovereign held out to Estĕr the golden sceptre which was in his **hand**. And Estĕr went **near** and touched the top of the sceptre.

³And the sovereign said to her, "**What** is it, Sovereigness Estĕr and what is your request? Up to half my reign and it is **given** to you!"

⁴And Estĕr answered, "**If it pleases** the sovereign, let the sovereign and Haman **come today** to the feast which I have prepared for him."

⁵And the sovereign said, "Get Haman at once, to do as Estĕr has said." **Then** the sovereign and Haman went to the feast which Estĕr had prepared.

⁶And the sovereign said to Estĕr at the feast of **wine**, "**What** is your petition? And it is **given** you. And what is your request? Up to half my reign and it is done!"

⁷And Estĕr answered and said, "My petition and request is this:

⁸"**If** I have **found favour** in the eyes of the sovereign and if it **pleases** the sovereign to give my petition and perform my request, then let the sovereign and Haman **come** to the feast which I make for them and **tomorrow** I **shall** do **according to the word** of the sovereign."

⁹And Haman went out that day rejoicing and with a **glad heart**. **But** when Haman **saw** Mordeḳai in the sovereign's gate and that he *did not stand* or *tremble* before him, he was filled with *wrath against* Mordeḳai.

¹⁰**But** Haman held himself in and came to his house and he **sent** and called for his friends and Zeresh his wife.

¹¹And Haman recounted to them the **esteem** of his wealth and his many sons and **all** in which the sovereign had promoted him and how he had exalted him above the officials and servants of the sovereign.

¹²And Haman said, "Besides, Estĕr the sovereigness let no one but me **come** in with the sovereign to the feast which she prepared. And **tomorrow** too I am invited by her, along with the sovereign.

¹³**But all** this *does not* suit me, as long as I **see** Mordeḳai the Yehudite sitting at the sovereign's gate."

¹⁴So his wife Zeresh and **all** his friends said to him, "**Let** a stake be made, fifty cubits high and in the morning **speak** to the sovereign that Mordeḳai be impaled on it. And go with the sovereign to the feast, rejoicing." And the **word** pleased Haman and he had the stake made.

6 On that night the sleep of the sovereign fled and he **commanded** to bring the **book** of the records of the annals. And they were **read** before the sovereign.

²And it was **found written** that Mordeḳai had told of Biḡthana and Teresh, two of the sovereign's eunuchs, the doorkeepers who had sought to lay hands on Sovereign Aḡashwĕrosh.

³**Then** the sovereign said, "**What** has

been done in value or in greatness to Mordeḳai for this?" And the sovereign's servants who attended him said, "Naught has been done for him."

⁴And the sovereign said, "**Who** is in the court?" **Now** Haman had **come** into the outer court of the sovereign's palace to **speak** to the sovereign to impale Mordeḳai on the stake that he had prepared for him.

⁵And the sovereign's servants said to him, "Look, Haman is standing in the court." And the sovereign said, "**Let** him **come** in."

⁶And when Haman came in, the sovereign asked him, "**What** is to be done for the man whom the sovereign delights to value?" **Now** Haman thought in his **heart**, "**Whom** would the sovereign **delight** to value more than me?"

⁷And Haman answered the sovereign, "For the man whom the sovereign delights to value,

⁸let a royal **robe** be brought which the sovereign has worn and a horse on which the sovereign has ridden, one with a royal crest placed on its head.

⁹"And let this **robe** and horse be **given** into the **hand** of one of the sovereign's most noble princes. **Let** them dress the man whom the sovereign delights to value. And make him ride on horseback through the city square and **proclaim** before him, 'Thus it is done to the man whom the sovereign delights to value!'"

¹⁰And the sovereign said to Haman, "Hurry, take the **robe** and the horse, as you have **spoken** and do so for Mordeḳai the Yehudite who sits in the sovereign's gate. **Let** no **word** fail of **all** that you have **spoken**."

¹¹And Haman took the **robe** and the horse and robbed Mordeḳai and led him on horseback through the city square and **proclaimed** before him, "Thus it is done to the man the sovereign delights to value."

¹²**Then** Mordeḳai went back to the sovereign's gate. **But** Haman hurried to his house, *mourning* and with covered head.

¹³And when Haman related to his wife Zeresh and **all** his friends **all** that had befallen him, his **wise** men and his wife Zeresh said to him, "**If** Mordeḳai, before whom you have begun to **fall**, is from the seed of the Yahuḏim, you are not going to **prevail** *against* him but certainly *fall* before him."

¹⁴While they were still speaking with him, the sovereign's eunuchs came and hurried to bring Haman to the feast which Estĕr had prepared.

7 And the sovereign and Haman came in, to drink with Sovereigness Estĕr.

²And again on the second day, at the feast of **wine**, the sovereign said to Estĕr, "**What** is your petition, Sovereigness Estĕr? And it is **given** to you. And what is your request? Up to half my reign and it is done!"

³And Sovereigness Estĕr answered and said, "**If** I have **found favour** in your eyes, O sovereign and if it **pleases** the sovereign, let my **life** be **given** me at my petition and my people at my request.

⁴"For we have been sold, my people and I, to be *cut* off, to be slain and to be **destroyed**. And if we had been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept silent, although the adversary *could not* make up for the sovereign's loss."

⁵**Then** Sovereign Ahashwĕrosh asked Sovereigness Estĕr, "**Who** is he and where is he, whose **heart** is set to do so?"

⁶And Estĕr said, "The adversary and enemy is this *evil* Haman!" **Then** Haman was *afraid* before the sovereign and sovereigness.

⁷And the sovereign, arising in his *wrath* from the feast of **wine**, *went* into the palace garden. And Haman remained before Sovereigness Estĕr, pleading for his **life**, for he **saw** that *evil* had been decided *against* him by the sovereign.

⁸And when the sovereign returned from the palace garden to the place of the feast of **wine**, Haman was falling on the couch where Estĕr was. **Then**

the sovereign said, “Also to ravish the sovereignty while I am in the house?” As the **word** left the sovereign’s **mouth**, they covered Haman’s face.

⁹And Harbonah, one of the eunuchs, said to the sovereign, “Also, **see** the stake, fifty cubits high, which Haman made for Mordekai, who spoke **good** on behalf of the sovereign, is standing at the house of Haman.” And the sovereign said, “Impale him on it!”

¹⁰And they impaled Haman on the stake that he had prepared for Mordekai and the sovereign’s *wrath* abated.

8 On that day Sovereign Ahashwērosh gave to Sovereigness Estēr the house of Haman, the adversary of the Yahudim. And Mordekai came before the sovereign, for Estēr had **explained** what he was to her.

²And the sovereign took off his **signet** ring, which he had taken from Haman and gave it to Mordekai. And Estēr **appointed** Mordekai over the house of Haman.

³And Estēr spoke to the sovereign again and fell down at his feet and **begged** him with tears to put an end to the *evil* of Haman the Aḡāḡite and his *plot* which he had **plotted** *against* the Yahudim.

⁴And the sovereign held out the golden sceptre toward Estēr. And Estēr arose and stood before the sovereign,

⁵and said, “**If** it **pleases** the sovereign, and if I have **found favour** in his **sight** and the matter is **right** before the sovereign and I am pleasing in his eyes, **let it be written** to bring back the letters, the *plot* by Haman, son of Hammedatha the Aḡāḡite, which he **wrote** to **destroy** the Yahudim who are in **all** the sovereign’s provinces.

⁶“For how could I bear to **see** the **evil coming** to my people? Or how could I bear to **see** the **destruction** of my relatives?”

⁷And Sovereign Ahashwērosh said to Sovereigness Estēr and Mordekai the

Yahudi, “Look, I have **given** Estēr the house of Haman and they have impaled him on the stake **because** he laid his **hand** on the Yahudim.

⁸“**Now** you **write** on behalf of the Yahudim, as it **pleases** you, in the sovereign’s name and **seal** it with the sovereign’s **signet** ring. For a letter which is **written** in the sovereign’s name and **sealed** with the sovereign’s **signet** ring no one turns back.”

⁹So the sovereign’s *scribes* were called at that **time**, in the third month, which is the month of Siwan, on the twenty-third day. And it was **written, according** to **all** that Mordekai **commanded** to the Yahudim and to the viceroys and the governors and the princes of the provinces from India to Kush, a hundred and twentyseven provinces, to **every** province in its own **writing**, to **every** people in their own **language** and to the Yahudim in their own **writing** and in their own **language**.

¹⁰And he **wrote** in the name of Sovereign Ahashwērosh and **sealed** it with the sovereign’s **signet** ring and **sent** letters by runners on horseback, riding on royal horses bred from speedy mares:

¹¹That the sovereign has granted to the Yahudim who were in **every** city to be **assembled** and **stand** for their lives – to *cut off*, to *slay* and to *destroy* **all** the **power** of the people or province that would *distress* them, *little* children and women and to plunder their possessions,

¹²on one day in **all** the provinces of Sovereign Ahashwērosh, on the thirteenth **day** of the twelfth month, which is the month of Aḡar.

¹³The copy of the **writing** to be made **law** in **every** province was **announced** to **all** the peoples, so that the Yahudim would be **ready** on that day to be avenged on their enemies.

¹⁴The runners, riding on royal horses, went out, hastened and pressed on by the sovereign’s **command**. And the decree was **given** out in the citadel of Shushan.

¹⁵And Mordekai went out from the presence of the sovereign wearing royal

garments of blue and white, with a **great** crown of gold and a garment of fine linen and purple. And the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad.

¹⁶For the Yahudim there was **light** and **gladness** and **joy** and value.

¹⁷And in **every** province and in **every** city where the sovereign's **command** and decree came, the Yahudim had **joy** and **gladness**, a feast and a **good** day. And many of the people of the land were becoming Yahudim, for the **fear** of the Yahudim had fallen upon them.

9 And in the twelfth month, that is, the month of Adar, on the thirteenth day, when the sovereign's **command** and his decree came to be done, on the day that the enemies of the Yahudim had waited to overpower them, it turned around, so that the Yahudim overpowered those who *hated* them.

²The Yahudim **assembled** in their cities, throughout **all** the provinces of Sovereign Ahashwerosh to lay hands on those who sought their *evil*. And no one stood *against* them, **because** **fear** of them fell upon **all** people.

³And **all** the officials of the provinces and the viceroys and the governors and **all** those doing the sovereign's **work**, helped the Yahudim, **because** the **fear** of Mordekai fell upon them.

⁴For Mordekai was **great** in the palace of the sovereign and his report spread into **all** the provinces, for this man Mordekai became greater and greater.

⁵And the Yahudim *smote* **all** their enemies with the stroke of the *sword*, with slaughter and **destruction** and did what they pleased to those who *hated* them.

⁶And in the citadel of Shushan the Yahudim slew and **destroyed** five hundred men.

⁷And they slew Parshandatha, Dalphon and Aspatha,

⁸Poratha, Adalya and Aridatha,

⁹Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai and Wayezatha,

¹⁰the ten sons of Haman son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Yahudim. **But** they *did not* lay a **hand** on the plunder.

¹¹On that day the number of those who were *slain* in the citadel of Shushan came before the sovereign.

¹²And the sovereign said to Sovereigness Estër, "The Yahudim have *slain* and **destroyed** five hundred men in the citadel of Shushan and the ten sons of Haman. **What** have they done in the rest of the sovereign's provinces? And what is your petition? And it is **given** to you. And what is your further request? And it is done."

¹³And Estër said, "**If** it **pleases** the sovereign, **let it be given** to the Yahudim who are in Shushan to do again **tomorrow according** to today's decree and let Haman's ten sons be impaled on the stake."

¹⁴And the sovereign **commanded** this to be done. And the decree was **given** in Shushan and they impaled Haman's ten sons.

¹⁵And the Yahudim who were in Shushan also **assembled** on the fourteenth **day** of the month of Adar and they slew three hundred men at Shushan. **But** they *did not* lay a **hand** on the plunder.

¹⁶And the rest of the Yahudim in the sovereign's provinces **assembled** and stood for their lives and to get rest from their enemies and to *slay* seventy-five thousand of their enemies. **But** they *did not* lay a **hand** on the plunder.

¹⁷*That was* on the thirteenth **day** of the month of Adar and on the fourteenth **day** of the month they rested and made it a **day** of feasting and **gladness**.

¹⁸**But** the Yahudim who were at Shushan **assembled** on the thirteenth day, as well as on the fourteenth day. And on the fifteenth **day** of the month they rested and made it a **day** of feasting and **gladness**.

¹⁹Therefore the Yahudim of the villages who dwelt in the unwall'd towns were making the fourteenth **day** of the month of Adar a **good day** of **gladness** and

feasting and for sending portions to one another.

²⁰And Mordekai **wrote** these matters and **sent** letters to **all** the Yahudim who were in **all** the provinces of Sovereign Ahashwērosh, both **near** and far,

²¹to **establish** among them, to **observe** the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar, yearly,

²²as the days on which the Yahudim had rest from their enemies, as the month which was turned from *sorrow* to **joy** for them and from *mourning* to a **good** day, that they should make them days of feasting and joy, of sending portions to one another and gifts to the *poor*.

²³And the Yahudim undertook to do as they had begun and as Mordekai had **written** to them,

²⁴**because** Haman, son of Hammedatha the Aḡāḡite, the adversary of **all** the Yahudim, had *plotted against* the Yahudim to *destroy* them and had *cast* Pur – that is, the **lot** – to *crush* them and to *destroy* them.

²⁵**But** when she came before the sovereign, he **commanded** by letter that his *evil plot* which Haman had *plotted against* the Yahudim should **return** on his own head and that he and his sons should be impaled on the stake.

²⁶Therefore they called these days Purim, after the name Pur. Therefore, **because** of **all** the **words** of this letter, what they had **seen** concerning this matter and what had **come** upon them,

²⁷the Yahudim **established** and imposed it upon themselves and upon their seed and **all** who should join them, that without fail they should **observe** these two days **every** year, **according** to their **writing** and at their **appointed time**,

²⁸and that these days should be **remembered** and **observed** throughout **every** generation, **every** clan, **every** province and **every** city and that these days of Purim should not fail from among the Yahudim and that the **remembrance** of them should not cease from their seed.

²⁹And Sovereign Estēr, the daughter

of Abihayil, with Mordekai the Yahudi, **wrote** with **all authority** to **confirm** this second letter about Purim.

³⁰And Mordekai **sent** letters to **all** the Yahudim, to the hundred and twenty-seven provinces of the **reign** of Ahashwērosh, **words of peace** and **truth**,

³¹to **establish** these days of Purim at their **appointed times**, as Mordekai the Yehudite and Sovereign Estēr had **established** for them and as they had **established** for themselves and their seed concerning matters of their fastings and lamenting.

³²And the decree of Estēr **established** these matters of Purim and it was **written** in the **book**.

10 And Sovereign Ahashwērosh laid compulsory labour on the land and the islands of the sea.

²And **all** the acts of his **power** and his might and the exact account of the greatness of Mordekai, with which the sovereign made him great, are they not **written** in the **book** of the annals of the sovereigns of Media and Persia?

³For Mordekai the Yahudi was second to Sovereign Ahashwērosh and **great** among the Yahudim and pleasing to his many brothers, **seeking** the **good** of his people and speaking **peace** to **all** his seed.

In the Book of Ester, Yahuah's sovereign reign is assumed at every point. He directs and controls all the seemingly insignificant coincidences resulting in the deliverance of the Yahudim.

EZRA

1 And in the **first** year of Koresh sovereign of Persia, that the **Word** of אַזָּאֵל by the **mouth** of Yirmeyah might be **accomplished**, אַזָּאֵל stirred up the spirit of Koresh sovereign of Persia, to **proclaim** throughout **all** his reign and also in **writing**, saying,

²“Thus said Koresh sovereign of Persia, ‘אַזָּאֵל **Elohim** of the heavens has **given** me **all** the reigns of the earth. And **He** has **commanded** me to build **Him** a house in Yerushalayim which is in Yahudāh.

³*Who* is among you of **all His** people? His **Elohim** be with **Him!** And let him go up to Yerushalayim, which is in Yahudāh and build the House of אַזָּאֵל **Elohim** of Yisra’ēl – **He is Elohim** – which is in Yerushalayim.

⁴And *whoever* is left from **all** the places where he sojourns, let the men of his place help him with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, besides the voluntary offerings for the House of **Elohim** which is in Yerushalayim.’”

⁵And the heads of the fathers’ *houses* of Yahudah and Binyamin and the priests and the Lēwites, with **all** those whose spirits **Elohim** had stirred, rose up to go up and build the House of אַזָּאֵל which is in Yerushalayim.

⁶And **all** those round about them strengthened their hands with objects of silver and gold, with goods and livestock and with valuables, besides **all** that was voluntarily offered.

⁷And Sovereign Koresh brought out the utensils of the House of אַזָּאֵל, which Nebūkadnetzar had taken from Yerushalayim and put in the house of his *mighty ones*,

⁸and Koresh sovereign of Persia brought them out by the **hand** of Mithredath the treasurer and counted them out to Shēshbatzar the leader of

Yahudāh.

⁹And this was their number: thirty gold dishes, one thousand silver dishes, twenty nine knives,

¹⁰thirty gold basins, next, four hundred and ten silver basins, one thousand other utensils.

¹¹All the utensils of gold and silver were five thousand four hundred. Shēshbatzar took **all** of them with the exiles who were brought from Babel to Yerushalayim.

2 And these are the sons of the province who came back from the captivity of the exiles, whom Nebūkadnetzar the sovereign of Babel had exiled to Babel and who returned to Yerushalayim and Yahudāh, each to his own city,

²who came with Zerubbabel: Yēshua, Neḥemyah, Serayah, Re’ēlayah, Mordekai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigwai, Reḥum, Ba’anah. The number of the men of the people of Yisra’ēl:

³sons of Parosh, two thousand one hundred and seventy-two;

⁴sons of Shephatyah, three hundred and seventy-two;

⁵sons of Arah, seven hundred and seventy-five;

⁶sons of Paḥath-Mo’ab, of the sons of Yēshua and Yo’ab, two thousand eight hundred and twelve;

⁷sons of Ēylam, one thousand two hundred and fifty-four;

⁸sons of Zattu, nine hundred and forty-five;

⁹sons of Zakkai, seven hundred and sixty;

¹⁰sons of Bani, six hundred and forty-two;

¹¹sons of Bēḥai, six hundred and twenty-three;

¹²sons of Azgad, one thousand two

hundred and twenty-two;

¹³sons of Aḏoniqam, six hundred and sixty-six;

¹⁴sons of Biḡwai, two thousand and fifty-six;

¹⁵sons of Aḏin, four hundred and fifty-four;

¹⁶sons of Atēr of Hizqiyah, ninety-eight;

¹⁷sons of Bětsai, three hundred and twenty-three;

¹⁸sons of Yorah, one hundred and twelve;

¹⁹sons of Ḥashum, two hundred and twenty-three;

²⁰sons of Gibbar, ninety-five;

²¹sons of Běyth Leḥem, one hundred and twenty-three;

²²men of Netophah, fifty-six;

²³men of Anathoth, one hundred and twenty-eight;

²⁴sons of Azmaweth, forty-two;

²⁵sons of Qiryath Arim, Kephirah and Be'ēroth, seven hundred and forty-three;

²⁶sons of Ramah and Geḇa, six hundred and twenty-one;

²⁷men of Mikmas, one hundred and twenty-two;

²⁸men of Běyth Ĕl and Ai, two hundred and twenty-three;

²⁹sons of Nebo, fifty-two;

³⁰sons of Maḡbish, one hundred and fifty-six;

³¹sons of the other Ĕylam, one thousand two hundred and fifty-four;

³²sons of Ḥarim, three hundred and twenty;

³³sons of Loḏ, Ḥaḏid and Ono, seven hundred and twenty-five;

³⁴sons of Yeriḥo, three hundred and forty-five;

³⁵sons of Sena'ah, three thousand six hundred and thirty.

³⁶The priests: sons of Yedayah, of the house of Yēshua, nine hundred and seventy-three;

³⁷sons of Immēr, one thousand and fifty-two;

³⁸sons of Pashhur, one thousand two hundred and forty-seven;

³⁹sons of Ḥarim, one thousand and

seventeen.

⁴⁰The Lēwites: sons of Yēshua and Qadmi'ēl, of the sons of Hoḏawyah, seventy-four.

⁴¹The singers: sons of Asaph, one hundred and twenty-eight.

⁴²Sons of the gatekeepers: sons of Shallum, sons of Atēr, sons of Talmon, sons of Aqqub, sons of Hatita, sons of Shoḇai, one hundred and thirty-nine in **all**.

⁴³The Nethinim: sons of Tsiḥa, sons of Ḥasupha, sons of Tabba'oth,

⁴⁴sons of Qēros, sons of Si'aha, sons of Paḏon,

⁴⁵sons of Leḇanah, sons of Ḥaḡaḇah, sons of Aqqub,

⁴⁶sons of Ḥaḡab, sons of Shamlai, sons of Ḥanan,

⁴⁷sons of Giddēl, sons of Gaḥar, sons of Re'ayah,

⁴⁸sons of Retsin, sons of Neqoḏa, sons of Gazzam,

⁴⁹sons of Uzza, sons of Pasēah, sons of Bēsai,

⁵⁰sons of Asnah, sons of Me'unim, sons of Nephusim,

⁵¹sons of Baqbuq, sons of Ḥaḡupha, sons of Harhur,

⁵²sons of Batsluth, sons of Meḥida, sons of Ḥarsha,

⁵³sons of Barqos, sons of Sisera, sons of Tēmah,

⁵⁴sons of Netsiyah, sons of Ḥatipha.

⁵⁵Sons of Shelomoh's servants: sons of Sotai, sons of Sophereth, sons of Peruḏa,

⁵⁶sons of Ya'ala, sons of Darqon, sons of Giddēl,

⁵⁷sons of Shephatyah, sons of Ḥatil, sons of Pokereth of Tseḇayim, sons of Ami.

⁵⁸All the Nethinim and the children of Shelomoh's servants were three hundred and ninety-two.

⁵⁹And these were those who came up from Tēl Melaḡ, Tēl Harsha, Kerub, Addan, Immēr; but they were *unable* to **show** their father's house and their seed, whether they were of Yisra'ēl:

⁶⁰sons of Delayah, sons of Toḇiyah,

sons of Neqoḏa, six hundred and fifty-two;

⁶¹and of the sons of the priests: sons of Habayah, sons of Qots, sons of Barzillai, who took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gil'adite and was called by their name.

⁶²These sought their register *among* those who were counted by genealogy, but they were not found, so they were *barred* from the priesthood as *defiled*.

⁶³And the governor said to them that they should not eat of the most set-apart gifts until there stood up a priest with the Urim and Tummim.

⁶⁴The entire assembly was forty-two thousand three hundred and sixty,

⁶⁵besides their male and female servants – these were seven thousand three hundred and thirty-seven. They also had two hundred men and women singers.

⁶⁶Their horses were seven hundred and thirty-six, their mules two hundred and forty-five,

⁶⁷their camels four hundred and thirtyfive, donkeys six thousand seven hundred and twenty.

⁶⁸And some of the heads of the fathers' houses, when they came to the House of אַיָּאָל which is in Yerushalayim, offered voluntarily for the House of **Elohim**, to **establish** it in its place.

⁶⁹They gave **according** to their ability to the treasury for the **work** sixty-one thousand gold drachmas and five thousand minas of silver and one hundred priestly garments.

⁷⁰And the priests and the Lēwites and some of the people and the singers and the gatekeepers and the Nethinim, dwelt in their cities and **all** Yisra'ēl in their cities.

3 **Now** when the seventh month came and the children of Yisra'ēl were in the cities, the people gathered as one man to Yerushalayim.

²And Yēshua son of Yotsadaq and his brothers the priests and Zerubbabel son

of She'alti'ēl and his brothers, arose and built the altar of the **Elohim** of Yisra'ēl, to offer burnt offerings on it, as it is **written** in the **Torah** of Mosheh, the man of **Elohim**.

³So they set the altar on its stands, being *afraid* of the peoples of the lands. And they offered burnt offerings on it to אַיָּאָל, both the morning and **evening** burnt offerings.

⁴And they performed the **Festival of Booths**, as it is **written** and the daily burnt offerings by number, **according** to the **right-ruling** for each day,

⁵and afterward the continual burnt offering and those for **New Moons** and for **all** the **appointed times** of אַיָּאָל that were set-apart, also for everyone who volunteered a voluntary offering to אַיָּאָל.

⁶From the **first day** of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to אַיָּאָל. **But** the foundation of the Hēkal of אַיָּאָל had not been laid.

⁷And they gave silver to the stonemasons and the carpenters and food and drink and oil to the people of Tsidon and Tsor to bring cedar logs from Lebanon to the sea at Yapho, **according** to the permission which they had from Koresh sovereign of Persia.

⁸And in the second month of the second year of their **coming** to the House of **Elohim**, to Yerushalayim, Zerubbabel son of She'alti'ēl and Yēshua son of Yotsadaq and the rest of their brothers the priests and the Lēwites and **all** those who had **come out** of the captivity to Yerushalayim, began and they **appointed** the Lēwites from twenty years old and above to oversee the **work** of the House of אַיָּאָל.

⁹And Yēshua stood up, his sons and his brothers, Qadmi'ēl with his sons, the sons of Yahuḏah together, to oversee those working on the House of **Elohim**: the sons of Hēnadaḏ with their sons and their brothers the Lēwites.

¹⁰And when the builders laid the foundation of the Hēkal of אַיָּאָל, they

appointed the priests in their robes, with trumpets and the Lēwites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to **praise** אָפֶזֶל, after the order of Dawid sovereign of Yisra'ēl.

¹¹And they responded by praising and giving **thanks** to אָפֶזֶל, “For **He** is **good**, for **His kindness** towards Yisra'ēl is **forever**.” And **all** the people *shouted* with a **great** shout, when they **praised** אָפֶזֶל, **because** the foundation of the House of אָפֶזֶל was laid.

¹²And many of the priests and Lēwites and heads of the fathers' *houses*, the old men who had **seen** the **first** House, wept with a loud **voice** when the foundation of this House was laid before their eyes and many *shouted* aloud for joy,

¹³and the people *could not* distinguish the noise of the shout of **joy** from the noise of the *weeping* of the people, for the people *shouted* with a loud shout and the sound was **heard** far away.

4 And when the adversaries of Yahudāh and Binyamin **heard** that the sons of the exile were building the Hēkal of אָפֶזֶל **Elohim** of Yisra'ēl,

²they came to Zerubbabel and the heads of the fathers' *houses* and said to them, “**Let** us build with you, for we **seek** your **Elohim** as you do. And we have slaughtered to **Him** since the days of Ēsarhaddon sovereign of Ashshur, who brought us here.”

³**But** Zerubbabel and Yēshua and the rest of the heads of the fathers' *houses* of Yisra'ēl said to them, “It is not for you and for us to build a house for our **Elohim**, but we alone build to אָפֶזֶל **Elohim** of Yisra'ēl, as Sovereign Koresh the sovereign of Persia has **commanded** us.”

⁴And it came to be that the people of the land were weakening the hands of the people of Yahudāh and troubling them in their building,

⁵and hiring counsellors *against* them to thwart their plans **all** the days of Koresh sovereign of Persia, even until the **reign**

of Dareyawesh sovereign of Persia.

⁶And in the **reign** of Ahashwērosh, in the beginning of his reign, they **wrote** an *accusation against* the inhabitants of Yahudāh and Yerushalayim.

⁷And in the days of Artahshashta, Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabē'ēl and the rest of their companions **wrote** to Artahshashta sovereign of Persia. And the letter was **written** in Aramaic and translated *from* Aramaic.

⁸Rehum the governor and Shimshai the scribe **wrote** a letter *against* Yerushalayim to Sovereign Artahshashta, thus:

⁹Rehum the governor and Shimshai the scribe and the rest of their companions – the judges and the emissaries, the consuls, the officials, the people of Ereḱ and of Babel and of Shushan, the Dehawites, the Ēylamites,

¹⁰and the rest of the nations whom the great and noble Osnapper took into exile and settled in the cities of Shomeron and the rest beyond the River. And **now**,

¹¹this is a copy of the letter that they **sent** him, to Sovereign Artahshashta from your servants the men beyond the River.

¹²**And now, let it be known** to the sovereign that the Yahudim who came up from you have **come** to us at Yerushalayim and are building the *rebellious* and *evil* city and are completing its walls and repairing the foundations.

¹³**Now** let it **now** be **known** to the sovereign that, if this city is built and the walls completed, they are not going to pay tax, excise, or toll and **cause** the revenue of the sovereign to *suffer* loss.

¹⁴**Now, because** we have eaten **salt** from the palace, it was not fitting for us to **see** the sovereign's *shame*. Therefore we have **sent** and informed the sovereign,

¹⁵so that **search** be made in the **book** of the records of your fathers and you find in the **book** of the records and **know**, that this city is a *rebellious* city and causing loss to sovereigns and provinces.

And revolt was stirred up in it since days of old, for which **cause** this city was **destroyed**.

¹⁶We inform the sovereign that if this city is rebuilt and its walls are completed, then you have no portion beyond the River.

¹⁷The sovereign **sent** a message: To Rehum the governor and Shimshai the scribe, to the rest of their companions who dwell in Shomeron and the rest beyond the River: Peace! And **now**,

¹⁸the letter you **sent** to us has been plainly **read** before me.

¹⁹And I made the decree and a **search** has been made and it was **found** that this city in days of old has lifted up itself *against* sovereigns and that *rebellion* and revolt have been made in it.

²⁰And mighty sovereigns have been over Yerushalayim, who have ruled over **all** beyond the River. And tax, excise and toll were paid to them.

²¹**Now**, make a decree to make these men cease and that this city be not built until the **command** is **given** by me.

²²And beware of *negligence* to do this. **Why** should damage increase to the hurt of the sovereigns?

²³**Now** when the copy of the letter of Sovereign Artahshashta was **read** before Rehum and Shimshai the scribe and their companions, they went up in a hurry to Yerushalayim *against* the Yahudim and made them cease by might and power.

²⁴**Then** the **work** of the House of **Elah** which is at Yerushalayim ceased and it ceased until the second year of the **reign** of Dareyawesh sovereign of Persia.

5 **Then** the **prophets**, Haggai the **prophet** and Zekaryah son of Iddo, prophesied to the Yahudim who were in Yahudah and Yerushalayim, in the **Name** of the **Elah** of Yisra'el upon them.

²**Then** Zerubbabel son of She'alti'el and Yeshua son of Yotsadaq rose up and began to build the House of **Elah** which is in Yerushalayim. And the prophets of **Elah** were with them, helping them.

³At that **time** Tattenai the governor beyond the River and Shethar-Bozenai and their companions came to them and said this to them, "**Who** has made you a decree to build this House and to **complete** this wall?"

⁴**Then** we told them what the names were of the men who were building this building.

⁵And the eye of their **Elah** was upon the elders of the Yahudim, so that they *could not* make them cease until the matter went to Dareyawesh. And then they **sent** back a letter concerning this.

⁶This is a copy of the letter that Tattenai, governor beyond the River, had **sent** and Shethar-Bozenai and his companions the officials beyond the River, to Dareyawesh the sovereign.

⁷They **sent** a letter to him and this was **written** in it: To Dareyawesh the sovereign: All peace.

⁸**Let** it be **known** to the sovereign that we went into the province of Yahudah, to the House of the **great Elah**, which is being built with *heavy* stones and timber is being laid in the walls. And this **work** goes on **speedily** and is **blessed** in their hands.

⁹**Then** we asked those elders, saying this to them, "**Who** made you a decree to build this House and to **complete** these walls?"

¹⁰And we also asked them their names, **in order** to inform you, so we could **write** the names of the men at their head.

¹¹And this is the answer they gave us, saying, "We are the servants of the **Elah** of **heaven** and earth and we are rebuilding the House that was built many years ago, which a **great** sovereign of Yisra'el built and completed.

¹²**But because** our fathers *provoked* the **Elah** of heaven, **He** gave them into the **hand** of Nebukadnetsar sovereign of Babel, the Chaldean, who *destroyed* this House and exiled the people to Babel.

¹³**But** in the **first** year of Koresh sovereign of Babel, Koresh the sovereign made a decree to build this

House of **Elah**.

¹⁴“And also, the gold and silver utensils of the House of **Elah**, which Nebukadnetzar had taken from the Hēkāl that was in Yerushalayim and brought to the hēkāl of Bābel, those Sovereign Koresh took from the hēkāl of Babel and they were **given** to one named Shēshbatzar, whom he had made governor,

¹⁵and said to him, ‘Take these utensils, go, deposit them in the Hēkāl in Yerushalayim and let the House of **Elah** be built on its place.’

¹⁶“**Then** the **same** Shēshbatzar came, laid the foundation of the House of **Elah** which is in Yerushalayim and since that **time** even until **now** it has been in building and it is not completed.”

¹⁷And **now**, if it seems **good** to the sovereign, let a **search** be made in the sovereign’s treasure-house, which is there in Bābel, whether it is so that a decree was made by Sovereign Koresh to build this House of **Elah** at Yerushalayim and let the sovereign send us his decision concerning this.

6 *Then* Dareyawesh the sovereign made a decree and a **search** was made in the house of the **books** wherein also the treasures of Bābel were kept.

²And at Aḥmetha, in the palace which is in the province of Media, a **scroll** was found and this was **written** in it:

³In the **first** year of Sovereign Koresh, Sovereign Koresh made a decree concerning the House of **Elah** at Yerushalayim, “**Let** the house be built in the place where they brought offerings and its foundations strongly laid, its height sixty cubits, its width sixty cubits,

⁴three rows of *heavy* stones and one row of new timber. **Let** the expenses be paid from the sovereign’s house.

⁵“And let the gold and silver utensils of the House of **Elah**, which Nebukadnetzar took from the Hēkāl which is in Yerushalayim and brought to Bābel, be returned and go to the Hēkāl

which is in Yerushalayim, to its place and deposit them in the House of **Elah**,”

⁶**Now**, Tattenai, governor beyond the River and Shethar-Bozenai and your companions the officials beyond the River, stay away from there.

⁷Leave the **work** of this House of **Elah** alone. **Let** the governor of the Yahudim and the elders of the Yahudim build this House of **Elah** on its place.

⁸And I make a decree as to what you should do for the elders of these Yahudim, for the building of this House of Elah: **Let** the exact expense be paid to these men from the sovereign’s resources, out of the taxes beyond the River, so that they are not *stopped*.

⁹And *whatever* they need – both young bulls and rams and lambs for the burnt offerings of the **Elah** of heaven, wheat, salt, **wine** and oil, **according** to the request of the priests who are in Yerushalayim – **let it be given** them day by day without fail,

¹⁰so that they bring pleasing offerings to the **Elah** of heaven and pray for the **life** of the sovereign and his sons.

¹¹And I make a decree that *whoever* *changes* this **word**, let a timber be pulled from his house and let him be impaled, hanged on it. And let his house be made a dunghill **because** of this.

¹²And **Elah**, who has **caused His Name** to dwell there does *overthrow* any sovereign or people who put their **hand** to *change*, to *destroy* this House of **Elah** which is in Yerushalayim! I Dareyawesh make the decree – **let it be done** promptly.

¹³**Then** Tattenai, governor beyond the River, Shethar-Bozenai and their companions promptly did **according** to what Dareyawesh the sovereign had **sent**.

¹⁴And the elders of the Yahudim were building and they were **blessed** through the prophesying of Haggai the **prophet** and Zeḳaryah son of Iddo. And they built and **finished** it, **according** to the decree of the **Elah** of Yisra’el and **according** to the decree of Koresh and Dareyawesh

and Artahshashta sovereign of Persia.

¹⁵And this House was **completed** on the third **day** of the month of Adar, which was in the sixth year of the **reign** of Sovereign Dareyawesh.

¹⁶**Then** the children of Yisra'el, the priests and the Lēwites and the rest of the sons of the exile, did the **dedication** of this House of **Elah** with joy,

¹⁷and offered at the **dedication** of this House of **Elah** one hundred bulls, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs and as a *sin* offering for **all** Yisra'el twelve male goats, **according** to the number of the tribes of Yisra'el.

¹⁸And they **appointed** the priests to their divisions and the Lēwites to their divisions, over the service of **Elah** in Yerushalayim, as it is **written** in the **Book** of Mosheh.

¹⁹And the sons of the exile performed the **Passover** on the **fourteenth day** of the **first month**,

²⁰for the priests and the Lēwites had **cleansed** themselves – **all** of them were **clean**. And they slaughtered the **Passover** for **all** the sons of the exile and for their brothers the priests and for themselves.

²¹And the children of Yisra'el who had returned from the exile ate **together** with **all** who had separated themselves from the *uncleanness* of the *gentiles* of the land **in order** to **seek** אֱלֹהִים **Elohim** of Yisra'el.

²²And they performed the **Festival** of **Unleavened Bread** seven days with **joy**, for אֱלֹהִים **caused** them to **rejoice** and turned the **heart** of the sovereign of Ashshur toward them, to strengthen their hands in the **work** of the House of **Elohim**, the **Elohim** of Yisra'el.

7 And after these events, in the **reign** of Artahshashta sovereign of Persia, Ezra son of Serayah, son of Azaryah, son of Hīlqiyah,

²son of Shallum, son of Tsadoq, son of Ahitub,

³son of Amaryah, son of Azaryah, son

of Merayoth,

⁴son of Zerahyah, son of Uzzi, son of Buqqi,

⁵son of Abishua, son of Phinehas, son of El'azar, son of Aharon the chief priest –

⁶this Ezra came up from Babel. And he was a scribe, skilled in the **Torah** of Mosheh, which אֱלֹהִים **Elohim** of Yisra'el had **given**. And the sovereign gave him **all** he asked, **according** to the **hand** of אֱלֹהִים **Elohim** upon him.

⁷And some of the children of Yisra'el and the priests and the Lēwites and the singers and the gatekeepers and the Nethinim came up to Yerushalayim in the seventh year of Sovereign Artahshashta.

⁸And he came to Yerushalayim in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the sovereign.

⁹For on the **first day** of the **first** month he began to go up from Babel and on the **first day** of the fifth month he came to Yerushalayim, **according** to the **good hand** of his **Elohim** upon him.

¹⁰For Ezra had prepared his **heart** to **seek** the **Torah** of אֱלֹהִים, to do it and to **teach laws** and **right-rulings** in Yisra'el.

¹¹And this is the copy of the letter that Sovereign Artahshashta gave Ezra the priest, the scribe, a scribe in the **words** of the **commands** of אֱלֹהִים and of **His laws** to Yisra'el:

¹²Artahshashta, sovereign of sovereigns, to Ezra the priest, a **perfect** scribe of the **law** of the **Elah** of **heavens**. And **now**,

¹³I make a decree that **all** those of the people of Yisra'el and the priests and Lēwites in my reign, who volunteer to go up to Yerushalayim, go with you.

¹⁴Since you are being **sent** by the sovereign and his seven counsellors to **inquire** about Yahudah and Yerushalayim, with regard to the **law** of your **Elah** which is in your hand;

¹⁵and to bring the silver and gold which the sovereign and his counsellors have voluntarily **given** to the **Elah** of Yisra'el,

whose dwelling is in Yerushalayim,
¹⁶and **all** the silver and gold that you find in **all** the province of Babel, along with the gift of the people and the priests, voluntarily **given** for the House of their **Elah** in Yerushalayim,

¹⁷therefore, with this silver promptly buy bulls, rams, lambs, with their grain offerings and their drink offerings and offer them on the altar of the House of your **Elah** in Yerushalayim.

¹⁸And *whatever* seems **good** to you and your brothers to do with the rest of the silver and the gold, do it **according** to the desire of your **Elah**.

¹⁹And the utensils that are **given** to you for the service of the House of your **Elah**, put back before the **Elah** of Yerushalayim.

²⁰And the rest of the needs for the House of your **Elah**, which falls to you to give, give from the sovereign's treasure-house.

²¹And I, I Artahshashta the sovereign, do make a decree to **all** the treasurers who are beyond the River, that *whatever* Ezra the priest, the scribe of the **law** of the **Elah** of heaven, does **ask** of you, **let it be done** promptly,

²²up to one hundred talents of silver and up to one hundred kors of wheat and up to one hundred baths of **wine** and up to one hundred baths of oil and **salt** without reckoning.

²³*Whatever* is **commanded** by the **Elah** of heaven, **let it be diligently** done for the House of the **Elah of heavens**. For why should there be *wrath against* the **reign** of the sovereign and his sons?

²⁴We further inform you that there is no **authority** to impose tax, excise, or toll on any of the priests and Lēwites, singers, gatekeepers, Nethinim and servants of this House of **Elah**.

²⁵And you, Ezra, **according** to the wisdom of your **Elah** that is in your **hand**, **appoint** magistrates and judges to **judge all** the people who are beyond the River, **all** such as **know** the **laws** of your Elah. And **teach** those who *do not know* them.

²⁶And *whoever does not* do the **law** of your **Elah** and the **law** of the

sovereign, let judgment be promptly *executed* on him, whether it be *death*, or banishment, or confiscation of goods, or imprisonment.

²⁷**Blessed** be אֱלֹהִים **Elohim** of our fathers, who has put this in the sovereign's **heart**, to embellish the House of אֱלֹהִים which is in Yerushalayim,

²⁸and has extended **kindness** to me before the sovereign and his counsellors and before **all** the sovereign's mighty princes. So I was strengthened, as the **hand** of אֱלֹהִים my **Elohim** was upon me. And I gathered heads from Yisra'el to go up with me.

8 These are the heads of their fathers' *houses* and this is the genealogy of those who went up with me from Babel, in the **reign** of Sovereign Artahshashta:

²of the sons of Ithamar, Gēreshom; of the sons of Dawid, Hattush;

³of the sons of Shekanyah, of the sons of Parosh, Zekaryah and registered with him were one hundred and fifty males;

⁴of the sons of Pahath-Mo'ab, Elyeho'eynai son of Zerayah and with him two hundred males;

⁵of the sons of Shekanyah, the son of Yahazi'el and with him three hundred males;

⁶and of the sons of Adin, Ebed son of Yehonathan and with him fifty males;

⁷and of the sons of Eylam, Yeshayah son of Athalyah and with him seventy males;

⁸and of the sons of Shephatyah, Zebadyah son of Mika'el and with him eighty males;

⁹of the sons of Yo'ab, Obadyah son of Yehi'el and with him two hundred and eighteen males;

¹⁰and of the sons of Shelomith, the son of Yosiphyah and with him one hundred and sixty males;

¹¹and of the sons of Bēbai, Zekaryah son of Bēbai and with him twenty-eight males;

¹²and of the sons of Azgad, Yoḥanan

son of Haqqatan and with him one hundred and ten males;

¹³and of the **last** sons of Adoniqam, whose names are these; Eliphelet, Ye'i'el and Shemayah and with them sixty males;

¹⁴and of the sons of Bigwai, Uthai and Zabbud and with them seventy males.

¹⁵And I **assembled** them at the river that flows to Ahawa and we camped there three days. And I **looked** among the people and the priests and *did not* find any of the sons of Lēwi there.

¹⁶**Then** I sent for Eli'ezer, for Ari'el, for Shemayah and for Elnathan and for Yariḅ and for Elnathan and for Nathan and for Zekaryah and for Meshullam, leaders – also for Yoyariḅ and Elnathan, men of **understanding**.

¹⁷And I gave them a **command** for Iddo the chief man at the place Kasiphya and put in their **mouth words** to **speak** to Iddo and his brothers the Nethinim at the place Kasiphya, to bring us servants for the House of our **Elohim**.

¹⁸Then, by the **good hand** of our **Elohim** upon us, they brought us a man of **understanding**, of the sons of Mahli son of Lēwi, son of Yisra'el and Shērēbyah, with his sons and brothers, eighteen;

¹⁹and Hashabayah and with him Yeshayah of the sons of Merari, his brothers and their sons, twenty;

²⁰and of the Nethinim, whom Dawid and the leaders had **appointed** for the service of the Lēwites, two hundred and twenty Nethinim, **all** of them designated by name.

²¹I then **proclaimed** a fast there, at the river of Ahawa, to humble ourselves before our **Elohim**, to **seek** from **Him** the **right way** for us and our *little* ones and **all** our possessions,

²²for I was *ashamed* to **ask** of the sovereign a group of soldiers and horsemen to help us *against* the enemy on the **way**, **because** we had **spoken** to the sovereign, saying, "The **hand** of our **Elohim** is upon **all** those for **good** who **seek Him**, but **His power** and **His wrath** are *against* **all** those who **forsake Him**."

²³So we fasted and prayed to our **Elohim** for this and **He** answered our prayer.

²⁴And I separated twelve of the leaders of the priests: Shērēbyah, Hashabayah and ten of their brothers with them;

²⁵and weighed out to them the silver and the gold and the utensils, the contribution for the House of our **Elohim** which the sovereign and his counsellors and his heads and **all** Yisra'el who were there, had presented.

²⁶Thus I weighed into their **hand** six hundred and fifty talents of silver and silver objects of one hundred talents, one hundred talents of gold,

²⁷and twenty gold basins of a thousand drachmas and two utensils of fine polished bronze, **precious** as gold.

²⁸And I said to them, "You are set-apart to אַזָּאֵל and the objects are set-apart. And the silver and the gold are a voluntary offering to אַזָּאֵל **Elohim** of your fathers.

²⁹"**Watch** and **guard** them until you weigh them before the leaders of the priests and the Lēwites and heads of the fathers' *houses* of Yisra'el in Yerushalayim, in the rooms of the House of אַזָּאֵל."

³⁰So the priests and the Lēwites took the weight of the silver and the gold and the utensils, to bring them to Yerushalayim to the House of our **Elohim**.

³¹**Then** we set out from the Ahawa River on the twelfth of the **first** month, to go to Yerushalayim. And the **hand** of our **Elohim** was upon us and **He delivered** us from the **hand** of the enemy and from ambush along the **way**.

³²And when we came to Yerushalayim, we dwelt there three days.

³³And on the fourth day the silver and the gold and the utensils were weighed in the House of our **Elohim** by the **hand** of Merēmoth son of Uriyah the priest and with him was El'azar son of Phinehas. And with them were the Lēwites, Yozabād son of Yēshua and No'adyah son of Binnui,

³⁴with the number and weight of **all**. And **all** the weight was **written** down at that **time**.

³⁵The sons of the exile, who had **come** from the captivity, brought burnt offerings to the **Elohim** of Yisra'el: twelve bulls for **all** Yisra'el, ninety-six rams, seventy-seven lambs and twelve male goats as a *sin* offering – **all** as a burnt offering to אַזאַז.

³⁶And they gave the sovereign's orders to the sovereign's viceroys and the governors beyond the River. And they lifted up the people and the House of **Elohim**.

9 And when these matters had been done, the leaders **came to me**, saying, "The people of Yisra'el and the priests and the Lēwites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands, as to their **abominations**, *those* of the Kena'anites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Yebusites, the Ammonites, the Mo'abites, the Mitsrites and the Amorites,

²for they have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and their sons, so that the set-apart seed is intermingled with the peoples of those lands. And the **hand** of the *leaders* and *rulers* has been *foremost* in this *trespass*."

³And when I **heard** this **word**, I tore my garment and my robe and *plucked* out some of the hair of my head and beard and sat down astonished.

⁴**Then all** those who *trembled* at the **words** of the **Elohim** of Yisra'el gathered to me, **because** of the *trespass* of the exiles and I sat astonished until the **evening** offering.

⁵And at the **evening** offering I rose from my *affliction*. And having *torn* my garment and my robe, I fell on my knees and spread out my hands to אַזאַז my **Elohim**,

⁶and said, "O my **Elohim**, I am too *ashamed* and *wounded* to lift up my face to **You**, my **Elohim**, for our *crookednesses* have risen higher than our

heads and our *guilt* has grown up to the **heavens**.

⁷"Since the days of our fathers to this day we have been **very guilty** and for our *crookednesses* we, our sovereigns and our priests have been **given** into the **hand** of the sovereigns of the lands, to the *sword*, to captivity and to plunder and to *shame* of faces, as it is this day.

⁸**But now**, for a short while, **favour** has been shown from אַזאַז our **Elohim**, to leave us a **remnant** to **escape** and to give us a peg in **His** set-apart place, that our **Elohim** might **enlighten** our **eyes** and give us a *little* reviving in our bondage.

⁹"For we were slaves, but in our bondage our **Elohim** *did not forsake* us and extended **kindness** to us in the presence of the sovereigns of Persia, to revive us, to **raise** up the House of our **Elohim**, to restore its ruins and to give us a wall in Yahudah and Yerushalayim.

¹⁰"And **now**, O our **Elohim**, what do we say after this? For we have **forsaken Your commands**,

¹¹which **You** have **commanded** by **Your** servants the **prophets**, saying, "The land which you are going in to **possess** is a land *unclean* through the *uncleanness* of the peoples of the lands, by their **abominations** with which they have filled it, from one end to another, by their *uncleanness*."

¹²"And **now**, *do not* give your daughters as wives for their sons, nor take their daughters to your sons. And *do not seek* their **peace** or wealth **ever**, so that you are **strong** and **shall** eat the **good** of the land and leave it as an **inheritance** to your children **forever**."

¹³"And after **all** that has **come** upon us for our *evil deeds* and for our **great** guilt, since **You** our **Elohim** have held back the **rod** upon our *crookednesses* and have **given** us such **deliverance** as this,

¹⁴should we turn back, to **break Your commands** and join in marriage with the people of these **abominations**? Would **You** not be **enraged** with us until **You**

had *consumed* us, so that there would be no **remnant** or survivor?

¹⁵“O אַזאַל Elohīm of Yisra’ēl, **You** are **righteous**, for we are left as a **remnant**, as it is this day. **See**, we are before **You**, in our guilt, for there is no one to **stand** before **You** concerning this!”

10 And while Ezra was praying and while he was confessing, *weeping* and bowing down before the House of **Elohīm**, a **very** large assembly – men and women and children – gathered unto him from Yisra’ēl, for the people wept **very** *bitterly*.

²And Shekanyah son of Yeḥi’ēl, one of the sons of Olam, spoke up and said to Ezra, “We have trespassed *against* our **Elohīm** and have taken foreign women from the peoples of the land. And **now** there is expectancy in Yisra’ēl concerning this.

³“**Now** then, let us make a **covenant** with our **Elohīm** to put away **all** these wives and those who have been born to them, **according** to the counsel of אַזאַל and of those who *tremble* at the **command** of our **Elohīm**. And **let it be done** **according** to the **Torah**.

⁴“Arise, for the matter is upon you, but we are with you. Be **strong** and act.”

⁵And Ezra rose and made the leaders of the priests, the Lēwites and **all** Yisra’ēl, to swear to do **according** to this **word**. And they **swore**.

⁶**Then** Ezra rose up from before the House of **Elohīm** and went into the room of Yehohanan son of Elyashib. And he went there – he ate no **bread** and drank no water for he mourned **because** of the *trespass* of the exiles.

⁷And they passed a **call** throughout Yahuḏah and Yerushalayim to **all** the sons of the exile, to **gather** at Yerushalayim,

⁸and that *whoever would not come* within three days, **according** to the counsel of the leaders and elders, **all** his goods would be put under a **ban** and

himself separated from the assembly of the exiles.

⁹**Then** **all** the men of Yahuḏah and Binyamin gathered at Yerushalayim within three days. It was the ninth month, on the twentieth of the month. And **all** the people sat in the **open** space of the House of **Elohīm**, *trembling* **because** of the matter and **because** of showers of rain.

¹⁰And Ezra the priest stood up and said to them, “You, you have *trespassed* and have taken foreign women, adding to the *guilt* of Yisra’ēl.

¹¹“And **now**, make confession to אַזאַל Elohīm of your fathers and do **His desire** and separate yourselves from the peoples of the land and from the foreign women.”

¹²And **all** the assembly answered and said with a loud **voice**, “Right! It is upon us to do **according** to your **word**.”

¹³“**But** the people are many and it is the season of showers of rain and we are not able to **stand** outside. And the **work** not of one or two days, for we have greatly *transgressed* in this matter.

¹⁴“Please, let the leaders of **all** the assembly stand. And let **all** those in our cities who have taken foreign women **come** at **appointed times**, **together** with the elders and judges of their cities, until the *burning wrath* of our **Elohīm** is turned away from us in this matter.”

¹⁵Only Yonathan son of Asah’ēl and Yahzeyah son of Tiqwah *opposed* this and Meshullam and Shabbethai the Lēwite gave them support.

¹⁶**Then** the sons of the exile did so. And Ezra the priest, with certain heads of the fathers’ *houses*, were separated by the fathers’ *houses*, each of them by name. And they sat down on the **first day** of the tenth month to examine the matter.

¹⁷And they **finished** with **all** the men who had taken foreign women by the **first day** of the second month.

¹⁸And among the sons of the priests who had taken foreign women were **found** of the sons of Yēshua son of Yotsaḏaq and his brothers: Ma’asēyah

and Eli'ezer and Yariḅ and Geḏalyah.

¹⁹And they gave their **hand in pledge** to put away their wives. And being *guilty*, they presented a ram of the flock for their guilt.

²⁰And of the sons of Immēr: Ḥanani and Zebād̄yah;

²¹and of the sons of Harim: Ma'asēyah and Ēliyāh and Shemayah and Yeḥi'ēl and Uzziyah;

²²and of the sons of Pashhur: Elyo'ēynai, Ma'asēyah, Yishma'ēl, Nethanē'l, Yozabād̄ and El'asah.

²³And of the Lēwives: Yozabād̄, Shim'i, Qēlayah – he is Qelita – Pethaḥyah, Yahudāh and Eli'ezer.

²⁴And of the singers: Elyashib. And of the gatekeepers: Shallum and Telem and Uri.

²⁵And of Yisra'ēl of the sons of Parosh: Ramyah and Yizziyah and Malkiyah and Miyamin and El'azar and Malkiyah and Benayah;

²⁶and of the sons of Ēylam: Mattanyah, Zeḳaryah and Yeḥi'ēl and Abdi and Yerēmoth and Ēliyāh;

²⁷and of the sons of Zattu: Elyo'ēynai, Elyashib, Mattanyah and Yerēmoth and Zabād̄ and Aziza;

²⁸and of the sons of Bēḅai: Yehoḥanan, Ḥananyah, Zabbai and Āthlai;

²⁹and of the sons of Bani: Meshullam, Malluḳ and Aḏayah, Yashub̄ and She'al, Ramoth;

³⁰and of the sons of Paḥath-Mo'ab: Adna and Kelal, Benayah, Ma'asēyah, Mattanyah, Betsal'ēl and Binnui and Menashsheh;

³¹and of the sons of Harim: Eli'ezer, Yishshiyah, Malkiyah, Shemayah, Shim'on,

³²Binyamin, Malluḳ and Shemaryah;

³³of the sons of Hashum: Mattenai, Mattattah, Zabād̄, Eliphelet, Yerēmai, Menashsheh and Shim'i;

³⁴of the sons of Bani: Ma'aḏai, Amram and U'ēl,

³⁵Benayah, Bēḏeyah, Keluhu,

³⁶Wanyah, Merēmoth, Elyashib,

³⁷Mattanyah, Mattenai and Ya'asu,

³⁸and Bani and Binnui, Shim'i,

³⁹and Shelemyah and Nathan and Aḏayah,

⁴⁰Maḳnadēbai, Shashai, Sharai,

⁴¹Azar'ēl and Shelemyahu, Shemaryah,

⁴²Shallum, Amaryah and Yosēph;

⁴³of the sons of Nebo: Ye'i'ēl, Mattithyah, Zabād̄, Zēbina, Yaddu and Yo'ēl, Benayah.

⁴⁴All these had taken foreign women and some of them had women who had borne children.

NEHEMYAH

NEHEMIAH

1 The **words** of Nehemyah son of Hakalyah. And it came to be in the month of Kislêw, in the twentieth year, as I was in the citadel of Shushan,
²that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with men from Yahudâh. And I asked them concerning the Yahudim who had **escaped**, who had survived the captivity and concerning Yerushalayim.
³And they said to me, “The **remnant** who are left of the captivity in the province are there in **great evil** and *reproach*. And the wall of Yerushalayim is broken down and its gates are *burned with fire*.”

⁴And it came to be, when I **heard** these **words**, that I sat down and wept and mourned for many days. And I was fasting and praying before the **Elohim** of the heavens,

⁵and I said, “I pray, אַיָּאֵל Elohim of the heavens, O **great** and **awesome** Êl, **guarding** the **covenant** and **kindness** with those who **love You** and with those **guarding Your commands**,

⁶please let **Your** ear be attentive and **Your** eyes open, to **hear** the prayer of **Your** servant which I am praying before **You now**, day and night, for the children of Yisra’êl **Your** servants and confess the *sins* of the children of Yisra’êl which we have *sinned against You*. Both my father’s house and I have *sinned*.

⁷“We have *acted very corruptly against You* and have not **guarded** the **commands**, nor the **laws**, nor the **right-rulings** which **You** commanded **Your** servant Mosheh.

⁸“Please **remember** the **word** that **You** commanded **Your** servant Mosheh, saying, ‘**If** you *trespass*, **I shall scatter** you among the peoples,

⁹but if you **shall turn back** to **Me** and guard **My commands** and do them,

though you were *cast* out to the **end** of the heavens, **I shall gather** them from there and bring them to the place which I have **chosen**, to make **My Name** dwell there.’”

¹⁰“And they are **Your** servants and **Your people**, whom **You** have redeemed by **Your great** power and by **Your strong hand**.

¹¹“O אַיָּאֵל, I pray, please let **Your** ear be attentive to the prayer of **Your** servant and to the prayer of **Your** servants who **delight to fear Your Name**. And let **Your** servant prosper this day, I pray and grant him **compassion** in the presence of this man.” For I was cupbearer to the sovereign.

2 And it came to be in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artah shashta the sovereign, when **wine** was before him, that I took the **wine** and gave it to the sovereign. And I had never been sad in his presence.

²And the sovereign said to me, “**Why** is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is none else but *sorrow of heart*.” **Then** I was **very** much *afraid*,

³and said to the sovereign, “**Let** the sovereign **live forever!** **Why** should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers’ tombs, lies *waste* and its gates are *burned with fire*?”

⁴And the sovereign said to me, “**What** are you **asking** for?” **Then** I prayed to the **Elohim** of the heavens,

⁵and said to the sovereign, “**If** it seems **good** to the sovereign and if your servant is pleasing before you, I **ask** that you send me to Yahudâh, to the city of my fathers’ tombs, so that I build it.”

⁶And the sovereign, with the sovereignty sitting beside him, said to me, “**How** long would your journey

take? And when do you return?" So it seemed **good** before the sovereign to send me. And I set him a **time**.

⁷And I said to the sovereign, "**If** it seems **good** to the sovereign, let letters be **given** to me for the governors beyond the River, that they should let me to pass through til I **come** to Yahudah,

⁸and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the sovereign's forest, that he should give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace that belongs to the House and for the city wall and for the house I would enter." And the sovereign gave them to me **according** to the **good hand** of my **Elohim** upon me.

⁹**Then** I came to the governors beyond the River and gave to them the letters of the sovereign. **Now** the sovereign had **sent** commanders of the army and horsemen with me.

¹⁰And Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiyah the Ammonite official **heard** of it and to them it was *evil*, a **great evil** that a man had **come** to **seek good** for the children of Yisra'el.

¹¹**Then** I came to Yerushalayim and was there three days.

¹²And I rose up in the night, I and a **few** men with me, but informed no one what my **Elohim** had put in my **heart** to do at Yerushalayim, nor was there any beast with me, **except** the beast on which I rode.

¹³And I went out by night through the Valley Gate to the Jackals' Fountain and the Dung Gate and examined the walls of Yerushalayim which were broken down and its gates which were *burned* with *fire*.

¹⁴And I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the Sovereign's Pool, but there was no room for the beast that was under me to pass.

¹⁵And I went up in the night by the wadi and examined the wall and turned back and entered by the Valley Gate and returned.

¹⁶And the deputy rulers *did not know* where I had gone nor what I had done. Nor had I yet informed the Yahuḏim, or

the priests, or the nobles, or the deputy rulers, or the others who did the work.

¹⁷**Then** I said to them, "You **see** the *evil* which we are in, how Yerushalayim lies *waste* and its gates are *burned* with *fire*. **come** and let us build the wall of Yerushalayim and let us no longer be a *reproach*."

¹⁸And I informed them of the **hand** of my **Elohim** which had been **good** upon me and also of the sovereign's **words** he had **spoken** to me. And they said, "**Let** us rise up and we **shall** build." So they made their hands **strong** for **good**.

¹⁹**But** when Sanballat the Horonite **heard** and Tobiyah the servant, the Ammonite and Geshem the Arab, they *mocked* us and *despised* us and said, "**What** is this you are doing? Are you **rebelling** *against* the sovereign?"

²⁰And I answered them and said to them, "The **Elohim** of the heavens, **He shall** **bless** us and let us, **His** servants, rise and build, but you have no portion or **right** or **remembrance** in Yerushalayim."

3 And Elyashib the high priest rose up with his brothers the priests and built the Sheep Gate. They set it apart and set up its **doors**, even as far as the Tower of Hanan'el they set it apart, as far as the Tower of Hanane'el.

²And next to him the men of Yeriho built. And next to them Zakkur son of Imri built.

³And the sons of Hassena'ah built the Fish Gate, who laid its beams and set up its **doors**, its bolts and bars.

⁴And next to them Meremoth son of Uriyah, son of Qots, made repairs. And next to them Meshullam son of Berekyah, son of Meshëyzaḅ'el, made repairs. And next to them Tsaḏoq son of Ba'ana made repairs.

⁵And next to them the Teqowites made repairs, but their nobles *did not* put their shoulders to the **work** of their master.

⁶And Yehoyada son of Pasëah and Meshullam son of Besoḏeyah repaired

the Old Gate. They laid its beams and set up its **doors** and its bolts and its bars.

⁷And next to them Melatyah the Gib'onite and Yadon the Mēronothite, the men of Gib'on and Mitspah, repaired the official seat of the governor beyond the River.

⁸Next to him Uzzi'ēl son of Harhayah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs. And next to him Hananyah, one of the perfumers, made repairs. And they restored Yerushalayim as far as the Broad Wall.

⁹And next to them Rephayah son of Hur, ruler of half the district of Yerushalayim, made repairs.

¹⁰And next to them Yedayah son of Harumaph made repairs, even opposite his house. And next to him Hattush son of Hashabneyah made repairs.

¹¹Malkiyah son of Harim and Hashshub son of Paḥath-Mo'ab repaired another section and the Tower of the Ovens.

¹²And next to him Shallum son of Hallohēsh ruler of half the district of Yerushalayim made repairs, he and his daughters.

¹³Hanun and the people of Zanowah repaired the Valley Gate. They built it and set up its **doors**, its bolts and bars – and a thousand cubits of the wall as far as the Dung Gate.

¹⁴And the Dung Gate was repaired by Malkiyah son of Rēkab, ruler of the district of Bēyth Hakkerem. He built it and set up its **doors**, its bolts and bars.

¹⁵And the Fountain Gate was repaired by Shallum son of Kol-Hozeh, ruler of the district of Mitspah. He built it and covered it and set up its **doors**, its bolts and bars – also the wall of the Pool of Shelah by the Sovereign's Garden, as far as the stairs going down from the City of Dawid.

¹⁶After him Neḥemyah son of Azbuq, ruler of half the district of Bēyth Tsur, made repairs as far as opposite the tombs of Dawid and to the man-made pool and as far as the house of the mighty men.

¹⁷After him the Lēwites, Reḥum son of Bani, made repairs.

Next to him repaired Hashabyah, ruler of half the district of Qe'ilah, for his district.

¹⁸After him their brothers, Bawwai son of Hēnadad, ruler of the other half of the district of Qe'ilah, made repairs.

¹⁹And next to him Ēzer son of Yēshua, the ruler of Mitspah, repaired another section before the going up to the armoury at the corner.

²⁰After him Baruk son of Zabbai eagerly repaired the other section, from the buttress to the **door** of the house of Elyashib the high priest.

²¹After him Merēmoth son of Uriyah, son of Qots, repaired another section, from the **door** of the house of Elyashib to **the end** of the house of Elyashib.

²²And after him the priests, the men of the neighbourhood, made repairs.

²³After him Binyamin and Hashshub made repairs opposite their house. After them Azaryah son of Ma'asēyah, son of Ananyah, made repairs **near** his house.

²⁴After him Binnui son of Hēnadad repaired another section, from the house of Azaryah to the angle, even as far as the corner.

²⁵Palal son of Uzai *made repairs* opposite the corner and on the tower which projects from the sovereign's upper house that was by the courtyard of the prison. After him Peḏayah son of Parosh.

²⁶**Now** the Nethinim dwelt in Ophel as far as opposite the Water Gate toward the east and on the projecting tower.

²⁷After him the Teqowites repaired another section, opposite the **great** projecting tower and as far as the wall of Ophel.

²⁸Beyond the Horse Gate the priests made repairs, each opposite his own house.

²⁹After them Tsadoq son of Immēr made repairs opposite his own house. After him Shemayah son of Shekanyah, keeper of the East Gate, made repairs.

³⁰After him Hananyah son of Shelemyah and Hanun, the sixth son of Tsalaph, repaired another section.

After him Meshullam son of Berekyah made repairs opposite his room.

³¹After him Malkiyah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs as far as the house of the Nethinim and of the merchants, opposite the Miphqad Gate and as far as the going up of the corner.

³²And between the going up of the corner to the Sheep Gate, the goldsmiths and the *merchants* made repairs.

4 And it came to be, when Sanballat **heard** that we were rebuilding the wall, that he was *wroth* and highly offended and *mocked* the Yahudim.

²And he spoke before his brothers and the army of Shomeron and said, “*What* are these feeble Yahudim doing? Are they going to restore, slaughter, **complete** it in a day? Are they going to bring to **life** the stones from the heaps of rubbish which are *burned*?”

³And Tobiyah the Ammonite was beside him and he said, “*Whatever* they build, if a fox should climb on it, he **shall break down** their stone wall.”

⁴“**Hear**, O our **Elohim**, for we have become *despised*. And **turn back** their *reproach* on their own heads and give them as a prey in a land of captivity!

⁵“And *do not* cover over their *crookedness* and *do not* let their *sin* be blotted out from before **You**, for they have *provoked* You before the builders.”

⁶So we built the wall and the entire wall was joined **together** up to the half of it, for the people had a **heart** to work.

⁷And it came to be, when Sanballat and Tobiyah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites **heard** that the walls of Yerushalayim were being repaired and the broken places began to be filled, that they became **very wroth**,

⁸and **all** of them *conspired together* to **come to fight against** Yerushalayim and to do harm to it.

⁹**But** we prayed to our **Elohim** and set a **watch against** them day and night, **because** of them.

¹⁰And Yahudah said, “The strength of the *burden* bearers is weakening and there is so much rubbish that we are *unable* to build the wall.”

¹¹And our adversaries said, “**Let** them not **know** or **see** it until we **come** into their **midst** and **shall** *slay* them and **cause** the **work** to cease.”

¹²And it came to be, when the Yahudim who dwelt **near** them came, that they said to us ten times, “From *whatever* place you turn, *they are against* us.”

¹³So I set *men* behind the lower parts of the wall, at the openings – I set the people **according** to their clans, with their **swords**, their spears and their bows.

¹⁴And I looked and rose up and said to the nobles and to the deputy rulers and to the rest of the people, “**Do not** be *afraid* of them. **remember** the **great** and **awesome**, אַיָּאֵל and **fight** for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your houses.”

¹⁵And it came to be, when our enemies **heard** that it was **known** to us and that **Elohim** had brought their counsel to *naught*, that **all** of us returned to the wall, everyone to his work.

¹⁶And it came to be, from that **time** on, that half of my servants were working in the **work**, while the other half were holding the spears, the shields and the bows and the breastplates. And the rulers were behind **all** the house of Yahudah, ¹⁷who were building on the wall and those bearing burdens, those loading, working with one **hand** in the **work** and with the other holding a weapon.

¹⁸As for the builders, each one had his *sword* girded at his side as he built. And the one who sounded the ram’s horn was beside me.

¹⁹And I said to the nobles and to the deputy rulers and to the rest of the people, “The **work** is **great** and large and we are separated far from one another on the wall.

²⁰“In *whatever* place you **hear** the sound of the ram’s horn, join us there. Our **Elohim** fights for us.”

²¹So we laboured in the **work** and half of them held the spears from the *break* of day until the stars appeared.

²²At that **time** I also said to the people, “**Let** each man and his servant spend the night in Yerushalayim and they **shall be** our **guard** by night and for the **work** by day.”

²³So neither I, nor my brothers, nor my servants, nor the men of the **guard** who **followed** me, none of us took off our garments, each one his weapon *even* at the water.

5 And there was a **great** outcry of the people and their wives *against* their brothers, the Yahudim.

²And there were some who were saying, “We, our sons and our daughters are many. **Let** us get grain for them and eat and **live**.”

³And there were some who were saying, “We have mortgaged our lands and vineyards and houses. **Let** us buy grain **because** of the *scarcity of food*.”

⁴And there were those who were saying, “We have borrowed silver for the sovereign’s tax on our lands and vineyards.

⁵“And **now** our *flesh* is like the *flesh* of our brothers, our children like their children. And **see**, we are subjecting our sons and our daughters to be slaves and some of our daughters have *already* been subjected and there is no **power** in our hands, for other men have our lands and vineyards.”

⁶And it was **very** displeasing to me when I **heard** their outcry and these **words**.

⁷And my **heart** ruled over me and I *strove* with the nobles and with the deputy rulers and said to them, “You are exacting interest, each one from his brother.” And I called a **great** assembly *against* them,

⁸and said to them, “According to our ability we have redeemed our brothers, the Yahudim, who were sold to the *gentiles*. And you even sell your brothers! Or should they be sold to us?”

And they were *silent* and **found** not a **word** to say.

⁹I also said, “**What** you are doing is not **good**. **Should** you not **walk** in the **fear** of our **Elohim** **because** of the *reproach* of the *gentiles*, our enemies?”

¹⁰“And also, I, my brothers and my servants, am lending them silver and grain.

Please, let us leave off this interest!

¹¹“Please, give back to them, even today, their lands, their vineyards, their olive trees and their houses, also the hundredth part of the silver and of the grain and of the new **wine** and of the oil, that you have taken from them.”

¹²And they said, “**Let** us give it back and **ask** no more from them, we do as you say.” **Then** I called the priests and made them swear to do **according** to this **word**.

¹³I also *shook* out the fold of my garment and said, “**Let Elohim** in this **way** *shake* out each man from his house and from his property, who *does not* do this **word**, even to be thus *shaken* out and emptied.” And **all** the assembly said, “Amēn!” and **praised** אַתָּאֵל. And the people **did** **according** to this **word**.

¹⁴Also, from the day I was **appointed** to be their governor in the land of Yahudah, from the twentieth year until the thirtysecond year of Sovereign Artahshashta, twelve years, neither I nor my brothers ate the governor’s food.

¹⁵**But** the former governors who were before me laid burdens on the people and took from them **bread** and **wine**, besides forty sheqels of silver. Their servants also *oppressed* the people, but I *did not* do so, **because** of the **fear** of **Elohim**.

¹⁶And I also applied myself to the **work** on this wall. We *did not* buy any land. And **all** my servants were gathered there for the work.

¹⁷And at my table were one hundred and fifty of the Yahudim and deputy rulers, besides those who came to us from the nations around us.

¹⁸And that which was prepared for me daily was one ox and six choice sheep

and birds were prepared for me and once **every** ten days plenty of **all** kinds of **wine**. And in spite of this I *did not seek* the governor's food, **because** the bondage was *heavy* on this people.

¹⁹O my **Elohim**, **remember** me for the **good** – **all** that I have done for this people.

6 And it came to be when Sanballat and Tobiyah and Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies **heard** that I had rebuilt the wall and that there were no breaks left in it – though at that **time** I had not set up the **doors** in the gates – ²that Sanballat and Geshem **sent** to me, saying, “**Come**, let us meet **together** in the villages in the plain of Ono.” **But** they were planning to do *evil* to me.

³So I **sent** messengers to them, saying, “I am doing a **great work** and I am *unable* to **come** down. **Why** should the **work** cease while I leave it and **come** down to you?”

⁴However, they **sent** me the **same word** four times and I answered them the **same word**.

⁵**Then** Sanballat **sent** his servant to me with an **open** letter in his **hand**, the **same word**, the fifth **time**.

⁶In it was **written**: Among the nations it has been **heard** and Gashmu is saying, that you and the Yahudim are planning to *rebel*, therefore you are rebuilding the wall and you are to be their sovereign – **according** to these **words**.

⁷And you have also **appointed** prophets to **proclaim** concerning you at Yerushalayim, saying, ‘A sovereign is in Yahudah!’ And **now** these **words** are **heard** by the sovereign. Therefore **come now** and let us take counsel together.

⁸**Then** I **sent** to him, saying, “There are no such matters done as you are saying, but you are inventing them in your own **heart**.”

⁹For **all** of them were making us *afraid*, saying,

“**Let** their hands slacken for the **work** and it not be done.” **But now**, make my

hands strong.

¹⁰And when I came to the house of Shemayah son of Delayah, son of Mehētab'ēl, who was restrained, he said, “**Let** us meet **together** in the House of **Elohim**, inside the Hēkal and let us close the **doors** of the Hēkal, for they are **coming** to *slay* you – by night they are **coming** to *slay* you.”

¹¹And I said, “**Should** a man like me flee? And who is there like me who would go into the Hēkal to **save** his **life**? I *do not* go in!”

¹²And **see**, I perceived that **Elohim** had not **sent** him, but that he spoke this prophecy *against* me **because** Tobiyah and Sanballat had hired him –

¹³**because** he was a hireling – that I should be *afraid* and do so and **shall sin** and so they could give me an *evil* name, to *reproach* me.

¹⁴My **Elohim**, **remember** Tobiyah and Sanballat, **according** to these **works** of theirs and the prophetess No'adyah and the rest of the prophets who would have made me *afraid*.

¹⁵And the wall was **completed** on the twenty-fifth of *the month* of Elul, in fifty two days.

¹⁶And it came to be, when **all** our enemies **heard** and **all** the nations around us **saw**, that they fell greatly in their own eyes and **knew** that this **work** was done by our **Elohim**.

¹⁷In those days the nobles of Yahudah also **sent** many letters to Tobiyah, while those of Tobiyah came to them.

¹⁸For many in Yahudah were sworn to him, **because** he was the son-in-law of Shekanyah son of Arah and his son Yehoḥanan had married the daughter of Meshullam son of Berekyah.

¹⁹They were also speaking about his **good deeds** before me and reported my **words** to him. Tobiyah **sent** letters to frighten me.

7 And it came to be, when the wall was rebuilt, that I set up the **doors** and the gatekeepers and the singers and the Lēwites were appointed.

²And I put my brother Hanani in charge of Yerushalayim and Hananyah the head of the palace, for he was a **trustworthy** man and **feared Elohim** more than many.

³And I said to them, “**Let** not the gates of Yerushalayim be opened until the sun is hot. And while they are standing by, let them shut the **doors** and bolt them. And **appoint** guards from among the inhabitants of Yerushalayim, each at his post and each in front of his own house.”

⁴And the city was wide on both sides and great, but the people in it were few and the houses were not rebuilt.

⁵And my **Elohim** put it into my **heart** to **gather** the nobles and the deputy rulers and the people, **in order** to be registered by genealogy. And I **found** a register of the genealogy of those who had **come** up at the beginning and I **found written** in it:

⁶These are the sons of the province who came back from the captivity of the exiles whom Nebukadnetzar the sovereign of Babel had exiled and who returned to Yerushalayim and Yahuḏah, each to his city,

⁷who came with Zerubbabel, Yēshua, Nehemyah, Azaryah, Ra’amyah, Naḥamani, Mordekai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Biḡwai, Neḥum, Ba’anah. The number of the men of the people of Yisra’ēl:

⁸sons of Parosh, two thousand one hundred and seventy-two;

⁹sons of Shephatyah, three hundred and seventy-two;

¹⁰sons of Arah, six hundred and fifty-two;

¹¹sons of Pahath-Mo’ab, of the sons of Yēshua and Yo’ab, two thousand eight hundred and eighteen;

¹²sons of Ēylam, one thousand two hundred and fifty-four;

¹³sons of Zattu, eight hundred and forty-five;

¹⁴sons of Zakkai, seven hundred and sixty;

¹⁵sons of Binnui, six hundred and forty-eight;

¹⁶sons of Bēbai, six hundred and twenty-eight;

¹⁷sons of Azgad, two thousand three hundred and twenty-two;

¹⁸sons of Aḏoniqam, six hundred and sixty-seven;

¹⁹sons of Biḡwai, two thousand and sixty-seven;

²⁰sons of Aḏin, six hundred and fifty-five;

²¹sons of Aṭer of Hizqiyah, ninety-eight;

²²sons of Hashum, three hundred and twenty-eight;

²³sons of Bētsai, three hundred and twenty-four;

²⁴sons of Ḥariph, one hundred and twelve;

²⁵sons of Giḇ’on, ninety-five;

²⁶men of Bēyth Lehem and Netophah, one hundred and eighty-eight;

²⁷men of Anathoth, one hundred and twenty-eight;

²⁸men of Bēyth Azmaweth, forty-two;

²⁹men of Qiryath Ye’arim, Kephirah and Be’ēroth, seven hundred and forty-three;

³⁰men of Ramah and Geḇa, six hundred and twenty-one;

³¹men of Miḡmas, one hundred and twenty-two;

³²men of Bēyth Ēl and Ai, one hundred and twenty-three;

³³men of the other Neḇo, fifty-two;

³⁴sons of the other Ēylam, one thousand two hundred and fifty-four;

³⁵sons of Ḥarim, three hundred and twenty;

³⁶sons of Yeriḥo, three hundred and forty-five;

³⁷sons of Loḏ, Ḥaḏid and Ono, seven hundred and twenty-one;

³⁸sons of Sena’ah, three thousand nine hundred and thirty.

³⁹The priests: sons of Yeḏayah, of the house of Yēshua, nine hundred and seventy-three;

⁴⁰sons of Immēr, one thousand and fifty-two;

⁴¹sons of Pashhur, one thousand two hundred and forty-seven;

⁴²sons of Ḥarim, one thousand and

seventeen.

⁴³The Lēwites: sons of Yēshua, of Qadmi'ēl, of the sons of Hoḏewah, seventy-four.

⁴⁴The singers: sons of Asaph, one hundred and forty-eight.

⁴⁵The gatekeepers: sons of Shallum, sons of Atēr, sons of Talmon, sons of Aqquḇ, sons of Hatita, sons of Shoḇai, one hundred and thirty-eight.

⁴⁶The Nethinim: sons of Tsiḥa, sons of Ḥasupha, sons of Tabba'oth,

⁴⁷sons of Qēyros, sons of Si'a, sons of Paḏon,

⁴⁸sons of Lebanah, sons of Haḡaba, sons of Salmāi,

⁴⁹sons of Hanan, sons of Giddēl, sons of Gaḥar,

⁵⁰sons of Re'ayah, sons of Retsin, sons of Neqoḏa,

⁵¹sons of Gazzam, sons of Uzza, sons of Pasēah,

⁵²sons of Bēsai, sons of Me'unim, sons of Nephishesim,

⁵³sons of Baqbuq, sons of Ḥaḡupha, sons of Harhur,

⁵⁴sons of Batslith, sons of Meḥiḏa, sons of Ḥarsha,

⁵⁵sons of Barqos, sons of Sisera, sons of Temah,

⁵⁶sons of Netsiyah and sons of Ḥatipha.

⁵⁷The sons of Shelomoh's servants: sons of Sotai, sons of Sophereth, sons of Periḏa,

⁵⁸sons of Ya'ala, sons of Darqon, sons of Giddēl,

⁵⁹sons of Shephatyah, sons of Hattil, sons of Pokeneth of Tsebayim, sons of Amon.

⁶⁰All the Nethinim and the sons of Shelomoh's servants, were three hundred and ninety-two.

⁶¹And these were the ones who came up from Tēl Melah, Tēl Ḥarsha, Kerub, Addon and Immēr, but they were *unable* to **show** their father's house and their seed, whether they were of Yisra'ēl:

⁶²sons of Delayah, sons of Toḇiyah, sons of Neqoḏa, six hundred and

forty-two.

⁶³And of the priests: sons of Habayah, sons of Qots, sons of Barzillai, who took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gil'adite and was called by their name.

⁶⁴These sought their register *among* those who were counted by genealogy, but it was not found, so they were *barred* from the priesthood as *defiled*.

⁶⁵And the governor said to them that they should not eat of the most set-apart gifts until a priest stood up with the Urim and Tummim.

⁶⁶All the assembly **together** was fortytwo thousand three hundred and sixty,

⁶⁷besides their male and female servants, these were seven thousand three hundred and thirty-seven. And they had two hundred and forty-five men and women singers.

⁶⁸Their horses were seven hundred and thirty-six, their mules two hundred and forty-five,

⁶⁹camels four hundred and thirty-five, donkeys six thousand seven hundred and twenty.

⁷⁰And some of the heads of the fathers' *houses* contributed to the work. The governor gave to the treasury one thousand gold drachmas, fifty basins and five hundred and thirty priestly garments.

⁷¹Some of the heads of the fathers' *houses* gave to the treasury of the **work** twenty thousand gold drachmas and two thousand two hundred silver minas.

⁷²And the rest of the people gave twenty thousand gold drachmas, two thousand silver minas and sixty-seven priestly garments.

⁷³So the priests and the Lēwites and the gatekeepers and the singers and some of the people and the Nethinim and **all** Yisra'ēl dwelt in their cities.

8

And when the seventh month came,

the children of Yisra'el were in their cities. And **all** the people gathered **together as one man** in the **open** space that was in front of the Water Gate. And they spoke to Ezra the scribe to bring the **Book of the Torah** of Mosheh, which **אָיָאָל** had **commanded** Yisra'el.

²And Ezra the priest brought the **Torah** before the assembly of both men and women and **all** who could **hear with understanding**, on the **first day of the seventh** month.

³And he **read** from it in the **open** space in front of the Water Gate from morning until midday, before the men and women and those who could **understand**. And the **ears of all** the people **listened** to the **Book of the Torah**.

⁴And Ezra the scribe stood on a platform of **wood** which they had made for the purpose. And beside him on his **right** stood Mattithyah and Shema and Anayah and Uriyah and Hilqiyah and Ma'asēyah. And on his left *stood* Pedayah and Misha'el and Malkiyah and Hashum and Ḥashbaddanah, Zeḵaryah, Meshullam.

⁵And Ezra opened the **book** in the **sight of all** the people, for **he was above all** the people. And when he opened it, **all** the people stood up.

⁶And Ezra **blessed אָיָאָל**, the **great Elohim**. **Then all** the people answered, "Amēn, Amēn!" while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshipped **אָיָאָל** with faces to the ground.

⁷And Yēshua and Bani and Shērēbyah, Yamin, Aqqub, Shabbethai, Hoḏiyāh, Ma'asēyah, Qelita, Azaryah, Yozabād, Hanan, Pelayah and the Lēwites, **caused the people to understand the Torah** while the people were in their place.

⁸And they **read in the Book of the Torah of Elohim, translating to give the sense and caused them to understand the reading**.

⁹And Nehemyah, who was the governor and Ezra the priest, the scribe and the Lēwites who **taught** the people said to **all** the people, "This day is

set-apart to **אָיָאָל** your **Elohim**. **Do not mourn** or weep." For **all** the people wept when they **heard the words of the Torah**.

¹⁰**Then** he said to them, "Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet and send portions to those for whom none is prepared. For this day is set-apart to our **אָיָאָל**. **Do not be sad**, for the **joy of אָיָאָל** is your strength."

¹¹And the Lēwites were silencing **all** the people, saying, "Hush, for the day is set-apart, *do not* be sad."

¹²And **all** the people went to eat and to drink and to send portions and make a **great** rejoicing, **because** they understood the **words** that were made **known** to them.

¹³And on the second day the heads of the fathers' *houses* of **all** the people, with the priests and Lēwites, were gathered to Ezra the scribe, in **order to study the words of the Torah**.

¹⁴And they **found written** in the **Torah**, which **אָיָאָל** had **commanded** by Mosheh, that the children of Yisra'el should dwell in booths in the **festival of the seventh** month,

¹⁵and that they should **announce and proclaim** in **all** their cities and in Yerushalayim, saying, "Go out to the mountain and bring olive branches, branches of oil trees and myrtle branches and palm branches and branches of leafy trees, to make booths, as it is **written**."

¹⁶So the people went out and brought them and made themselves booths, each one on the roof of his house and in their courtyards and in the courtyards of the House of **Elohim** and in the **open** space of the Water Gate and in the **open** space of the Gate of Ephrayim.

¹⁷And the entire assembly of those who had **come back** from the captivity made booths and sat under the booths, for since the days of Yeshua son of Nun until that day the children of Yisra'el had not done so. And there was **very great** rejoicing.

¹⁸And day by day, from the **first** day until the **last** day, he **read** from the

Book of the Torah of Elohim. And they performed the **festival** seven days. And on the eighth day there was an **assembly, according to the right-ruling.**

9 And on the twenty-fourth **day of** this month the children of Yisra'el were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth and with earth on them.

²And the descendants of Yisra'el separated themselves from **all** foreigners and stood and confessed *their sins* and the *crookednesses* of their fathers,

³and they stood up in their place and **read** from the **Book of the Torah of אַיָּאָל** their **Elohim** a fourth part of the day and a fourth part they were confessing and worshipping אַיָּאָל their **Elohim**.

⁴**Then** Yēshua and Bani, Qadmi'el, Sheḅanyah, Bunni, Shērēbyah, Bani, Kenani stood on the stairs of the Lēwites and *cried out* with a loud **voice** to אַיָּאָל their **Elohim**.

⁵**Then** the Lēwites, Yēshua and Qadmi'el, Bani, Hashabneyah, Shērēbyah, Hodiyyah, Sheḅanyah, Pethahyah, said, “Rise, **bless אַיָּאָל** your **Elohim forever** and ever! And let them **bless Your** esteemed **Name**, which is exalted above **all blessing** and praise!

⁶**You are אַיָּאָל, You alone. You** have made the heavens, the heavens of the heavens, with **all** their host, the earth and **all** that are on it, the seas and **all** that are in them and **You** give **life** to them **all**. And the host of the heavens are bowing themselves to **You**.

⁷**You are אַיָּאָל, the Elohim** who **chose** Abram and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldees and gave him the name of Abraham,

⁸and **found his heart trustworthy** before **You** and made a **covenant** with him to give the land of the Kena'anites, the Hittites, the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Yebusites and the Girgashites – to give it to his seed.

And **You** have **established Your words, for You are righteous,**

⁹and **saw** the *affliction* of our fathers in

Mitsrayim and **heard** their cry by the Sea of Reeds,

¹⁰and gave **signs and wonders against** Pharaoh and **against** all his servants and **against** all the people of his land. For **You** **knew** that they *acted proudly against* them. And **You** made a **Name** for **Yourself**, as it is this day.

¹¹And **You** split the sea before them and they passed over into the **midst** of the sea on the dry land. And their pursuers **You** threw into the deep as a stone into the mighty waters.

¹²And **You** led them by day with a cloudy column and by night with a column of *fire*, to give them **light** in the **way** they were to go.

¹³And **You** came down on Mount Sinai and spoke with them from the heavens and gave them **straight right-rulings** and **Torah of truth, good laws and commands**.

¹⁴And **You** made **known** to them **Your** set-apart **Sabbath** and **You** **commanded** them **commands and laws and Torot**, by the **hand** of Mosheh **Your** servant.

¹⁵And **You** gave them **bread** from the heavens for their hunger and brought them water out of the rock for their thirst and said to them to go in to **possess** the land which **You** had sworn to give them.

¹⁶**But** they and our fathers *acted proudly and hardened* their necks and **did not obey Your commands**.

¹⁷And they *refused to obey* and they **remembered not Your wonders** that **You** did among them and *hardened* their necks and in their *rebellion* they **appointed** a leader to **return** to their bondage. **But You** are a forgiving Eloah, showing **favour and compassionate**, patient and of **great kindness** and *did not forsake* them.

¹⁸Even when they made a *moulded calf* for themselves and said, ‘This is your *mighty one* that brought you up out of Mitsrayim,’ and worked **great blasphemies**,

¹⁹yet **You, in Your great compassion** did not *forsake* them in the wilderness. The column of the cloud *did not* turn away

from them by day to lead them on the **way**, nor the column of *fire* by night to give them **light** in the **way** they were to go.

^{20c}**You** also gave **Your good Spirit** to **instruct** them and *did not* withhold **Your** manna from their **mouth** and gave them water for their thirst.

^{21c}And for forty years **You** sustained them in the wilderness – they lacked not. Their garments *did not* wear out and their feet *did not* swell.

^{22c}And **You** gave them reigns and peoples and apportioned them their **lot**. So they took possession of the land of Sihon and the land of the sovereign of Heshbon and the land of Oğ sovereign of Bashan.

^{23c}And **You** increased their children as the stars of the heavens and brought them into the land which **You** had said to their fathers to go in and possess.

^{24c}So the sons went in and possessed the land and **You** humbled before them the people of the land, the Kena'anites and gave them into their hands, with their sovereigns and the people of the land, to do with them as they desired.

^{25c}And they captured walled cities and a rich land and possessed houses filled with **all good**, cisterns already dug, vineyards and olive-trees and **fruit** trees, in plenty. So they ate and were **satisfied** and grew fat and **delighted** themselves in **Your great goodness**.

^{26c}**But** they became *disobedient* and *rebelled against* **You** and *cast* **Your Torah** behind their backs. And they slew **Your** prophets who had **warned** them, to bring them back to **Yourself**. And they worked **great blasphemies**.

^{27c}Therefore **You** gave them into the **hand** of their enemies, who *distressed* them. And in the **time** of their *distress*, when they cried to **You**, **You heard** from the **heavens**. And **according to Your great compassion** **You** gave them saviours who **saved** them from the **hand** of their enemies.

^{28c}**But** after they had rest, they turned back to do *evil* before **You**. **Then You** left them in the **hand** of their enemies,

so that they ruled over them. **But** when they turned back and *cried out* to **You**, **You heard** from the heavens and **delivered** them **according to Your compassion**, many times, ²⁹and **warned** them, to bring them back to **Your Torah**. **But** they *acted proudly* and *did not obey* **Your commands** and *sinned against* **Your right-rulings**, ‘which if a man does, he *shall live* by them.’ And they gave the *rebellious* shoulder and *hardened* their necks and *would not hear*.

^{30c}And **You** had patience with them for many years and did **warn** them by **Your Spirit**, by the **hand** of **Your prophets**, yet they *would not* give ear. Therefore **You** gave them into the **hand** of the peoples of the lands.

^{31c}**But** in **Your great compassion** **You** *did not* make an end of them nor *forsake* them, for **You** are an **Ēl** of **favour** and **compassion**.

^{32c}And **now**, our **Elohim**, the great, the mighty and **awesome** **Ēl**, **guarding** the **covenant** and the **kindness**, let not **all** the *trouble* that has **come** upon us, our sovereigns and our heads, our priests and our **prophets**, our fathers and on **all Your people**, from the days of the sovereigns of Ashshur until this day, seem *little* before **You**.

^{33c}And in **all** that has **come** upon us **You** are **righteous**, for **You** have done **truth**, but we have done *wrong*.

^{34c}And our sovereigns, our rulers, our priests and our fathers, have not done **Your Torah**, nor heeded **Your commands** and **Your witnesses**, with which **You** witnessed *against* them.

^{35c}For they have not **served** **You** in their reign, or in **Your great goodness** that **You** gave them, or in the large and rich land which **You** set before them – neither turned back from their *evil deeds*.

^{36c}**See**, we are servants today! And the land that **You** gave to our fathers, to eat its **fruit** and the **good** of it, **see**, we are servants in it!

^{37c}And its rich yield goes to the sovereigns **You** have set over us,

because of our *sins*. And they **rule** over our bodies and our livestock at their pleasure and we are in **great distress**.

^{38c}And **because** of **all** this, we are making a **trustworthy** pledge and **write** it. And our rulers, our Lēwites, our priests set their **seal** on it.”

10 And those who set their **seal** were: Neḥemyah the governor, son of Hākalyah and Tsidqiyah,

²Serayah, Azaryah, Yirmeyah,

³Pashhur, Amaryah, Malkiyah,

⁴Hattush, Sheḅanyah, Malluḳ,

⁵Harim, Merēmoth, Oḅadyah,

⁶Dani’ēl, Ginnethon, Baruḳ,

⁷Meshullam, Aḅiyah, Miyamin,

⁸Ma’azyah, Bilgai and Shemayah.

These were the priests.

⁹And the Lēwites: both Yēshua son of Atsanyah, Binnui of the sons of Hēnadaḳ, Qadmi’ēl.

¹⁰And their brothers: Sheḅanyah, Hoḏiyah, Qelita, Pelayah, Ḥanan,

¹¹Miḳa, Rehob, Ḥashabyah,

¹²Zakkur, Sherēbyah, Sheḅanyah,

¹³Hoḏiyah, Bani and Beninu.

¹⁴The leaders of the people: Parosh, Paḥath-Mo’ab, Ēylam, Zattu, Bani,

¹⁵Bunni, Azgad, Bēḅai,

¹⁶Aḏoniyah, Biḡwai, Aḏin,

¹⁷Atēr, Hizqiyah, Azzur,

¹⁸Hoḏiyah, Ḥashum, Bētsai,

¹⁹Hariph, Anathoth, Nēḅai,

²⁰Maḡpi’ash, Meshullam, Hēzir,

²¹Meshēyzab’ēl, Tsaḏoq, Yaddua,

²²Pelatyah, Ḥanan, Anayah,

²³Hoshēa, Ḥananyah, Ḥashshub,

²⁴Halloḥēsh, Pilḥa, Shobēq,

²⁵Reḥum, Ḥashabnah, Ma’asēyah,

²⁶Aḅiyah, Ḥanan, Anan,

²⁷Malluḳ, Harim, Ba’anah.

²⁸And the rest of the people, the priests, the Lēwites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the Nethinim and **all** those who had separated themselves from the peoples of the lands unto the **Torah** of

Elohim, their wives, their sons and their daughters, **all** who had **knowledge** and **understanding**,

²⁹were joining with their brothers, their nobles and were *entering* into a *curse* and into an **oath** to **walk** in the **Torah** of **Elohim**, which was **given** by Mosheh the servant of **Elohim** and to **guard** and do **all the commands** of אַיָּאֵל our **Master** and **His right-rulings** and **His laws**,

³⁰and that we *would not* give our daughters as wives to the peoples of the land, nor take their daughters for our sons,

³¹and that if the peoples of the land bring wares or any grain to sell on the **Sabbath** day, we *would not* buy it from them on the **Sabbath**, or on a set-apart day and we would forego the seventh year and the interest of **every hand**.

³²And we imposed **commands** on ourselves, to give from ourselves yearly one-third of a sheqel for the service of the House of our **Elohim**:

³³for the showbread and for the continual grain offering and for the continual burnt offering of the **Sabbaths**, of the **New Moons**, for the **appointed times** and for the set-apart offerings and for the *sin* offerings to make atonement for Yisra’ēl and **all the work** of the House of our **Elohim**.

³⁴And we *cast lots* among the priests and the Lēwites and the people, for bringing the *wood* offering into the House of our **Elohim**, **according** to our fathers’ houses, at the **appointed times** year by year, to burn on the altar of אַיָּאֵל our **Elohim** as it is **written** in the **Torah**,

³⁵and to bring the **first-fruits** of our soil and the **first-fruits** of **all fruit** of **all trees**, year by year, to the House of אַיָּאֵל,

³⁶also to bring the first-born of our sons and our livestock, as it is **written** in the **Torah** and the firstlings of our herds and our flocks, to the House of our **Elohim**, to the priests attending in the House of our **Elohim**.

³⁷And that we should bring the **first-fruits** of our dough and our contributions and the **fruit** from **all** kinds of trees, of **new wine** and of oil, to the priests, to the storerooms of the House of our **Elohim**; and the tithes of our land to the Lēwites, for the Lēwites should receive the tithes in **all** our rural towns.

³⁸And the priest, son of Aharon, **shall be** with the Lēwites when the Lēwites receive tithes and the Lēwites bring up a tenth of the tithes to the House of our **Elohim**, to the rooms of the storehouse.

³⁹For the children of Yisra'ēl and the children of Lēwi bring the offering of the grain, of the **new wine** and the oil, to the storerooms where the vessels of the set-apart place are, where the priests who attend and the gatekeepers and the singers are and we should not neglect the House of our **Elohim**.

11 Now the rulers of the people dwelt at Yerushalayim and the rest of the people *cast lots* to bring one out of ten to dwell in Yerushalayim, the set-apart city and nine-tenths were to dwell in other cities.

²And the people **blessed all** the men who volunteered to dwell at Yerushalayim.

³And these are the heads of the province who dwelt in Yerushalayim, but in the cities of Yahudāh everyone dwelt in his own possession in their cities – Yisra'ēl, the priests and the Lēwites and the Nethinim and the sons of Shelomoh's servants.

⁴And in Yerushalayim dwelt certain of the children of Yahudāh and of the children of Binyamin. Of the children of Yahudāh: Athayah son of Uzziyah, son of Zekaryah, son of Amaryah, son of Shephatyah, son of Mahalal'ēl, of the children of Perets;

⁵and Ma'asēyah son of Baruk, son of Kol-Hozeh, son of Hāzayah, son of Adayah, son of Yoyarib, son of

Zekaryah, son of Shiloni.

⁶All the sons of Perets who dwelt at Yerushalayim were four hundred and sixty-eight brave men.

⁷And these are the sons of Binyamin: Sallu son of Meshullam, son of Yow'ēd, son of Peḏayah, son of Qolayah, son of Ma'asēyah, son of Ithi'ēl, son of Yeshayah;

⁸and after him Gabbai, Sallai, nine hundred and twenty-eight.

⁹And Yo'ēl son of Zikri was their overseer and Yahudāh son of Senuah was second over the city.

¹⁰Of the priests: Yeḏayah son of Yoyarib, Yakīn,

¹¹Serayah son of Hilqiyah, son of Meshullam, son of Tsadoq, son of Merayoth, son of Aḥitub, was the leader of the House of **Elohim**.

¹²And their brothers who did the **work** of the House were eight hundred and twenty-two; and Adayah son of Yeroḥam, son of Pelalyah, son of Amtsi, son of Zekaryah, son of Pashhur, son of Malkiyah,

¹³and his brothers, heads of the fathers' houses, were two hundred and forty-two; and Amashai son of Azar'ēl, son of Ahzai, son of Meshillēmoth, son of Immēr,

¹⁴and their brothers, mighty brave ones, were one hundred and twenty-eight. And their overseer was Zabdi'ēl, son of the **great** ones.

¹⁵Also of the Lēwites: Shemayah son of Hashshub, son of Azriqam, son of Hashabyah, son of Bunni;

¹⁶and Shabbethai and Yozabad, of the heads of the Lēwites, over the outside **work** of the House of **Elohim**;

¹⁷and Mattanyah son of Mika, son of Zabdi, son of Asaph, who was the leader who began the **thanksgiving** with prayer and Baqbuqyah the second among his brothers and Abda son of Shammua, son of Galal, son of Yeduthun.

¹⁸All the Lēwites in the set-apart city were two hundred and eighty-four.

¹⁹And the gatekeepers, Aqqub, Talmon and their brothers keeping **guard** at the

gates, were one hundred and seventy-two.

²⁰And the rest of Yisra'el, of the priests, Lēwites, were in **all** the cities of Yahudāh, each one in his inheritance.

²¹**But** the Nethinim dwelt in Ophel. And Tsiḥa and Gishpa were over the Nethinim.

²²And the overseer of the Lēwites at Yerushalayim was Uzzi son of Bani, son of Hashabyah, son of Mattanyah, son of Mikā. Of the sons of Asaph, the singers were over the **work** of the House of **Elohim**,

²³for the sovereign's **command** was upon them – and support for the singers, a matter day by day.

²⁴And Pethaḥyah son of Meshēyzaḅ'el, of the children of Zeraḥ son of Yahudāh, was the sovereign's deputy in **all** matters concerning the people.

²⁵And at the villages with their fields, some of the children of Yahudāh dwelt in Qiryath Arba and its villages and in Dibon and its villages and in Yeqaḅtse'el and its villages,

²⁶and in Yēshua and in Molaḏah and in Bēyth Pelet,

²⁷and in Hatsuṣar Shu'al and in Be'ērsheba and its villages,

²⁸and in Tsiqlaḡ and in Meḵonah and its villages,

²⁹and in Ēn Rimmon and in Tsorah and in Yarmuth,

³⁰Zanowah, Aḏullam and their villages; in Laḳish and its fields; in Azēqaḥ and its villages. So they dwelt from Be'ērsheba to the Valley of Hinnom.

³¹And the children of Binyamin: from Geḅa, Miḳmash and Ayyah and Bēyth Ēl and their villages;

³²Anathoth, Nob, Ananyah;

³³Hatsuṣar, Ramah, Gittayim;

³⁴Hadid, Tsebo'im, Neḅallat;

³⁵Loḏ and Ono and the Valley of Craftsmen.

³⁶And of the Lēwites, the divisions of Yahudāh were for Binyamin.

12 And these were the priests and the Lēwites who came up with Zerubbabel son of She'alti'el and Yēshua: Serayah, Yirmeyah, Ezra, ²Amaryah, Malluḳ, Ḥattush, ³Sheḳanyah, Reḥum, Merēmoth, ⁴Iddo, Ginnethoi, Aḅiyah, ⁵Miyamin, Ma'adyah, Bilgah, ⁶Shemayah and Yoyarib, Yeḏayah, ⁷Sallu, Amoq, Hilqiyah and Yeḏayah.

These were the heads of the priests and their brothers in the days of Yēshua.

⁸And the Lēwites: Yēshua, Binnui, Qadmi'el, Shērēḅyah, Yahudāh, Mattanyah over the **thanksgiving**, he and his brothers.

⁹And Baqbuqyah and Unni, their brothers, were opposite them for **guard** duties.

¹⁰And Yēshua brought forth Yoyaḳim, and Yoyaḳim brought forth Elyashiḅ and Elyashiḅ brought forth Yoyaḏa,

¹¹and Yoyaḏa brought forth Yonathan and Yonathan brought forth Yaddua.

¹²And in the days of Yoyaḳim, the priests, the heads of the fathers' houses were: of Serayah, Merayah; of Yirmeyah, Ḥananyah;

¹³of Ezra, Meshullam; of Amaryah, Yehoḥanan;

¹⁴of Meliḳu, Yonathan; of Sheḅanyah, Yosēph;

¹⁵of Ḥarim, Adna; of Merayoth, Ḥelqai;

¹⁶of Iddo, Zeḳaryah; of Ginnethon, Meshullam;

¹⁷of Aḅiyah, Zikri, son of Minyamin; of Mo'adyah, Piltai;

¹⁸of Bilgah, Shammua; of Shemayah, Yehonathan;

¹⁹of Yoyarib, Mattenai; of Yeḏayah, Uzzi;

²⁰of Sallai, Qallai; of Amoq, Ēḅer;

²¹of Hilqiyah, Hashabyah. And of Yeḏayah, Nethanē'el.

²²The Lēwites and priests in the days of Elyashiḅ, Yoyaḏa, Yohanān and Yaddua, were recorded heads of their fathers'

houses, also the priests in the **reign** of Dareyawesh the Persian.

²³The sons of Lēwi, the heads of the fathers' *houses* until the days of Yoḥanan son of Elyashib, were **written** in the **book** of the annals.

²⁴And the heads of the Lēwites were Ḥashabyah, Shērēbyah and Yēshua son of Qadmi'ēl, with their brothers opposite them, to **praise**, to give **thanks**, **watch** opposite **watch**, according to the **command** of Dawiḍ the man of **Elohim**.

²⁵Mattanyah and Baqbuqyah, Obadyah, Meshullam, Talmon, Aqqub were gatekeepers **guarding** at the storerooms of the gates.

²⁶These were in the days of Yoyaqim son of Yēshua, son of Yotsadaq and in the days of Neḥemyah the governor and of Ezra the priest, the scribe.

²⁷And at the **dedication** of the wall of Yerushalayim they sought out the Lēwites in **all** their places, to bring them to Yerushalayim to perform the **dedication** with **gladness** and with **thanksgivings** and with **singing**, cymbals, harps and lyres.

²⁸And the sons of the singers gathered **together** from the countryside around Yerushalayim, from the villages of the Netophathites,

²⁹and from the house of Gilgal and from the fields of Geba and Azmaweth – for the singers had built themselves villages **all** around Yerushalayim.

³⁰And the priests and Lēwites **cleansed** themselves and they **cleansed** the people and the gates and the wall.

³¹And I brought the rulers of Yahudaḥ up on the wall and **appointed** two large **thanksgiving** choirs, to go to the **right** on the wall toward the Dung Gate,

³²and after them went Hoshayah and half of the rulers of Yahudaḥ,

³³then Azaryah, Ezra and Meshullam,

³⁴Yahudaḥ and Binyamin and Shemayah and Yirmeyah,

³⁵and of the sons of the priests with trumpets: Zekaryah son of Yonathan, son of Shemayah, son of Mattanyah, son of Mikayah, son of Zakkur, son of Asaph,

³⁶and his brothers Shemayah and Azar'ēl, Milalai, Gilalai, Ma'ai, Nethanē'1 and Yahudaḥ, Hanani with instruments of songs of Dawiḍ the man of **Elohim**, with Ezra the scribe before them.

³⁷And at the Fountain Gate and **straight** ahead of them, they went up the stairs of the City of Dawiḍ, on the stairway of the wall, beyond the house of Dawiḍ, as far as the Water Gate eastward.

³⁸And the other **thanksgiving** choir went over *against* them and I behind them with half of the people on the wall, going past the Tower of the Ovens as far as the Broad Wall,

³⁹and above the Gate of Ephrayim and above the Old Gate and above the Fish Gate and the Tower of Hanan'ēl and the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Sheep Gate. And they stood still at the Gate of the Prison.

⁴⁰**Then** the two **thanksgiving** choirs took their **stand** in the House of **Elohim** and I and half of the deputy rulers with me,

⁴¹and the priests, Elyaqim, Ma'asēyah, Minyamin, Mikayah, Elyo'ēynai, Zekaryah and Hananyah, with trumpets,

⁴²and Ma'asēyah and Shemayah and El'azar and Uzzi and Yehoḥanan and Malkiyah and Ēylam and Ēzer. And the singers sang aloud, with Yizrahyah in charge.

⁴³And on that day they brought **great offerings** and **rejoiced**, for **Elohim** had made them **rejoice** with **great joy**. And the **women** and the **children** also **rejoiced**, so that the **joy** of Yerushalayim was **heard** far away.

⁴⁴And on that day some were **appointed** over the rooms for the stores, for the contributions, for the **first-fruits** and for tithes, to **gather** into them from the fields of the cities the portions **required** by the **Torah** for the priests and for the Lēwites. For Yahudaḥ rejoiced over the priests and the Lēwites who stood up.

⁴⁵Both the singers and the gatekeepers **guarded** the charge of their **Elohim** and

the charge of the cleansing, **according** to the **command** of Dawid and Shelomoh his son.

⁴⁶For in the days of Dawid and Asaph of old there were chiefs of the singers and songs of **praise** and **thanksgiving** to **Elohim**.

⁴⁷And in the days of Zerubbabel and in the days of Nehemiah **all Yisra'el** gave the portions for the singers and the gatekeepers, a portion for each day. And they set-apart what was for the Lēwites and the Lēwites set-apart what was for the children of Aharon.

13 On that day was **read** from the **Book of Mosheh** in the **hearing** of the people and in it was **found written** that an Ammonite and Mo'abite should **not come** into the assembly of **Elohim forever**,

²**because** they had not met the children of Yisra'el with **bread** and water and hired Bil'am *against* them to *curse* them, although our **Elohim** turned the *curse* into a **blessing**.

³And it came to be, when they had **heard** the **Torah**, that they separated **all** the mixed multitude from Yisra'el.

⁴And before this, Elyashib the priest, having **authority** over the storerooms of the House of our **Elohim**, was a relative of Tobiyah,

⁵and he had prepared for him a large room, where previously they had stored the grain offerings, the frankincense and the utensils and the tithes of grain, the **new wine** and the oil, which were **commanded to be given** to the Lēwites and the singers and the gatekeepers and the contributions for the priests.

⁶**But** in **all** this I was not in Yerushalayim, for in the thirty-second year of Artahshashta sovereign of Babel I came to the sovereign. And after some days I asked leave from the sovereign **to return**,

⁷and I came to Yerushalayim and **learned** of the *evil* which Elyashib had done for Tobiyah, in preparing a room

for him in the courts of the House of **Elohim**.

⁸And it was **very** displeasing to me. Therefore I threw **all** the household goods of Tobiyah out of the room,

⁹and I **commanded** them to **cleanse** the rooms. And I put back into them the utensils of the House of **Elohim**, with the grain offering and the frankincense.

¹⁰And I **learned** that the portions for the Lēwites had not been **given** them, for each of the Lēwites and the singers who did the **work** had gone back to his field.

¹¹**Then** I contended with the deputy rulers and said, "**Why is the House of Elohim forsaken?**" And I gathered them **together** and set them in their place.

¹²And **all** Yahudah brought the tithe of the grain and the **new wine** and the oil to the storehouse.

¹³And I **appointed** as treasurers over the storehouse Shelemyah the priest and Tsaḏoq the scribe and Peḏayah of the Lēwites. And next to them was Hanan son of Zakkur, son of Mattanyah. For they were reckoned **trustworthy** and it was on them to distribute to their brothers.

¹⁴**Remember** me, O my **Elohim**, concerning this and *do not* wipe out my **kind deeds** that I have done for the House of my **Elohim** and for its charges!

¹⁵In those days I **saw** in Yahudah those *treading wine* presses on the **Sabbath** and *bringing* in sheaves and *loading* donkeys with **wine**, grapes and figs and **all** kinds of **burdens**, which they *brought* into Yerushalayim on the **Sabbath day**. So I **warned** them on the day they sold food.

¹⁶And men of Tsor dwelt there, bringing in **fish** and **all** kinds of **goods** and sold them on the **Sabbath** to the children of Yahudah and in Yerushalayim.

¹⁷**Then** I contended with the nobles of Yahudah and said to them,

"**What evil matter** is this that you are doing, **profaning** the **Sabbath day**?"

¹⁸"Did not your fathers do the **same** so that our **Elohim** brought **all** this *evil* on us and on this city? Yet you bring **added**

wrath on Yisra'el by **profaning** the **Sabbath**.”

¹⁹And it came to be, at the gates of Yerushalayim, as it began to be dark before the **Sabbath**, that I **commanded** the **gates** to be **shut** and **commanded** that they should not be opened til after the **Sabbath**. And I stationed some of my servants at the gates, so that no burdens would be brought in on the **Sabbath day**.

²⁰And the **merchants** and **sellers** of **all** kinds of wares spent the night outside Yerushalayim once or twice,

²¹and I **warned** **them** and said to **them**, “**Why** do you spend the night around the wall? **If** you do so again, I lay hands on you!” From that **time** on they came no more on the **Sabbath**.

²²And I **commanded** the Lēwites that they should **cleanse** themselves and they should **come**, **guarding** the **gates**, to set-apart the **Sabbath day**. **remember me**, O my **Elohim**, **concerning this also** and **pardon me according to the greatness of Your kindness!**

²³In those days I also **saw** Yahudim who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, Mo'ab.

²⁴And half of their children spoke the **language** of Ashdod and **could not speak** the **language** of Yahudah, but spoke **according** to the **language** of one or the other people.

²⁵**Then I contended** with them and **cursed** them and **smote** some of them and **pulled** out their hair and made them swear by **Elohim**, saying, “You **do not** give your daughters as wives to their sons, nor take their daughters for your sons or yourselves.

²⁶“Did not Shelomoh sovereign of Yisra'el **sin** **because** of **them**? Among the many nations there was no sovereign like him, who was beloved of his **Elohim** and **Elohim** made him sovereign over **all** Yisra'el. Even him **foreign women caused** to **sin**.

²⁷“**Should** we then **hear** of your doing

all this great evil, trespassing against our **Elohim** by marrying **foreign wives**?”

²⁸And one of the sons of Yoyada, son of Elyashib the high priest, was a son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite. And I drove him from me.

²⁹**Remember them**, O my **Elohim**, **because** **they** have **defiled** the priesthood and the **covenant** of the priesthood and of the Lēwites.

³⁰Thus I **cleansed** them from **all** that is **foreign**. And I **appointed** duties to the priests and the Lēwites, each in his task,

³¹and for the **wood** offering and the firstfruits at **appointed times**. **remember me, O my Elohim, for good!**

1 DIBRE haYAMIM

1 CHRONICLES (1 ANNALS)

1 **A**dam, Shēth, Enosh,
²Qēnan, Mahalal'ēl, Yered,
³Hanoq, Methushelah, Lemek,
⁴Noah, Shēm, Ham and Yepheth.
⁵The sons of Yepheth: Gomer and
 Maḡoḡ and Maḡai and Yawan and Tuḡal
 and Meshek and Tiras.
⁶And the sons of Gomer: Ashkenaz
 and Diphath and Toḡarmah.
⁷And the sons of Yawan: Elishah and
 Tarshishah, Kittim and Rodanim.
⁸The sons of Ham: Kush and
 Mitsrayim, Put and Kena'an.
⁹And the sons of Kush: Seba and
 Hawilah and Sabta and Ra'mah and
 Sabteka. And the sons of Ra'mah: Sheba
 and Dedan.
¹⁰And Kush brought forth Nimrod; he
 began to be a *mighty one* on the earth.
¹¹And Mitsrayim brought forth the
 Ludim and the Anamim and the Lehabim
 and the Naphtuhim,
¹²and the Pathrusim and the Kasluhim
 from whom came the Philistines and the
 Kaphtorim.
¹³And Kena'an brought forth Tsidon,
 his first-born and Hēth,
¹⁴and the Yēbusite and the Amorite and
 the Girgashite,
¹⁵and the Hīwwite and the Arqite and
 the Sinite,
¹⁶and the Arwaḡite and the Tsemarite
 and the Hamathite.
¹⁷The sons of Shēm: Ēylam and Asshur
 and Arpaḡshad and Luḡ and Aram and
 Uts, Hul and Gether and Meshek.
¹⁸And Arpaḡshad brought forth Shelah
 and Shelah brought forth Ēber.
¹⁹To Ēber were born two sons: the name
 of one was Peleḡ, for in his days the
 earth was divided and his brother's name
 was Yoqtan.

²⁰And Yoqtan brought forth Almoḡad
 and Sheleph and Hatsarmaweth and
 Yerah,

²¹and Haḡoram and Uzal and Diqlah,

²²and Ēybal and Aḡima'ēl and Sheba,

²³and Ophir and Hawilah and Yoḡab.
 All these were the sons of Yoqtan.

²⁴Shēm, Arpaḡshad, Shēlah,
²⁵Ēber, Peleḡ, Re'u,

²⁶Seruḡ, Naḡor, Terah,
²⁷and Abram, that is Abraham.

²⁸The sons of Abraham: Yitshaq and
 Yishma'el.

²⁹These are their genealogies: The first-
 born of Yishma'el was Neḡayoth and
 Qēdar and Adbe'el and Mībsam,

³⁰Mishma and Dumah and Massa,
 Haḡad and Tēma,

³¹Yetur, Naphish and Qēdemah. These
 were the sons of Yishma'el.

³²And the sons born to Qeturah,
 Abraham's concubine: Zimran and
 Yoqshan and Meḡan and Miḡyan and
 Yishbaq and Shuwah. The sons of
 Yoqshan: Sheba and Dedan.

³³And the sons of Miḡyan: Ēpah and
 Ēpher and Hanoq and Aḡiḡa and Elda'ah.
 All these were the children of Qeturah.

³⁴And Abraham brought forth Yitshaq.
 The sons of Yitshaq: Ēsaw and Yisra'el.

³⁵The sons of Ēsaw: Eliphaz, Re'u'w'el
 and Ye'ush and Ya'lam and Qorah.

³⁶And the sons of Eliphaz: Tēman and
 Omar, Tsephi and Gatam and Qenaz and
 Timna and Amalēq.

³⁷The sons of Re'u'w'el: Naḡath, Zerah,
 Shammah and Mizzah.

³⁸And the sons of Sē'ir: Lotan and
 Shobal and Tsiḡ'on and Anah and Dishon
 and Ētser and Dishan.

³⁹And the sons of Lotan: Hori and
 Homam; Lotan's sister was Timna.

⁴⁰The sons of Shobal: Alyan and
 Manahath and Ēybal, Shephi and Onam.
 The sons of Tsiḡ'on: Ayah and Anah.

⁴¹The son of Anah was Dishon. The sons of Dishon: Hamran and Eshban and Yithran and Keran.

⁴²The sons of Ētser: Bilhan and Za'awan and Ya'aqan. The sons of Dishan: Uts and Aran.

⁴³And these were the sovereigns who reigned in the land of Eđom before any sovereign reigned over the children of Yisra'ēl: Bela son of Be'or and the name of his city was Dinhabah.

⁴⁴And when Bela died, Yoḇaḇ son of Zerah of Botsrah reigned in his place.

⁴⁵And Yoḇaḇ died and Husham of the land of the Tēmanites reigned in his place.

⁴⁶And when Husham died, Haḡaḡ son of Beḡaḡ, who *smote* Miḡyan in the field of Mo'ab, reigned in his place. The name of his city was Awith.

⁴⁷And Haḡaḡ died and Samlah of Masrēqah reigned in his place.

⁴⁸And Samlah died and Sha'ul of Rehoḇoth-by-the-River reigned in his place.

⁴⁹And Sha'ul died and Ba'al-Hanan son of Akbor reigned in his place.

⁵⁰And Ba'al-Hanan died and Haḡaḡ reigned in his place. And the name of his city was Pai. And his wife's name was Mehētab'ēl the daughter of Matrēḡ, the daughter of Mēyzahab.

⁵¹And Haḡaḡ *died*. And the chiefs of Eđom were Chief Timnah, Chief Alyah, Chief Yethēth,

⁵²Chief Oholibamah, Chief Ēlah, Chief Pinon,

⁵³Chief Qenaz, Chief Tēman, Chief Mibtsar,

⁵⁴Chief Maḡḡi'ēl and Chief Iram. These were the chiefs of Eđom.

2 These were the sons of Yisra'ēl: Re'uḇēn, Shim'on, Lēwi and Yahuḡah, Yissaskar and Zeḇulun,

²Dan, Yoṣēph and Binyamin, Naphtali, Gaḡ and Ashēr.

³The sons of Yahuḡah: Ēr and Onan and Shēlah, the three born to him by the

daughter of Shuwa, the Kena'anitess. And Ēr, the first-born of Yahuḡah, was *evil in the eyes of* אַיָּאֵל and He slew him.

⁴And Tamar, his daughter-in-law, bore him Perets and Zerah. All the sons of Yahuḡah were five.

⁵The sons of Perets: Hetsron and Hamul.

⁶And the sons of Zerah: Zimri and Ēythan and Hēman and Kalkol and Dara, five of them in **all**.

⁷And the son of Karmi was Akar, the troubler of Yisra'ēl, who *trespassed* in that which was under the **ban**.

⁸And the son of Ēythan was Azaryah.

⁹And the sons of Hetsron who were born to him: Yeraḡme'ēl and Ram and Kelubai.

¹⁰Ram brought forth Amminadaḇ and Amminadaḇ brought forth Naḡshon, leader of the children of Yahuḡah;

¹¹Naḡshon brought forth Salma and Salma brought forth Bo'az;

¹²Bo'az brought forth Obēḡ and Obēḡ brought forth Yishai;

¹³Yishai brought forth Eliyaḇ his first-born and Abinadaḇ the second and Shim'a the third,

¹⁴Nethanē'l the fourth, Raddai the fifth,

¹⁵Otsem the sixth, Dawiḡ the seventh.

¹⁶And their sisters: Tseruyah and Abiḡayil. And the sons of Tseruyah: Abishai and Yo'ab and Asah'ēl, three.

¹⁷And Abiḡayil bore Amasa. And the father of Amasa was Yether the Yishma'elite.

¹⁸And Kalēb son of Hetsron brought forth children by Azubaḡ, his wife and by Yeriyoth. **Now** these were her sons: Yešher and Shoḇaḇ and Ardon.

¹⁹And Azubaḡ died and Kalēb took Ephrath as his wife, who bore him Hur.

²⁰And Hur brought forth Uri and Uri brought forth Betsal'ēl.

²¹And afterward Hetsron went in to the daughter of Makir the father of Gil'aḡ, whom he took when he was sixty years old. And she bore him Seḡub.

²²And Seḡub brought forth Ya'ir, who

had twenty-three cities in the land of Gil'ad.

²³And he took from them Geshur and Aram, with the towns of Ya'ir, with Qenath and its towns, sixty towns. All these *belonged to* the sons of Ma'kir the father of Gil'ad.

²⁴And after the *death* of Hetsron in Kalēb Ephrathah, Hetsron's wife Aḅiyah bore him Ashhur the father of Teqowa.

²⁵And the sons of Yerahme'el the first-born of Hetsron were: Ram the first-born and Bunah and Oren and Otsem and Ahiyah.

²⁶And Yerahme'el had another wife, whose name was Atarah; she was the mother of Onam.

²⁷And the sons of Ram, the first-born of Yerahme'el, were Ma'ats and Yamin and Ēqer.

²⁸And the sons of Onam were Shammai and Yaḏa. And the sons of Shammai: Naḏab and Aḅishur.

²⁹And the name of the wife of Aḅishur was Aḅihayil and she bore him Aḅhan and Molid.

³⁰And the sons of Naḏab: Seleḏ and Appayim and Seleḏ died without children.

³¹And the son of Appayim was Yishi and the son of Yishi was Shēshan and the son of Shēshan was Ahlai.

³²And the sons of Yaḏa, the brother of Shammai: Yether and Yonathan and Yether died without children.

³³And the sons of Yonathan: Peleth and Zaza. These were the sons of Yerahme'el.

³⁴And Shēshan had no sons, only daughters. And Shēshan had a Mitsrite servant whose name was Yarḥa.

³⁵And Shēshan gave his daughter to Yarḥa his servant as wife and she bore him Attai.

³⁶And Attai brought forth Nathan and Nathan brought forth Zabaḏ,

³⁷and Zabaḏ brought forth Ephlal and Ephlal brought forth Oḅēḏ,

³⁸and Oḅēḏ brought forth Yēhu and Yēhu brought forth Azaryah,

³⁹and Azaryah brought forth Helets and

Helets brought forth El'asah,
⁴⁰and El'asah brought forth Sismai and Sismai brought forth Shallum,

⁴¹and Shallum brought forth Yeḡamyah and Yeḡamyah brought forth Elishama.

⁴²And the sons of Kalēb the brother of Yerahme'el: Mēysha his first-born, who was the father of Ziph and the sons of Marēshah the father of Hebron.

⁴³And the sons of Hebron: Qoraḥ and Tappuwah and Reqem and Shema.

⁴⁴And Shema brought forth Raḥam the father of Yorqe'am and Reqem brought forth Shammai.

⁴⁵And the son of Shammai was Ma'on and Ma'on was the father of Bēyth Tsur.

⁴⁶And Ēpahah, Kalēb's concubine, bore Ḥaran and Motsa and Gazēz. And Ḥaran brought forth Gazēz.

⁴⁷And the sons of Yahdai: Reḡem and Yotham and Gēyshan and Pelet and Ēpahah and Sha'aph.

⁴⁸Ma'aḳah, Kalēb's concubine, bore Sheḅer and Tirhanah.

⁴⁹And she bore Sha'aph the father of Maḏmannah, Shewa the father of Makbēna and the father of Gib'a. And the daughter of Kalēb was Aḳsah.

⁵⁰These were the descendants of Kalēb: The sons of Hur, the first-born of Ephrathah: Shoḅal the father of Qiryath Ye'arim,

⁵¹Salma the father of Bēyth Leḡem, Harēph the father of Bēyth Gaḏer.

⁵²And Shoḅal the father of Qiryath Ye'arim had descendants: Haro'eh, half of the Menuhothites.

⁵³And the clans of Qiryath Ye'arim: the Yithrites and the Puthites and the Shumathites and the Mishraitites. From these came the Tsor'athites and the Eshta'olites.

⁵⁴The sons of Salma: Bēyth Leḡem, the Netophathites, Atroth Bēyth Yo'ab and half of the Menaḥtites and the Tsor'ites.

⁵⁵And the clans of the *scribes* who dwelt at Yabēts: the Tirathites, the Shim'athites, the Sukathites.

These were the Qēynites who came from Hammath, the father of the house of Rēkaḅ.

3 And these were the sons of Dawid who were born to him in Hebron: The first-born was Amnon, by Ahino'am the Yizre'elitess; the second, Dani'el, by Abigayil the Karmelitess;

²the third, Abshalom son of Ma'akah, the daughter of Talmai, sovereign of Geshur; the fourth, Adoniyah son of Haggith;

³the fifth, Shephatyah, by Abital; the sixth, Yithre'am, by his wife Eglah.

⁴Six were born to him in Hebron. And he reigned there seven years and six months and in Yerushalayim he reigned thirty-three years.

⁵And these were born to him in Yerushalayim: Shim'a and Shobab and Nathan and Shelomoh – four by Bathshua the daughter of Ammi'el.

⁶Yibhar also and Elishama and Eliphelet,

⁷and Nogah and Nepheg and Yaphiya, ⁸and Elishama and Elyada and Eliphelet, nine,

⁹all the sons of Dawid, besides the sons of the concubines and Tamar their sister.

¹⁰And Shelomoh's son was Rehab'am, Abiyah his son, Asa his son, Yehoshaphat his son,

¹¹Yoram his son, Ahazyahu his son, Yo'ash his son,

¹²Amasyahu his son, Azaryah his son, Yotham his son,

¹³Ahaz his son, Hizqiyahu his son, Menashsheh his son,

¹⁴Amon his son, Yoshiyahu his son.

¹⁵And the sons of Yoshiyahu: Yo'hanan the first-born, the second Yehoyaqim, the third Tsidiqiyahu, the fourth Shallum.

¹⁶And the sons of Yehoyaqim: Yekonyah his son and Tsidiqiyah his son.

¹⁷And the sons of Yekonyah the captive: She'alti'el his son,

¹⁸and Malkiram and Pedayah and Shenatstsar, Yeqamyah, Hoshama and Nedabyah.

¹⁹And the sons of Pedayah: Zerubbabel and Shim'i. The sons of Zerubbabel:

Meshullam and Hananyah and Shelomith their sister,

²⁰and Hashubah and Ohel and Berekyah and Hasadyah, Yushab-Hesed, five.

²¹And the sons of Hananyah: Pelatyah and Yeshayah, the sons of Rephayah, the sons of Arnan, the sons of Obadyah, the sons of Shekanyah.

²²And the son of Shekanyah: Shemayah. The sons of Shemayah: Hattush and Yig'al and Bariyah and Ne'aryah and Shaphat, six.

²³And the sons of Ne'aryah: Elyo'eynai and Hizqiyah and Azriqam, three.

²⁴And the sons of Elyo'eynai: Hodawyah and Elyashib and Pelayah and Aqqub and Yo'hanan and Delayah and Anani, seven.

4 The sons of Yahuḏah: Perets, Hetsron and Karmi and Hur and Shobal.

²And Re'ayah son of Shobal brought forth Yahath and Yahath brought forth Aḥumai and Lahad. These were the clans of the Tsor'athites.

³And these were of the father of Eytam: Yizre'el and Yishma and Yidbash. And the name of their sister was Hatsелеponi;

⁴and Penu'el was the father of Gedor and Ezer was the father of Hushah. These were the sons of Hur, the first-born of Ephrathah the father of Bēyth Lehem.

⁵And Ashhur the father of Teqowa had two wives, Helah and Na'arah.

⁶And Na'arah bore him Ahuzzam and Hēpher and Tēmeni and Ha'ahashtari. These were the sons of Na'arah.

⁷And the sons of Helah: Tsereth and Tsohar and Ethnan;

⁸and Qots brought forth Anub and Tsoḇebah and the clans of Aḥarhēl son of Harum.

⁹And Yabēts was more esteemed than his brothers and his mother called his name Yabēts, saying, "**Because** I bore him in *pain*."

¹⁰And Yabēts called on the Elohim of Yisra'ēl saying, “**Oh, that You would bless me indeed and enlarge my border and that Your hand would be with me and that You would keep me from evil, not to be my pain!**” And Elohim gave him what he asked.

¹¹And Kelub the brother of Shuhah brought forth Mehir, who was the father of Eshton.

¹²And Eshton brought forth BēythRapha and Pasēah and Tehinnah the father of Ir-Naḥash. These were the men of Rēkah.

¹³And the sons of Qenaz: Othni'ēl and Serayah. And sons of Othni'ēl: Ḥathath,

¹⁴and Me'onthai, who brought forth Ophrah. And Serayah brought forth Yo'ab the father of Gē-Ḥarashim, for they were craftsmen.

¹⁵And the sons of Kalēb the son of Yephunneh: Iru, Ēlah and Na'am. And the son of Ēlah was Qenaz.

¹⁶And the sons of Yehallel'ēl: Ziph and Ziphah, Tireya and Asar'ēl.

¹⁷And the sons of Ezraḥ: Yether and Mered and Ēpher and Yalon. And she bore Miryam and Shammai and Yishbah the father of Eshtemoa.

¹⁸And his wife Yehuḏiyah bore Yered the father of Geḏor and Heber the father of Soko and Yequthi'ēl the father of Zanowah. And these were the sons of Bithyah the daughter of Pharaoh, whom Mered took.

¹⁹And the sons of Hodiyah's wife, the sister of Naham, were the fathers of Qe'ilah the Garmite and of Eshtemoa the Ma'akathite.

²⁰And the sons of Shimon: Amnon and Rinnah, Ben-Hanan and Tulon. And the sons of Yishi: Zoḥēth and Ben-Zoḥēth.

²¹The sons of Shēlah the son of Yahudah: Ēr the father of Lēkah and La'dah the father of Marēshah and the clans of the house of the linen workers of the house of Ashbēa;

²²and Yoqim and the men of Kozēba and Yo'ash and Saraph who ruled in Mo'ab and Yashubi-Lehem. **But** the records were ancient.

²³These were the potters and those who dwell at Neta'im and Geḏerah; there they dwell with the sovereign for his work.

²⁴The sons of Shim'on: Nemu'ēl and Yamin, Yariḇ, Zerah, Sha'ul,

²⁵Shallum his son, Mībsam his son, Mishma his son.

²⁶And the sons of Mishma: Ḥammu'ēl his son, Zakkur his son, Shim'i his son.

²⁷And Shim'i had sixteen sons and six daughters, but his brothers *did not* have many children, *nor did* any of their clans increase as much as the children of Yahudah.

²⁸And they dwelt at Be'ērsheba and Moladah and Ḥatsar Shu'al,

²⁹and at Bilhah and at Etsem and at Tolaḏ,

³⁰and at Bethu'ēl and at Ḥormah and at Tsiqlaḡ,

³¹and at Bēyth Markaboth and at Ḥatsar Susim and at Bēyth Bir'i and at Sha'arayim. These were their cities until the reign of Dawid.

³²And their villages were Ēytam and Ayin and Rimmon and Tokēn and Ashan, five cities,

³³and **all** the villages that were around these cities as far as Ba'al. These were their dwelling places and they kept their genealogy.

³⁴And Meshobaḇ and Yamlēk and Yoshah son of Amatsyah;

³⁵and Yo'ēl and Yēhu son of Yoshiyah, son of Serayah, son of Asi'ēl;

³⁶and Elyo'ēynai and Ya'aqobah and Yeshohayah and Asayah and Adi'ēl and Yesimi'ēl and Benayah;

³⁷and Ziza son of Shiphi, son of Allon, son of Yedayah, son of Shimri, son of Shemayah.

³⁸These mentioned by name were leaders in their clans and their father's house increased greatly.

³⁹And they went to the entrance of Geḏor, as far as the east side of the valley,

to look for pasture for their flocks,

⁴⁰and they **found** rich, **good** pasture, and the land was broad, undisturbed and safe, for some Ḥamites had dwelt there

formerly.

⁴¹And these **written** by name came in the days of Hizqiyahu sovereign of Yahuḏah and *smote* their tents and the homes that were **found** there and put them under the **ban**, as it is to this day and dwelt in their place, **because** there was pasture for their flocks there.

⁴²And some of them, five hundred men of the sons of Shim'on, went to Mount Sē'ir, having as their chiefs Pelatyah and Ne'aryah and Rephayah and Uzzi'ēl, the sons of Yishi.

⁴³And they *smote* the rest of the Amalēqites who had **escaped** and dwelt there to this day.

5 As for the sons of Re'ubēn the **first** born of Yisra'ēl – he was the **first** born, **but because** he *profaned* his father's bed, his birthright was **given** to the **sons** of Yosēph, son of Yisra'ēl, so that the genealogy is not listed **according** to the birthright,

²for Yahuḏah prevailed over his brothers and from him came a ruler, although the birthright was Yosēph's –

³the sons of Re'ubēn the first-born of Yisra'ēl: Hanok and Pallu, Hetsron and Karmi.

⁴The sons of Yo'ēl: Shemayah his son, Goḡ his son, Shim'i his son,

⁵Mikah his son, Re'ayah his son, Ba'al his son,

⁶and Be'erah his son, whom Tiglath Pileser sovereign of Ashshur took into exile. He was leader of the Re'ubēnites.

⁷And his brothers by their clans, when the genealogy of their generations was registered: the chief, Ye'i'ēl and Zekaryahu,

⁸and Bela son of Azaz, son of Shema, son of Yo'ēl, who dwelt in Aro'ēr, as far as Nebo and Ba'al Me'on.

⁹And he dwelt eastward as far as the entrance of the wilderness from the River Euphrates, **because** their livestock had increased in the land of Gil'ad.

¹⁰And in the days of Sha'ul they fought **against** the Haḡrites, who fell by their

hand. And they dwelt in their tents over **all** the eastern part of Gil'ad.

¹¹And the children of Gaḏ dwelt next to them in the land of Bashan as far as Salkah:

¹²Yo'ēl was the chief, Shapham the next, then Ya'anai and Shaphat in Bashan;

¹³and their brothers of their father's house: Miḡa'ēl and Meshullam and Sheba and Yorai and Yakan and Ziya and Ēber, seven.

¹⁴These were the children of Abihayil son of Huri, son of Yarowaḡ, son of Gil'ad, son of Miḡa'ēl, son of Yeshishai, son of Yaḏo, son of Buz;

¹⁵Ahi son of Abdi'ēl, son of Guni, was chief of their father's house.

¹⁶And they dwelt in Gil'ad, in Bashan and in its villages and in **all** the **open** lands of Sharon within their borders.

¹⁷All these were registered by genealogies in the days of Yotham sovereign of Yahuḏah and in the days of Yarob'am sovereign of Yisra'ēl.

¹⁸The sons of Re'ubēn and the Gaḏites and half the tribe of Menashsheh had fortyfour thousand seven hundred and sixty brave men, men able to bear shield and *sword*, to shoot with the bow and skilled in battle, going out to the army.

¹⁹And they fought **against** the Haḡrites and Yetur and Naphish and Nodab.

²⁰And they were helped **against** them and the Haḡrites were **given** into their **hand** and **all** who were with them. For they *cried out* to **Elohim** in the battle and **He answered their prayer, because they put their trust in Him**.

²¹And they took away their livestock: fifty thousand camels and two hundred and fifty thousand of their sheep and two thousand of their donkeys, also one hundred thousand of their men,

²²for many fell *dead*, **because** the **battle was of Elohim**. And they dwelt in their place until the exile.

²³And the children of the half-tribe of Menashsheh dwelt in the land. They increased from Bashan to Ba'al Hermon, that is, to Senir, or Mount Hermon.

²⁴And these were the heads of their fathers' houses: Ēpher and Yishi and Eli'ēl and Azri'ēl – mighty brave men, men of name and heads of their fathers' houses.

²⁵**But** they trespassed *against* the **Elohim** of their fathers and *whored* after the *mighty ones* of the peoples of the land, whom **Elohim** had *destroyed* before them.

²⁶So the **Elohim** of Yisra'ēl *stirred up* the spirit of Pul sovereign of Ashshur, even the spirit of Tiglath-Pileser sovereign of Ashshur. And he took the Re'ubēnites and the Gadites and the half-tribe of Menashsheh into exile and brought them to Halah and Habor and Hara and the river of Gozan, unto this day.

6 The sons of Lēwi: Gēreshom, Qehath and Merari.

²And the sons of Qehath: Amram, Yitshar and Hebron and Uzzi'ēl.

³And the children of Amram: Aharon and Mosheh and Miryam. And the sons of Aharon: Nadab and Abihu, El'azar and Ithamar.

⁴El'azar brought forth Pineḥas, Pineḥas brought forth Abishua;

⁵and Abishua brought forth Buqqi and Buqqi brought forth Uzzi;

⁶and Uzzi brought forth Zerahyah and Zerahyah brought forth Merayoth;

⁷Merayoth brought forth Amaryah and Amaryah brought forth Ahitub;

⁸and Ahitub brought forth Tsadoq and Tsadoq brought forth Ahima'ats;

⁹and Ahima'ats brought forth Azaryah and Azaryah brought forth Yoḥanan;

¹⁰and Yoḥanan brought forth Azaryah – it was he who **served** as priest in the House that Shelomoh built in Yerushalayim;

¹¹and Azaryah brought forth Amaryah and Amaryah brought forth Ahitub;

¹²and Ahitub brought forth Tsadoq and Tsadoq brought forth Shallum;

¹³and Shallum brought forth Hīlqiyah

and Hīlqiyah brought forth Azaryah;

¹⁴and Azaryah brought forth Serayah and Serayah brought forth Yehotsadaq.

¹⁵And Yehotsadaq went away when **אָזַל** sent Yahudah and Yerushalayim into exile by the **hand** of Neḅuqaḏnetstsar.

¹⁶The sons of Lēwi: Gēreshom, Qehath and Merari.

¹⁷And these are the names of the sons of Gēreshom: Libni and Shim'i.

¹⁸And the sons of Qehath: Amram and Yitshar and Hebron and Uzzi'ēl.

¹⁹The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi. And these are the clans of the Lēwites **according** to their fathers:

²⁰Of Gēreshom were Libni his son, Yahath his son, Zimmah his son,

²¹Yo'ah his son, Iddo his son, Zerah his son, Ye'atherai his son.

²²The sons of Qehath: Amminadab his son, Qorah his son, Assir his son,

²³Elqanah his son, Ebyasaph his son, Assir his son,

²⁴Tahath his son, Uri'ēl his son, Uzziyah his son and Sha'ul his son.

²⁵And the sons of Elqanah: Amasai and Ahimoth.

²⁶Elqanah – the sons of Elqanah: Tsophai his son and Nahath his son,

²⁷Eliyab his son, Yeroḥam his son, Elqanah his son.

²⁸And the sons of Shemu'el: Yo'Āl the first-born and Abiyah the second.

²⁹The sons of Merari: Mahli, Libni his son, Shim'i his son, Uzzah his son,

³⁰Shim'a his son, Haggiyah his son and Asayah his son.

³¹And these are the men whom Dawid **appointed** over the service of song in the House of **אָזַל**, after the ark came to rest.

³²And they were rendering service in song before the dwelling place of the **Tent** of Meeting, until Shelomoh had built the House of **אָזַל** in Yerushalayim and they performed their duties **according** to their ruling.

³³And these are the ones who stood with their sons: Of the sons of the

Qehathites were Hēman the singer, son of Yo'ēl, son of Shemu'ēl,

³⁴son of Elqanah, son of Yeroḥam, son of Eli'ēl, son of Towah,

³⁵son of Tsuph, son of Elqanah, son of Mahath, son of Amasai,

³⁶son of Elqanah, son of Yo'ēl, son of Azaryah, son of Tsephanyah,

³⁷son of Tahath, son of Assir, son of Ebyasaph, son of Qorah,

³⁸son of Yitshar, son of Qehath, son of Lēwi, son of Yisra'ēl.

³⁹And his brother Asaph, who stood at his **right hand**, was Asaph son of Berekyahu, son of Shim'a,

⁴⁰son of Miḳa'ēl, son of Ba'asēyah, son of Malkiyah,

⁴¹son of Ethni, son of Zerah, son of Aḏayah,

⁴²son of Ēythan, son of Zimmah, son of Shim'i,

⁴³son of Yahath, son of Gēreshom, son of Lēwi.

⁴⁴And their brothers, the sons of Merari, on the left **hand**, were Ēythan son of Qishi, son of Abdi, son of Malluḳ,

⁴⁵son of Hashabiyah, son of Amatsyah, son of Hilqiyah,

⁴⁶son of Amtsi, son of Bani, son of Shemer,

⁴⁷son of Maḥli, son of Mushi, son of Merari, son of Lēwi.

⁴⁸And their brothers, the Lēwites, were **appointed to every kind** of service of the **Dwelling Place** of the **House of Elohim**.

⁴⁹**But** Aharon and his sons offered on the altar of burnt offering and on the altar of incense, for **all** the **work** of the Most set-apart **Place** and to make atonement for Yisra'ēl, **according to all** that Mosheh the servant of **Elohim** had **commanded**.

⁵⁰And these are the sons of Aharon:

El'azar his son, Pineḥas his son,

Abishua his son,

⁵¹Buqqi his son, Uzzi his son, Zerahyah his son,

⁵²Merayoth his son, Amaryah his son,

Aḥitub his son,

⁵³Tsadoq his son, Aḥima'ats his son.

⁵⁴And these were their dwelling places throughout their settlements within their borders, of the sons of Aharon, of the clan of the Qehathites, for the **lot** was theirs.

⁵⁵And they gave them Heḥbron in the land of Yahudaḥ, with its surrounding **open** lands.

⁵⁶**But** the fields of the city and its villages they gave to Kalēb son of Yephunneh.

⁵⁷And to the sons of Aharon they gave the cities of refuge: Hebron and Libnah with its **open** lands and Yattir and Eshtemoa with its **open** lands,

⁵⁸and Hilēn with its **open** lands, Deḅir with its **open** lands,

⁵⁹and Ashan with its **open** lands and Bēyth Shemesh with its **open** lands.

⁶⁰And from the tribe of Binyamin: Geba with its **open** lands and Alemeth with its **open** lands and Anathoth with its **open** lands. All their cities among their clans were thirteen.

⁶¹And to the rest of the clan of the tribe of the Qehathites by **lot** ten cities from half the tribe of Menashsheh.

⁶²And to the sons of Gēreshom, throughout their clans, thirteen cities from the tribe of Yissasḳar and from the tribe of Ashēr and from the tribe of Naphtali and from the tribe of Menashsheh in Bashan.

⁶³To the sons of Merari, throughout their clans, by **lot** twelve cities from the tribe of Re'ubēn and from the tribe of Gad and from the tribe of Zebulun.

⁶⁴So the children of Yisra'ēl gave cities with their **open** lands to the Lēwites.

⁶⁵And they gave by **lot** from the tribe of the children of Yahudaḥ and from the tribe of the children of Shim'on and from the tribe of the children of Binyamin these cities which are mentioned by name.

⁶⁶And some of the clans of the sons of Qehath had cities of their borders from the tribe of Ephrayim.

⁶⁷And they gave them the cities of

refuge: Shekem with its **open** lands, in the mountains of Ephrayim and Gezer with its **open** lands,

⁶⁸and Yoqme'am with its **open** lands and Bēyth Horon with its **open** lands,

⁶⁹and Ayalon with its **open** lands and Gath Rimmon with its **open** lands.

⁷⁰And from the half-tribe of Menashsheh: Anēr with its **open** lands and Bil'am with its **open** lands, for the rest of the clan of the sons of Qehath.

⁷¹From the clan of the half-tribe of Menashsheh the sons of Gēreshom: Golan in Bashan with its **open** lands and Ashtaroth with its **open** lands.

⁷²And from the tribe of Yissaskar: Qeḏesh with its **open** lands, Daḇerath with its **open** lands,

⁷³Ramoth with its **open** lands and Anēm with its **open** lands.

⁷⁴And from the tribe of Ashēr: Mashal with its **open** lands and Aḇdon with its **open** lands,

⁷⁵and Huqoq with its **open** lands and Rehob with its **open** lands.

⁷⁶And from the tribe of Naphtali: Qeḏesh in Galil with its **open** lands and Hammon with its **open** lands and Qiryathayim with its **open** lands.

⁷⁷From the tribe of Zebulun the rest of the children of Merari: Rimmon with its **open** lands and Taḇor with its **open** lands.

⁷⁸And from beyond the Yardēn of Yeriho, on the east side of the Yardēn, from the tribe of Re'ubēn: Betser in the wilderness with its **open** lands and Yahtsah with its **open** lands,

⁷⁹Qeḏēmoth with its **open** lands and Mēpha'ath with its **open** lands.

⁸⁰And from the tribe of Gaḏ: Ramoth in Gil'aḏ with its **open** lands and Maḥanayim with its **open** lands,

⁸¹and Heshbon with its **open** lands and Ya'zēr with its **open** lands.

7 And the sons of Yissaskar: Tola and Pu'ah, Yashub and Shimron, four.

²And the sons of Tola: Uzzi and Rephayah and Yeri'el and Yaḥmai and

Yibsam and Shemu'el, heads of their father's house. Of Tola there were **great** men of might in their generations; their number in the days of Dawid was twenty-two thousand six hundred.

³And the son of Uzzi: Yizrahyah and the sons of Yizrahyah: Miḳa'el and Obadyah and Yo'el, Yishshiyah. All five of them were heads.

⁴And with them, by their generations, **according** to their fathers' houses, were thirty-six thousand, bands of the army for battle, for they had many wives and sons.

⁵And their brothers among **all** the clans of Yissaskar were mighty brave men, listed by their genealogies, eighty-seven thousand in **all**.

⁶Of Binyamin: Bela and Beḳer and Yeḏiya'el, three.

⁷And the sons of Bela: Etsbon and Uzzi and Uzzi'el and Yerimoth and Iri, five – heads of their fathers' houses and they were listed by their genealogies, twentytwo thousand and thirty-four mighty brave men.

⁸And the sons of Beḳer: Zemirah and Yo'ash and Eli'ezer and Elyo'eynai and Omri and Yerimoth and Aḇiyah and Anathoth and Alemeth. All these were the sons of Beḳer,

⁹with their genealogy **according** to their generations, heads of their fathers' houses, twenty thousand two hundred mighty brave men.

¹⁰And the son of Yeḏiya'el: Bilhan and the sons of Bilhan: Ye'ush and Binyamin and Eḥud and Kena'anah and Zēthan and Tarshish and Aḥishaḥar.

¹¹All these sons of Yeḏiya'el were heads of their fathers' houses, seventeen thousand two hundred mighty brave men going out to the army for battle.

¹²And Shuppim and Ḥuppim were the sons of Ir and Ḥushim was the son of Ahēr.

¹³The sons of Naphtali: Yaḥtsi'el and Guni and Yētser and Shallum, sons of Bilhah.

¹⁴The sons of Menashsheh: his Aramean concubine bore him Maḳir the

father of Gil'ad, the father of Asri'el.

¹⁵And Makir took wives for Huppim and Shuppim; and the name of one was Ma'akah and the name of the second was Tselophhad. And Tselophhad had daughters.

¹⁶**But** Ma'akah the wife of Makir bore a son and she called his name Peresh. And the name of his brother was Sheresh and his sons were Ulam and Raqem.

¹⁷And the son of Ulam: Bedan. These were the sons of Gil'ad, son of Makir, son of Menashsheh.

¹⁸And his sister Hammoleketh bore Ishhod and Abiezer and Mahlah.

¹⁹And the sons of Shemida: Ahyan and Shekem and Liqhi and Aniyam.

²⁰And the sons of Ephrayim: Shuthelah and Bereh his son and Tahath his son and Elaadah his son and Tahath his son,

²¹and Zabadi his son and Shuthelah his son and Ezer and El'ad. **But** the men of Gath who were born in that land slew them **because** they came down to take their livestock.

²²And Ephrayim their father mourned many days and his brothers came to comfort him.

²³And when he went in to his wife, she conceived and bore a son. And he called his name Beri'ah, **because evil** had come upon his house.

²⁴And his daughter was She'erah, who built Lower and Upper Beyth Horon and Uzen She'erah.

²⁵And Rephaah was his son, as well as Resheph and Telaah his son and Tahan his son,

²⁶La'dan his son, Ammihud his son, Elishama his son,

²⁷Nun his son, Yahusha his son.

²⁸And their possessions and dwelling places were Beyth El and its towns: to the east Na'aran and to the west Gezer and its towns and Shekem and its towns, as far as Ayyah and its towns.

²⁹And by the borders of the children of Menashsheh were Beyth She'an and its towns, Ta'anakh and its towns, Megiddo and its towns, Dor and its towns. In these dwelt the children of Yosēph, son

of Yisra'el.

³⁰The sons of Asher: Yimnah and Yishwah and Yishwi and Beri'ah and their sister Serah.

³¹And the sons of Beri'ah: Heber and Malki'el, who was the father of Birzoth.

³²And Heber brought forth Yaphlet and Shomer and Hotham and their sister Shuwa.

³³And the sons of Yaphlet: Pasah and Bimhal and Ashwath. These were the children of Yaphlet.

³⁴And the sons of Shemer: Ahi and Rohagah, Yehubbah and Aram.

³⁵And the sons of his brother Helem: Tsopah and Yimna and Shelesh and Amal.

³⁶The sons of Tsopah: Suwah and Harnepher and Shu'al and Beri and Yimrah,

³⁷Betser and Hod and Shamma and Shilshah and Yithran and Be'era.

³⁸And the sons of Yether: Yephunneh and Pispah and Ara.

³⁹And the sons of Ulla: Araah and Hanni'el and Ritsya.

⁴⁰All these were the children of Asher, heads of their fathers' houses, **chosen** ones, mighty brave men, chief leaders. And when they registered by genealogy for the army, for battle, their number was twenty six thousand.

8 And Binyamin brought forth Bela his first-born, Ashbel the second, Ahrath the third,

²Noah the fourth and Rapha the fifth.

³And the sons of Bela: Addar and Gera and Abihud,

⁴and Abishua and Na'aman and Ahowah,

⁵and Gera and Shephuphan and Hiram.

⁶And these are the sons of Ehad.

They were the heads of the fathers' houses of the inhabitants of Geba and they were exiled to Manahath.

⁷And Na'aman and Ahiyah and Gera – he exiled them. And Ehad brought forth Uzza and Ahihud.

⁸And Shaharayim brought forth children in the field of Mo'ab, after he had **sent** away Hushim and Ba'ara his wives.

⁹And by Hodesh his wife he brought forth Yobab and Tsiḅya and Mēysha and Malkam,

¹⁰and Ye'uts and Shobyah and Mirmah. These were his sons, heads of their fathers' houses.

¹¹And by Hushim he brought forth Abitub and Elpa'al.

¹²And the sons of Elpa'al: Ĕber and Mish'am and Shemer, who built Ono and Loḏ with its towns;

¹³and Beri'ah and Shema, who were heads of their fathers' houses of the inhabitants of Ayalon, who drove out the inhabitants of Gath.

¹⁴and Ahyo, Shashaq and Yerēmoth,

¹⁵and Zebadyah and Arad and Ĕder,

¹⁶and Mīka'el and Yispaḥ and Yoḥa were the sons of Beri'ah.

¹⁷And Zebadyah and Meshullam and Hizqi and Heber,

¹⁸and Yishmerai and Yizli'ah and Yobab were the sons of Elpa'al.

¹⁹And Yaqim and Zikri and Zabdi,

²⁰and Eli'eynai and Tsillethai and Eli'el,

²¹and Aḏayah and Berayah and Shimrath were the sons of Shim'i.

²²And Yishpan and Ĕber and Eli'el,

²³and Abdon and Zikri and Hanan,

²⁴and Hananyah and Ĕylam and

Antothiyah,

²⁵and Yiphdeyah and Penu'el were the sons of Shashaq.

²⁶And Shamsheraï and Sheharyah and Athalyah,

²⁷and Ya'areshyah and Ĕliyah and Zikri were the sons of Yeroham.

²⁸These were heads of the fathers' houses by their generations, heads. These dwelt in Yerushalayim.

²⁹And the father of Gib'on, whose wife's name was Ma'akah, dwelt at Gib'on.

³⁰And his first-born son was Abdon, then Tsur and Qish and Ba'al and Nadab,

³¹and Geḏor and Ahyo and Zeker,

³²and Miqloth, who brought forth Shim'ah. And they also dwelt alongside their relatives in Yerushalayim, with their brothers.

³³And Nēr brought forth Qish and Qish brought forth Sha'ul and Sha'ul brought forth Yehonathan and Malkishua and Abinadab and Esh-Ba'al.

³⁴And the son of Yehonathan was MeribBa'al and Merib-Ba'al brought forth Mikah.

³⁵And the sons of Mikah: Pithon and Melek and Ta'arēa and Aḥaz.

³⁶And Aḥaz brought forth Yeho'addah and Yeho'addah brought forth Alemeth and Azmaweth and Zimri. And Zimri brought forth Motsa.

³⁷And Motsa brought forth Bin'a, Raphah his son, El'asah his son, Atsēl his son.

³⁸And Atsēl had six sons whose names were these: Azriqam, Bokeru and Yishma'el and She'aryah and Obadyah and Hanan. All these were the sons of Atsēl.

³⁹And the sons of Ĕsheq his brother: Ulam his first-born, Ye'ush the second and Eliphelet the third.

⁴⁰And the sons of Ulam were mighty brave men, archers and had many sons and grandsons, one hundred and fifty. These were **all** sons of Binyamin.

9 And **all** Yisra'el registered themselves by genealogy. And **see**, they were **written** in the **book** of the sovereigns of Yisra'el. And Yahuḏah was exiled to Babel for their *trespass*.

²And the **first** inhabitants who were in their possessions in their cities of Yisra'el, were the priests, the Lēwites and the Nethinim.

³And in Yerushalayim dwelt some of the children of Yahuḏah

and some of the children of Binyamin and some of the children of Ephrayim and Menashsheh:

⁴Uthai son of Ammiḥuḏ, son of Omri, son of Imri, son of Bani, of the sons of Perets, the son of Yahuḏah.

⁵And of the Shilonites: Asayah the first-born and his sons.

⁶And of the sons of Zerah: Ye'u'el and their brothers, six hundred and ninety.

⁷And of the sons of Binyamin: Sallu son of Meshullam, son of Hoḏawayah, son of Hasenu'ah;

⁸and Yibneyah son of Yeroham; and Ēlah son of Uzzi, son of Mikri; and Meshullam son of Shephatyah, son of Re'uw'el, son of Yibniyah;

⁹and their brothers, **according** to their generations, nine hundred and fifty-six. All these men were heads of a father's house in their fathers' houses.

¹⁰And of the priests: Yedayah and Yehoyarib and Yaḳin;

¹¹and Azaryah son of Hilqiyah, son of Meshullam, son of Tṣadoq, son of Merayoth, son of Aḥitub, the officer over the House of **Elohim**;

¹²and Aḏayah son of Yeroḥam, son of Pashhur, son of Malkiyah; and Ma'asai son of Adi'el, son of Yahzerah, son of Meshullam, son of Meshillēmīth, son of Immēr;

¹³and their brothers, heads of their fathers' houses, one thousand seven hundred and sixty, able men for the **work** of the service of the House of **Elohim**.

¹⁴And of the Lēwites: Shemayah son of Hashshub, son of Azriqam, son of Hashabyah, of the sons of Merari;

¹⁵and Baqbaqqar, Heresh and Galal and Mattanyah son of Miḳa, son of Zikri, son of Asaph;

¹⁶and Obadyah son of Shemayah, son of Galal, son of Yeduthun; and Berekyah son of Asa, son of Ēlqanah, who dwelt in the villages of the Netophathites.

¹⁷And the gatekeepers: Shallum and Aqub and Talmon and Aḥiman and their brothers – Shallum the chief.

¹⁸And up til then they were gatekeepers for the camps of the children of Lēwi at the Sovereign's Gate on the east.

¹⁹And Shallum son of Qorē, son of Ebyasaph, son of Qorah and his brothers, from his father's house, the Qorhites, were over the **work** of the service,

guards of the thresholds of the **Tent**. And their fathers had been guards of the entrance to the camp of אַזָּאֵל.

²⁰And Pinehas son of El'azar was leader over them in **time** past. אַזָּאֵל was with him.

²¹Zekaryah son of Meshelemyah was gatekeeper at the entrance of the **Tent** of Meeting.

²²All those **chosen** as gatekeepers at the thresholds were two hundred and twelve. They were registered by genealogy, in their villages. Dawid and Shemu'el the **seer** had **appointed** them to their office of **trust**.

²³So they and their sons were over the gates of the House of אַזָּאֵל, the House of the **Tent**, by watches.

²⁴The gatekeepers were on the four sides: the east, west, north and south.

²⁵And their brothers in their villages had to **come** with them from **time** to **time** for seven days.

²⁶For the four chief gatekeepers were in an office of **trust**. They were Lēwites and they were over the rooms and treasuries of the House of **Elohim**.

²⁷And they spent the night **all** around the House of **Elohim** **because** they had the duty and they were to **open** it morning by morning.

²⁸And some of them were over the vessels of service, for they brought them in and took them out by count.

²⁹And some of them were **appointed** over the vessels, even over **all** the vessels of the set-apart place and over the fine flour and the **wine** and the oil and the incense and the spices.

³⁰And some of the sons of the priests blended the compound of spices.

³¹And Mattithyah of the Lēwites, the first-born of Shallum the Qorhite, was entrusted with the making of the flat cakes.

³²And some of their brothers of the sons of the Qehathites were over the showbread, to **prepare every Sabbath**.

³³And these were the singers, heads of the fathers' houses of the Lēwites, in the rooms and were exempted from other duties, for they were employed in that

work day and night.

³⁴These heads of the fathers' houses of the Lēwites were heads throughout their generations. They dwelt at Yerushalayim.

³⁵And Ye'i'ēl the father of Gib'on, whose wife's name was Ma'aḳah, dwelt at Gib'on.

³⁶And his first-born son was Abdon, then Tsur and Qish and Ba'al and Nēr and Nadab,

³⁷and Geḏor and Ahyo and Zeḳaryah and Miḳloth.

³⁸And Miḳloth brought forth Shim'am. And they too dwelt alongside their relatives in Yerushalayim, with their brothers.

³⁹And Nēr brought forth Qish and Qish brought forth Sha'ul and Sha'ul brought forth Yehonathan and Malkishua and Abinaḳab and Esh-Ba'al.

⁴⁰And the son of Yehonathan was Merib-Ba'al and Merib-Ba'al brought forth Miḳah.

⁴¹And the sons of Miḳah: Pithon and Melek and Tahrēa,

⁴²and Ahaz, who brought forth Yarah; and Yarah brought forth Alemeth and Azmaweth and Zimri. And Zimri brought forth Motsa;

⁴³and Motsa brought forth Bin'a and Rephayah was his son, El'asah his son, Atsēl his son.

⁴⁴And Atsēl had six sons whose names were these: Azriqam, Bokeru and Yishma'ēl and She'aryah and Obadyah and Hanan. These were the sons of Atsēl.

10 And the Philistines fought *against* Yisra'ēl. And the men of Yisra'ēl fled from before the Philistines and fell *slain* on Mount Gilboa.

²And the Philistines pursued Sha'ul and his sons and the Philistines *smote* Yonathan and Abinaḳab and Malkishua, sons of Sha'ul.

³And the battle was *heavy* on Sha'ul. And the archers hit him and he was

wounded by the archers.

⁴And Sha'ul said to his armour-bearer, "Draw your *sword* and *thrust* me through with it, lest these *uncircumcised* ones *come* and abuse me." *But* his armour-bearer would not, for he was much *afraid*, so Sha'ul took a *sword* and fell on it.

⁵And when his armour-bearer *saw* that Sha'ul was *dead*, he also fell on his *sword* and *died*.

⁶Thus Sha'ul and his three sons died and *all* his house – they died together.

⁷And when *all* the men of Yisra'ēl who were in the valley *saw* that they had fled and that Sha'ul and his sons were *dead*, they *forsook* their cities and fled and the Philistines came and dwelt in them.

⁸And the next day it came to be, when the Philistines came to strip the *slain*, that they *found* Sha'ul and his sons fallen on Mount Gilboa.

⁹And they stripped him and took his head and his armour and *sent word* throughout the land of the Philistines to *proclaim* the news among their *idols* and among the people,

¹⁰and put his armour in the house of their *mighty ones* and fastened his head in the house of Daḡon.

¹¹And *all* Yabēsh Gil'ad *heard* of *all* that the Philistines had done to Sha'ul,

¹²and *all* the brave men arose and took the body of Sha'ul and the bodies of his sons. And they brought them to Yabēsh and buried their bones under the tamarisk *tree* at Yabēsh and fasted seven days.

¹³Thus Sha'ul *died* for his *trespass* which he had *trespassed against* אַיָּאֵל, *because* he *did not guard* the *Word* of אַיָּאֵל and also for *asking* a *medium* for to make inquiry,

¹⁴and *did not inquire* of אַיָּאֵל. So *He* put him to *death* and turned the *reign* over to Dawiḏ son of Yishai.

11 And *all* Yisra'ēl came *together* to Dawiḏ at Hebron, saying, "See, we are your bone and your *flesh*."

²⁴Also, in **time** past, even when Sha'ul was sovereign, you were the one who led Yisra'el out and brought them in. And אַיָּאָל your **Elohim** said to you, '**Shepherd My people Yisra'el** and be **ruler over My people Yisra'el.**' "

³So **all** the elders of Yisra'el came to the sovereign at Hebron and Dawid made a **covenant** with them at Hebron before אַיָּאָל.

And they **anointed** Dawid sovereign over Yisra'el, **according** to the **Word** of אַיָּאָל by Shemu'el.

⁴And Dawid and **all** Yisra'el went to Yerushalayim, which is Yebus, where the Yebusites were, the inhabitants of the land.

⁵And the inhabitants of Yebus said to Dawid, "You *do not* **come** in here." **But** Dawid captured the stronghold of Tsiyon, the City of Dawid.

⁶And Dawid said, "**Whoever** smites the Yebusites **first** becomes chief and commander." And Yo'ab son of Tseruyah went up **first** and became chief.

⁷And Dawid dwelt in the *stronghold*, so they called it the City of Dawid.

⁸And he built the city around it, from Millo round about and Yo'ab revived the rest of the city.

⁹And Dawid went on and became great and אַיָּאָל of hosts was with him.

¹⁰And these were the heads of the mighty men whom Dawid had, who strengthened themselves with him in his reign, with **all** Yisra'el, to set him up to **reign** over Yisra'el, **according** to the **Word** of אַיָּאָל.

¹¹And this is the number of the mighty men whom Dawid had: Yashob'am son of a Hakmonite, chief of the thirty. He had lifted up his spear *against* three hundred, *slain* at one **time**.

¹²And after him was El'azar son of Dodo, the Ahoite, who was one of the three mighty men.

¹³He was with Dawid at Pasdammim and the Philistines were gathered there for battle and a portion of the field was filled with barley and the people had fled before the Philistines.

¹⁴**But** they took their **stand** in the **midst** of that field and **delivered** it and *smote* the Philistines. Thus אַיָּאָל **saved** them by a **great deliverance**.

¹⁵And three of the thirty chiefs went down to the rock to Dawid, into the cave of Adullam, while the army of the Philistines encamped in the Valley of Repha'im.

¹⁶And Dawid was then in the *stronghold* and the watch-post of the Philistines was then in Beyth Lehem.

¹⁷And Dawid longed and said, "Oh, that someone would give me a drink of water from the well of Beyth Lehem, which is by the gate!"

¹⁸And the three broke through the camp of the Philistines and drew water from the well of Beyth Lehem that was by the gate and took it and brought it to Dawid. **But** Dawid *would not* drink it, but poured it out to אַיָּאָל.

¹⁹And he said, "Far be it from me, O my **Elohim**, that I should do this! **Should** I drink the **blood** of these men who have risked their lives? For at the risk of their lives they brought it." And he *would not* drink it. This is what the three mighty men did.

²⁰And Abishai the brother of Yo'ab was chief of another three. And he had lifted up his spear *against* three hundred men, who were slain and won a name among the three.

²¹Of the three he was more esteemed than the other two men, so he became their head. However he *did not* **come** to the **first** three.

²²Benayah was the son of Yehoyada, the son of a brave man from Qabtse'el, who had done many **deeds**. He *smote* two lionlike Mo'abites. He also went down and *smote* a lion in the **midst** of a pit on a snowy day.

²³And he *smote* a Mitsrite, a man of **great** height, five cubits tall. And in the Mitsrite's **hand** was a spear like a weaver's beam and he went down to him with a staff and wrenched the spear out of the Mitsrite's **hand** and slew him with his own spear.

²⁴This is what Benayahu son of Yehoyada did and won a name among the three mighty men.

²⁵See, he was more esteemed than the thirty, but he *did not come to the first* three. And Dawid set him over his court.

²⁶And the mighty men of the armies were Asah'el the brother of Yo'ab, Elhanan son of Dodo of Bēyth Lehem,

²⁷Shammoth the Harorite, Hēlets the Pelonite,

²⁸Ira son of Iqqēsh the Teqowite, Abi'ezer the Anathothite,

²⁹Sibbekai the Hushathite, Ilai the Aḥohite,

³⁰Maharai the Netophathite, Hēled son of Ba'anah the Netophathite,

³¹Ithai son of Ribai of Gib'ah, of the children of Binyamin, Benayah the Pirathonite,

³²Hurai of the wadis of Ga'ash, Abi'el the Arbathite,

³³Azmaweth the Baḥarumite, Elyahba the Sha'albonite,

³⁴the sons of Hashēm the Gizonite, Yonathan son of Shaḡe the Hararite,

³⁵Ahyam son of Saḡar the Hararite, Eliphal son of Ur,

³⁶Hēpher the Mekērathite, Aḥiyah the Pelonite,

³⁷Hetsro the Karmelite, Na'arai son of Ezbai,

³⁸Yo'el the brother of Nathan, Miḡbar son of Haḡri,

³⁹Tseleq the Ammonite, Naḥarai the Bērothite (the armour-bearer of Yo'ab son of Tseruyah),

⁴⁰Ira the Yithrite, Garēb the Yithrite,

⁴¹Uriyah the Hittite, Zaḡad son of Ahlai,

⁴²Aḡina son of Shiza the Re'ubēnite, the head of the Re'ubēnites and thirty with him,

⁴³Hanan son of Ma'aḡah and Yoshaphat the Mithnite,

⁴⁴Uzziya the Ashterathite, Shama and Ye'i'el the sons of Hoṯham the Aro'ērite,

⁴⁵Yeḏiya'el son of Shimri and Yoḡa his brother, the Titsite,

⁴⁶Eli'el the Maḥawite and Yeribai and Yoshawyah the sons of Elna'am, Yithmah the Mo'abite,

⁴⁷Eli'el and Obēd and Ya'asi'el of Metsobayah.

12 Now these are they who came to Dawid at Tsiqlaḡ while he was still in hiding from Sha'ul son of Qish. And they were among the mighty men, helping the battle,

²armed with bows, using both the **right hand** and the left, with stones and with arrows, with bows, of the brothers of Sha'ul, of Binyamin.

³The chief was Aḥi'ezer and Yo'ash, the sons of Shema'ah the Gib'athite; and Yezaw'el and Pelet, the sons of Azmaweth; and Beraḡah and Yēhu the Anathothite;

⁴and Yishmayah the Gib'onite, a mighty man among the thirty and over the thirty; and Yirmeyah and Yahazi'el and Yoḡanan and Yozaḡad the Gedērathite;

⁵Eluzai and Yerimoth and Be'alyah and Shemaryahu and Shephatyahu the Haruphite;

⁶Elqanah and Yishshiyahu and Azar'el and Yow'ezer and Yashob'am the Qorhites;

⁷and Yo'elah and Zebadyah, the sons of Yeroḡam of Gedor.

⁸And some Gaḏites separated themselves to Dawid at the stronghold in the wilderness, mighty brave men, men trained for battle, who could handle shield and spear, whose faces were like the faces of lions and were as *swift* as gazelles on the mountains:

⁹Ézer the chief, Obadyah the second, Eliyah the third,

¹⁰Mishmannah the fourth, Yirmeyah the fifth,

¹¹Attai the sixth, Eli'el the seventh,

¹²Yoḡanan the eighth, Elzaḡad the ninth,

¹³Yirmeyahu the tenth, Maḡbannai the

eleventh.

¹⁴These were from the sons of Gad, chiefs of the army. The least was over a hundred and the greatest was over a thousand.

¹⁵These were the ones who passed over the Yardēn in the **first** month, when it was overflowing **all** its banks and put to **flight all** those in the valleys, to the east and to the west.

¹⁶And some of the children of Binyamin and Yahudāh came to Dawid at the stronghold.

¹⁷And Dawid went out to face them and answered and said to them, “**If** you have **come** peaceably to me to help me, my **heart shall be** united with you; but if to *betray* me to my enemies – there is no *violence* in my hands – let the **Elohim** of our fathers **see** and reprove.”

¹⁸**Then** the **Spirit** came upon Amasai, chief of the officers, “**Yours**, O Dawid! And with you, O son of Yishai! Peace, **peace** to you and **peace** to your helpers! For your **Elohim shall** help you.” And Dawid received them and put them among the chiefs of the raiding band.

¹⁹And some from Menashsheh went over to Dawid when he was going with the Philistines to battle *against* Sha’ul. **But** they *did not* help them, for the princes of the Philistines took advice and **sent** him away, saying, “He might go over to his master Sha’ul with our heads!”

²⁰**When** he went to Tsiqlāg, those of Menashsheh who went over to him were Adnah and Yozabād and Yediya’ēl and Mika’ēl and Yozabād and Elihu and Tsillethai, chiefs of the thousands who were from Menashsheh.

²¹And they helped Dawid *against* the raiding bands, for they were **all** mighty brave men and they were commanders in the army.

²²For at that **time** they came to Dawid day by day to help him, until it was a **great** army, like an army of **Elohim**.

²³And these were the numbers of the chiefs of those that were armed for battle and came to Dawid at Hebron to

turn over the **reign** of Sha’ul to him, **according** to the **Word** of אַיָּאָל:

²⁴Of the children of Yahudāh bearing shield and spear, six thousand eight hundred armed for battle;

²⁵of the children of Shim’on, mighty brave men for the army, seven thousand one hundred;

²⁶of the children of Lēwi four thousand six hundred;

²⁷and Yehoyādā, the leader of the Aharonites and with him three thousand seven hundred;

²⁸and Tsađoq, a young man, a mighty brave man and from his father’s house twenty-two commanders;

²⁹and the children of Binyamin, relatives of Sha’ul, three thousand – until then the greatest part of them **guarded** the charge of the house of Sha’ul;

³⁰and the children of Ephrayim twenty thousand eight hundred, mighty brave ones, men of name throughout their father’s house;

³¹and the half-tribe of Menashsheh eighteen thousand, who were designated by name to **come** and set up Dawid to reign;

³²and the children of Yissaskar who had **understanding** of the times, **to know** what Yisra’ēl should do, their chiefs were two hundred. And **all** their brothers were at their command;

³³of Zebulun there were fifty thousand going out to the army, arranging battle with **all** weapons of battle, giving support with undivided heart;

³⁴and of Naphtali one thousand commanders and with them thirty-seven thousand with shield and spear;

³⁵and of the Danites, arranging battle, twenty-eight thousand six hundred;

³⁶and of Ashēr, going out to the army, arranging battle, forty thousand;

³⁷and of the Re’uḇēnites and the Gadites and the half-tribe of Menashsheh, from beyond the Yardēn, one hundred and twenty thousand armed for battle with **every kind** of weapon of battle.

³⁸All these men of battle, keeping rank,

came to Hebron with a **perfect heart**, to set up Dawid to **reign** over **all** Yisra'el. And **all** the rest of Yisra'el were of **one heart** to set up Dawid to reign.

³⁹And they were there with Dawid three days, eating and drinking, for their brothers had prepared for them.

⁴⁰And also those who were **near** to them, from as far away as Yissaskar and Zebulun and Naphtali, were bringing food on donkeys and camels, on mules and cattle – food of flour and cakes of figs and cakes of raisins, **wine** and oil and cattle and sheep in **great** quantities, for there was **joy** in Yisra'el.

13 And Dawid consulted with the commanders of thousands and hundreds and with **every** leader.

²And Dawid said to **all** the assembly of Yisra'el, “**If** it seems **good** to you and if it is of **אֱלֹהִים** our **Elohim**, let us send out to our brothers everywhere who are left in **all** the land of Yisra'el and with them to the priests and Lēwites who are in their cities of their **open** lands and let them be gathered to us;

³and let us bring the ark of our **Elohim** back to us, for we sought **Him** not since the days of Sha'ul.”

⁴And **all** the assembly **agreed** to do so, for the matter was **right** in the eyes of **all** the people.

⁵So Dawid **assembled** **all** Yisra'el, from Shihor in Mitsrayim to as far as the entrance of Hamath, to bring the ark of **Elohim** from Qiryath Ye'arim.

⁶And Dawid and **all** Yisra'el went up to Ba'alalah, to Qiryath Ye'arim of Yahudah, to bring up from there the ark of **Elohim**, **אֱלֹהִים**, who dwells between the keruhim, where the **Name** is called on.

⁷And they placed the ark of **Elohim** on a new wagon from the house of Abinadab and Uzza and Ahyo were leading the wagon.

⁸And Dawid and **all** Yisra'el were playing before **Elohim** with **all** their

might and with songs and with lyres and with harps and with tambourines and with cymbals and with trumpets.

⁹And when they came to the threshing-floor of Kidon, Uzza put out his **hand** to hold the ark, for the oxen *stumbled*.

¹⁰**Then** the *wrath* of **אֱלֹהִים** *burned* *against* Uzza and **He smote** him **because** he put his **hand** to the ark. And he *died* there before **Elohim**.

¹¹And Dawid was *displeased* **because** **אֱלֹהִים** had **broken out** *against* Uzza, therefore that place is called Perets Uzza, until this day.

¹²And Dawid was *afraid* of **Elohim** that day, saying, “**How shall I** bring the ark of **Elohim** to me?”

¹³So Dawid *did not* take the ark with him into the City of Dawid, but took it aside into the house of Obēd-Edom the Gittite.

¹⁴And the ark of **Elohim** remained with the household of Obēd-Edom in his house three months. And **אֱלֹהִים** **blessed** the house of Obēd-Edom and **all** that he had.

14 And Hiram sovereign of Tsor **sent** messengers to Dawid and cedar trees, with stonemasons and carpenters, to build him a house.

²And Dawid **knew** that **אֱלֹהִים** had **established** him as sovereign over Yisra'el, for his **reign** was highly exalted for the sake of **His people Yisra'el**.

³And Dawid took more wives in Yerushalayim and Dawid brought forth more sons and daughters.

⁴And these are the names of his children whom he had in Yerushalayim: Shammua and Shobab, Nathan and Shelomoh,

⁵Yibhar, Elishua and Elpelet,

⁶Noḡah, Nepheg and Yaphiya,

⁷Elishama, Be'elyada and Eliphelet.

⁸And when the Philistines **heard** that Dawid had been **anointed** sovereign over **all** Yisra'el, **all** the Philistines went up to **seek** Dawid. And Dawid **heard** and went out *against* them.

⁹And the Philistines came and made a raid on the Valley of Repha'im.

¹⁰And Dawid **inquired of Elohim**, saying, “**Do** I go up *against* the Philistines? And **shall** You give them into my **hand**?” And אַיָּאֵל said to him, “Go up and I **shall** give them into your **hand**.”

¹¹And they went up to Ba'al Peratsim and Dawid *smote* them there. **Then** Dawid said, “**Elohim** has broken through my enemies by my **hand** like a breakthrough of water.” So they called the name of that place Ba'al Peratsim.

¹²And they left their *mighty ones* there, so Dawid **commanded** and *they* were *burned with fire*.

¹³And the Philistines once again made a raid on the valley.

¹⁴And Dawid again **inquired of Elohim** and Elohim said to him, “**Do not** go up after them. Go around them and **come** upon them in front of the mulberry trees.

¹⁵“And it **shall be**, when you **hear** a sound of stepping in the tops of the mulberry trees, then go out to battle, for **Elohim shall** go out before you to *smite* the camp of the Philistines.”

¹⁶And Dawid **did as Elohim commanded** him and they drove back the army of the Philistines from Gib'on as far as Gezer.

¹⁷And the name of Dawid went out into **all** lands and אַיָּאֵל **put** the *dread* of him upon **all** nations.

15 And he built houses for himself in the City of Dawid. And he prepared a place for the ark of **Elohim** and pitched a tent for it.

²**Then** Dawid said, “No one is to lift the ark of **Elohim** but the Lēwites, for אַיָּאֵל has **chosen** them to lift the ark of **Elohim** and to **serve Him forever**.”

³And Dawid **assembled all** Yisra'el at Yerushalayim, to bring up the ark of אַיָּאֵל to its place, which he had prepared for it.

⁴And Dawid gathered the children of

Aharon and the Lēwites;

⁵of the sons of Qeath: Uri'el the chief and one hundred and twenty of his brothers;

⁶of the sons of Merari: Asayah the chief and two hundred and twenty of his brothers;

⁷of the sons of Gēreshom: Yo'el the chief and one hundred and thirty of his brothers;

⁸of the sons of Elitsaphan: Shemayah the chief and two hundred of his brothers;

⁹of the sons of Hebron: Eli'el the chief and eighty of his brothers;

¹⁰of the sons of Uzzi'el: Amminadab the chief and one hundred and twelve of his brothers.

¹¹And Dawid called for Tsadoq and Ebyathar the priests and for the Lēwites, for Uri'el, Asayah and Yo'el, Shemayah and Eli'el and Amminadab,

¹²and said to them, “You are the heads of the fathers' houses of the Lēwites. Set yourselves apart, you and your brothers, then you **shall** bring up the ark of אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** of Yisra'el to the place I have prepared for it.

¹³“**Because** you *did not* do it the **first time**, אַיָּאֵל **our Elohim broke out against** us, **because** we *did not* ask **Him about the right-ruling**.”

¹⁴So the priests and the Lēwites set themselves apart, to bring up the ark of אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** of Yisra'el.

¹⁵And the children of the Lēwites bore the ark of **Elohim** on their shoulders, by its poles, as Mosheh had **commanded according to the Word** of אַיָּאֵל.

¹⁶And Dawid spoke to the leaders of the Lēwites to **appoint** their brothers the singers with instruments of song, harps and lyres and cymbals, to lift up the **voice** with joy.

¹⁷And the Lēwites **appointed** Hēman son of Yo'el and of his brothers,

Asaph son of Berekyahu; and of their brothers, the sons of Merari, Eÿthan son of Qushayahu;

¹⁸and with them their brothers of the second rank: Zeqaryahu, Bēn and Ya'azi'el and Shemiramoth and Yehi'el

and Unni, Eliyaḅ and Benayahu and Ma'asēyahu and Mattithyahu and Eliphelēhu and Miqnēyahu and Obēd-Edom and Ye'i'ēl, the gatekeepers;

¹⁹and the singers Hēman, Asaph and Ēythan, were to sound the cymbals of bronze;

²⁰and Zekaryah and Azi'ēl and Shemiramoth and Yehi'ēl and Unni and Eliyaḅ and Ma'asēyahu and Benayahu, with harps **according** to Alamoḥ;

²¹and Mattithyahu and Eliphelēhu and Miqnēyahu and Obēd-Edom and Ye'i'ēl and Azazyahu, to lead with lyres on the Sheminith;

²²and Kenanyahu, leader of the Lēwites, in the song, **because** he was skilled;

²³and Berekyah and Elqanah were doorkeepers for the ark;

²⁴and Sheḅanyahu and Yoshaphat and Nethanē'1 and Amasai and Zekaryahu and Benayahu and Eli'ezer, the priests, were to **blow** the trumpets before the ark of **Elohim**. And Obēd-Edom and Yehiyah, were doorkeepers for the ark.

²⁵And it was Dawiḍ and the elders of Yisra'ēl and the commanders over thousands, who went to bring up the ark of the **covenant** of אַיָּאֵל from the house of Obēd-Edom with joy.

²⁶And it came to be, when **Elohim** helped the Lēwites who bore the ark of the **covenant** of אַיָּאֵל, that they offered seven bulls and seven rams.

²⁷And Dawiḍ was dressed in a **robe** of fine linen, as were **all** the Lēwites who bore the ark, the singers and Kenanyah the leader of the service with the singers. And Dawiḍ wore a linen shoulder garment.

²⁸So **all** Yisra'ēl brought up the ark of the **covenant** of אַיָּאֵל with shouting and with the sound of the horn, with trumpets and with cymbals,

sounding with harps and lyres.

²⁹And it came to be, as the ark of the **covenant** of אַיָּאֵל came to the City of Dawiḍ, that Mikal the daughter of Sha'ul, looking through a window, **saw** Sovereign Dawiḍ **dancing** and **playing**.

And she *despised* him in her **heart**.

16 And they brought the ark of **Elohim** and set it in the **midst** of the **Tent** that Dawiḍ had pitched for it. And they brought burnt offerings and **peace** offerings before **Elohim**.

²And when Dawiḍ had made an end of offering the burnt offerings and the **peace** offerings, he **blessed** the people in the **Name** of אַיָּאֵל,

³and gave a portion to everyone of Yisra'ēl, both man and woman, to everyone a loaf of bread, a measure and a cake of raisins.

⁴And he **appointed** some of the Lēwites to **serve** before the ark of אַיָּאֵל, to bring to **remembrance** and to **thank** and to **praise** אַיָּאֵל **Elohim of Yisra'ēl**:

⁵Asaph the chief and his second Zekaryah, Ye'i'ēl and Shemiramoth and Yehi'ēl and Mattithyah and Eliyaḅ and Benayahu and Obēd-Edom and Ye'i'ēl, with harps and lyres, but Asaph was sounding with cymbals;

⁶and Benayahu and Yahazi'ēl the priests continually blew the trumpets before the ark of the **covenant** of **Elohim**.

⁷And on that day Dawiḍ **first** gave **thanks** to אַיָּאֵל by the **hand** of Asaph and his brothers:

⁸Give **thanks** to אַיָּאֵל,

Call upon **His Name**,

Make **known His deeds**

Among the peoples!

⁹Sing to **Him**,

Sing **praise** to **Him**,

Speak of **all His wonders!**

¹⁰Boast in **His set-apart Name**,

Let the hearts of those **seeking** אַיָּאֵל rejoice!

¹¹**Seek** אַיָּאֵל and **His strength**,

Seek His face continually!

¹²**Remember His wonders**

Which **He** has done,

His signs and the **right-rulings** of **His mouth**,

¹³O seed of Yisra'el, **His** servant;
O children of Ya'aqob,
His chosen ones!
¹⁴**He** is אַיָּאֵל our **Elohim**,
His right-rulers are in **all** the earth.
¹⁵**Remember His covenant forever**,
The Word He commanded for a
thousand generations,
¹⁶Which **He** made with Abraham,
And **His oath** to Yitshaq,
¹⁷And **He established** it to Ya'aqob
for a **law**,
To Yisra'el as an everlasting covenant,
¹⁸Saying, "To you I give the land
of Kena'an,
The portion of your inheritance,"
¹⁹**When** you were but **few** in number,
Few indeed and sojourners in it.
²⁰And they went up and down,
From one nation to another,
And from one **reign** to another people.
²¹**He** allowed no one to *oppress* them,
And **He** reproved sovereigns for their
sakes, *saying*:
²²"**Do not** touch **My** anointed ones,
And do **My prophets** no *evil*."
²³**Sing** to אַיָּאֵל, **all** the **earth**;
Proclaim His deliverance
from day to day.
²⁴**Declare His esteem**
among the nations,
His wonders among **all** peoples.
²⁵For **great** is אַיָּאֵל
and greatly to be **praised**;
And **He** is to be *feared*
above **all mighty ones**.
²⁶For **all** the *mighty ones*
of the peoples are matters of *naught*,
But אַיָּאֵל made the **heavens**.
²⁷Excellency and splendour
are before **Him**,
Strength and gladness are in **His** place.
²⁸**Ascribe** to אַיָּאֵל, O clans of the
peoples,
Ascribe to אַיָּאֵל esteem and
strength.
²⁹**Ascribe** to אַיָּאֵל the esteem of

His Name;
Bring an offering and **come** before
Him;
Bow yourself to אַיָּאֵל
In the splendour of set-apartness!
³⁰Tremble before **Him**, **all** the earth.
The world also is firmly **established**,
immovable.
³¹**Let** the heavens **rejoice** and let the
earth be glad;
And let them say among the nations,
"**אַיָּאֵל shall** reign."
³²**Let** the sea roar and **all** that fills it;
Let the field **rejoice**
and **all** that is in it.
³³**Let** the trees of the forest then sing
before אַיָּאֵל,
For **He shall come to judge** the earth.
³⁴Give **thanks** to אַיָּאֵל, for **He** is
good, **His kindness** is **everlasting**!
³⁵And say, "**Save** us,
O **Elohim** of our **deliverance**;
And **gather** us together,
And **deliver** us from the *gentiles*,
To give **thanks** to
Your set-apart Name,
And boast in **Your** praise."
³⁶ **Blessed** be אַיָּאֵל
Elohim of Yisra'el
From **everlasting to everlasting**!
And **all** the people said, "Amën!"
and **praised אַיָּאֵל**.
³⁷So he left Asaph and his brothers
there before the ark of the **covenant**
of אַיָּאֵל to perform regular service
before the ark, as each day required;
³⁸also, Obëd-Edom with his sixty-eight
brothers, including Obëd-Edom son of
Yeduthun and Hosah, to be gatekeepers;
³⁹and Tsadoq the priest and his brothers
the priests, before the **Dwelling Place**
of אַיָּאֵל at the *high place* that was at
Gib'on,
⁴⁰to offer burnt offerings to אַיָּאֵל
on the altar of burnt offering regularly
morning and **evening** and to do
according to all that is **written** in
the **Torah** of אַיָּאֵל which **He**

commanded Yisra'el;

⁴¹and with them Hēman and Yeduthun and the rest who were **chosen**, who were designated by name, to give **thanks** to אַזָּאֵל, **because His kindness is everlasting**;

⁴²and with them Hēman and Yeduthun, to sound aloud with trumpets and cymbals and instruments for the songs of **Elohim** and the sons of Yeduthun for the gate.

⁴³And **all** the people went, each one to his house and Dawid returned to **bless** his house.

17 And it came to be, when Dawid was dwelling in his house, that Dawid said to Nathan the **prophet**, “**See**, I am dwelling in a house of cedar, but the ark of the **covenant** of אַזָּאֵל is under curtains.”

²And Nathan said to Dawid, “**Do all** that is in your **heart**, for **Elohim** is with you.”

³And it came to be that night that the **Word** of **Elohim** came to Nathan, saying,

⁴“Go and you **shall** say to **My** servant Dawid, ‘Thus said אַזָּאֵל, “You *do not* build **Me** a house to dwell in.

⁵“For I have not dwelt in a house since the **time** that I brought up Yisra'el, even to this day, but have gone from tent to tent and from *one Dwelling Place to another*.

⁶“Wherever I have moved about with **all** Yisra'el, have I ever **spoken a word** to any of the rulers of Yisra'el, whom I **commanded** to shepherd **My people**, saying, ‘*Why* have you not built **Me** a house of cedar?’ ”

⁷“And **now**, say this to **My** servant Dawid, ‘Thus said אַזָּאֵל of hosts, “I took you from the sheepfold, from **following** the sheep, to be ruler over **My people** Yisra'el.

⁸“And I have been with you wherever you have gone and have *cut off* **all** your enemies from before you and have made you a name like the name of the **great**

men who are on the earth.

⁹“And I **shall prepare** a place for **My people** Yisra'el and plant them and they **shall** dwell in a place of their own and move no more, nor **shall** the sons of *wickedness oppress* them any more, as at the **first**,

¹⁰since the **time** that I **commanded** rulers to be over **My people** Yisra'el and I have humbled **all** your enemies. And I **declared** to you that אַזָּאֵל does build you a house.

¹¹“And it **shall be**, when your days are filled to go to be with your fathers, that I **shall raise** up your **seed** after you, who is of your sons. And I **shall establish his reign**.

¹²“He does build **Me** a house and I **shall establish his throne forever**.

¹³“I am to be his **Father** and he is to be **My** son. And **My kindness** I *do not* turn away from him, as I took it from him who was before you.

¹⁴“And I **shall establish** him in **My house** and in **My reign forever** and let his throne be **established forever**.” ”

¹⁵According to **all** these **words** and **according to all this vision**, so did Nathan **speak** to Dawid.

¹⁶And Sovereign Dawid came in and sat before אַזָּאֵל and said, “*Who* am I, O אַזָּאֵל **Elohim**? And what is my house, that **You** have brought me this far?”

¹⁷“And this was a small matter in **Your** eyes, O **Elohim**, but **You** have **spoken** of **Your** servant's house for a **great** while to come and have **looked** upon me as though I were an exalted man, O אַזָּאֵל **Elohim**.

¹⁸“*What* more could Dawid add to **You** for the **esteem** of **Your** servant? For **You** **know** **Your** servant.

¹⁹“O אַזָּאֵל, for **Your** servant's sake and **according to Your own heart**, **You** have done **all** this greatness, in making **known** **all** these **great** matters.

²⁰“O אַזָּאֵל, there is none like **You**, nor is there any **Elohim** besides **You**, **according to all** that we have **heard** with our **ears**.

²¹“And who is like **Your people** Yisra’ēl, the one nation on the earth whom **Elohim** went to **redeem** for **Himself** as a people; to make for **Yourself a great and awesome Name**, by driving out nations from before **Your people** whom **You redeemed** from Mitsrayim?”

²²“For **You appointed Your people** Yisra’ēl to be **Your own people forever**. And **You, אַיָּאֵל**, have become their **Elohim**.

²³“And now, O **אַיָּאֵל**, the word which **You have spoken** concerning **Your servant** and concerning his house, let it **stand fast forever** and do as **You** have said.

²⁴“So let it **stand fast and Your Name be great forever**, saying, ‘**אַיָּאֵל** of hosts, **Elohim** of Yisra’ēl, is **Elohim** to Yisra’ēl. **Let** the house of **Your servant Dawiḏ** be **established** before **You**.’

²⁵“For **You, O my Elohim**, have **revealed** to **Your servant** to build a house for him. Therefore **Your servant has found courage** to pray before **You**.

²⁶“And now, **אַיָּאֵל, You are Elohim** and have **promised** this **goodness** to **Your servant**.

²⁷“And now, **You** have been pleased to **bless** the house of **Your servant** to be before **You forever**. For **You have blessed** it, O **אַיָּאֵל** and it is **blessed forever**.”

18 And after this it came to be that Dawiḏ *smote* the Philistines and humbled them and took Gath and its towns from the **hand** of the Philistines.

²And he *smote* the Mo’abites and the Mo’abites became Dawiḏ’s servants and brought presents.

³And Dawiḏ *smote* Hadadezer sovereign of Ṭsobah as far as Hamath, as he went to **establish his power** by the River Euphrates.

⁴And Dawiḏ took from him one thousand chariots and seven thousand horsemen and twenty thousand foot soldiers. And Dawiḏ also hamstrung **all**

the chariot *horses*, but left of them for one hundred chariots.

⁵And when Aram of Damascus came to help Hadadezer sovereign of Ṭsobah, Dawiḏ *smote* twenty-two thousand of Aram,

⁶and Dawiḏ stationed *men* in Aram of Damascus and the Arameans became Dawiḏ’s servants and brought presents. And **אַיָּאֵל saved** Dawiḏ wherever he went.

⁷And Dawiḏ took the shields of gold that were on the servants of Hadadezer and brought them to Yerushalayim.

⁸And from Tibhath and from Kun, cities of Hadadezer, Dawiḏ brought a large amount of bronze, with which Shelomoh made the bronze Sea and the columns and the vessels of bronze.

⁹And when To’u sovereign of Hamath **heard** that Dawiḏ had *smitten* **all** the army of Hadadezer sovereign of Ṭsobah,

¹⁰he *sent* Hadoram his son to Sovereign Dawiḏ, to **ask peace** of him and **bless** him, **because** he had fought *against* Hadadezer and *smote* him – **because** Hadadezer had been *fighting against* To’u – with **all** kinds of objects of gold and silver and bronze.

¹¹Sovereign Dawiḏ also set these apart to **אַיָּאֵל**, along with the silver and gold that he had brought from **all** these nations, from Eḏom and from Mo’ab and from the children of Ammon and from the Philistines and from Amalēq.

¹²And Abishai son of Tseruyah *smote* eighteen thousand Eḏomites in the Valley of Salt,

¹³and he put watch-posts in Eḏom and **all** the Eḏomites became Dawiḏ’s servants. And **אַיָּאֵל saved** Dawiḏ wherever he went.

¹⁴So Dawiḏ reigned over **all** Yisra’ēl and he was doing **right-ruling** and **righteousness** to **all** his people.

¹⁵And Yo’ab son of Tseruyah was over the army and Yehoshaphat son of Aḥilud was recorder,

¹⁶and Tsaḏoq son of Aḥituḅ and Abimeleḵ son of Ebyathar were the priests and Shawsha was the scribe,

¹⁷and Benayahu son of Yehoyada was

over the Kerēthites and the Pelēthites. And the sons of Dawid were chiefs at the sovereign's side.

19 Later, it came to be that Naḥash, sovereign of the children of Ammon, died and his son reigned in his place.

²And Dawid said, “**Let me show kindness** to Ḥanun son of Naḥash, **because** his father showed **kindness** to me.” So Dawid **sent** messengers to comfort him concerning his father. And the servants of Dawid came to Ḥanun in the land of the children of Ammon to comfort him.

³The chiefs of the children of Ammon said to Hanun, “Is Dawid esteeming your father, in your eyes, **because** he has **sent** comforters to you? Have his servants not **come** to you to **search** and to *overthrow* and to spy out the land?”

⁴So Hanun took Dawid's servants and shaved them and *cut off* their garments in the middle, at their buttocks and **sent** them away.

⁵And when *some* went and informed Dawid about the men, he **sent** to meet them, **because** the men were greatly ashamed. And the sovereign said, “Remain at Yeriḥo until your beards have grown, then return.”

⁶And when the children of Ammon **saw** that they had made themselves a *stench* to Dawid, Ḥanun and the children of Ammon **sent** a thousand talents of silver to hire chariots and horsemen from Aram-Naharayim and from Aram-Ma'aḳah and from Tsoḅah.

⁷So they hired thirty-two thousand chariots,

with the sovereign of Ma'aḳah and his people, who came and encamped before Mēydeḅa. And the children of Ammon had gathered from their cities and came to battle.

⁸**When** Dawid **heard**, he **sent** Yo'ab and the entire army of the mighty men,

⁹and the children of Ammon came out and put themselves in battle array before the gate of the city and the sovereigns

who had **come** were by themselves in the field.

¹⁰And when Yo'ab **saw** that the battle had been set *against* him before and behind, he **chose** some of the choice ones of Yisra'el and put them in battle array to meet Aram.

¹¹And the rest of the people he put under the **command** of Aḅishai his brother and they set themselves in battle array to meet the children of Ammon.

¹²And he said, “**If** Aram is too **strong** for me, then you **shall** help me; but if the children of Ammon are too **strong** for you, then I **shall** help you.

¹³“**Be strong** and let us **show** strength for our people and the cities of our **Elohim** and let אַיֵּאל do what is **good** in **His** eyes.”

¹⁴And Yo'ab drew near and the people with him, to battle *against* Aram and they fled before him.

¹⁵And when the children of Ammon **saw** that the Arameans were fleeing, they also fled before Aḅishai his brother and went into the city. And Yo'ab came to Yerushalayim.

¹⁶And when Aram **saw** that they had been *smitten* before Yisra'el, they **sent** messengers and brought the Arameans who were beyond the River and Shophak the commander of Haḳadezer's army went before them.

¹⁷And it was reported to Dawid and he gathered **all** Yisra'el and passed over the Yardēn and came upon them and set up in battle array *against* them. And Dawid set up in battle array *against* Aram and they fought with him.

¹⁸And Aram fled before Yisra'el and Dawid slew seven thousand charioteers and forty thousand foot soldiers of the Arameans and *smote* Shophak the commander of the army.

¹⁹And the servants of Haḳadezer **saw** that they were *smitten* by Yisra'el and they made **peace** with Dawid and became his servants. And the Arameans *would not* help the children of Ammon any more.

20 And it came to be at the turn of the year, at the **time** sovereigns go out to *battle*, that Yo'ab led out the **power** of the army and *destroyed* the land of the children of Ammon and came and besieged Rabbah. **But** Dawid remained at Yerushalayim. And Yo'ab *smote* Rabbah and overthrew it.

²And Dawid took their sovereign's crown from his head and **found** it weighed a talent of gold and there were **precious** stones in it. And it was set on Dawid's head. And he also brought out the spoil of the city, a **very great** amount.

³And he brought out the people who were in it and put them to **work** with saws and with iron picks and with axes. And thus Dawid did to **all** the cities of the children of Ammon. **Then** Dawid and **all** the people returned to Yerushalayim.

⁴And afterward it came to be that *fighting* broke out at Gezer with the Philistines. **Then** Sibbekai the Hushathite *smote* Sippai of the sons of the giant and they were humbled.

⁵And there was *fighting* again with the Philistines and Elhanan son of Ya'ir *smote* Lahmi the brother of Golyath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam.

⁶And there was *fighting* again at Gath, where there was a man of **great** size, with twenty-four fingers and toes, six and six and he too was born to the giant.

⁷And he reproached Yisra'el and Yehonathan son of Shim'a, Dawid's brother, *smote* him.

⁸These were born to the giant in Gath and they fell by the **hand** of Dawid and by the **hand** of his servants.

21 And Satan stood up *against* Yisra'el and moved Dawid to number Yisra'el.

²And Dawid said to Yo'ab and to the rulers of the people, "Go, number Yisra'el from Be'ersheba to Dan and

bring the number of them to me so that I **know** it."

³And Yo'ab answered, "אֲיֵאֵל does add to **His** people a hundred times more than they are. **But**, my master the sovereign, are they not **all** my master's servants? **Why** does my master **seek** to do this? **Why** should he be a **cause** of *guilt* in Yisra'el?"

⁴**But** the sovereign's **word** prevailed *against* Yo'ab. And Yo'ab left and went throughout **all** Yisra'el and came to Yerushalayim.

⁵And Yo'ab gave the sum of the number of the people to Dawid. And **all** Yisra'el had one million one hundred thousand men who drew the *sword* and Yahuḏah had four hundred and seventy thousand men who drew the *sword*.

⁶**But** he *did not* number Lēwi and Binyamin among them, for the sovereign's **word** was *loathsome* to Yo'ab.

⁷And it was *evil* in the eyes of **Elohim**, concerning this *matter* and **He** *smote* Yisra'el.

⁸**Then** Dawid said to **Elohim**, "I have *sinned* greatly, **because** I have done this *matter*. **But now**, I pray, take away the *crookedness* of **Your** servant, for I have done **very foolishly**."

⁹And אֲיֵאֵל spoke to Gaḏ, Dawid's seer, saying,

¹⁰"Go and you **shall speak** to Dawid, saying, "Thus said אֲיֵאֵל, "I hold three *options* before you – choose one of them for yourself and I do it to you." "

¹¹So Gaḏ came to Dawid and said, "Thus said אֲיֵאֵל, 'Choose for yourself

¹²either three years of *scarcity of food*, or three months to be defeated by your foes with the *sword* of your enemies overtaking you, or else for three days the *sword* of אֲיֵאֵל, even the *plague* in the land, with the messenger of אֲיֵאֵל *destroying* throughout **all** the borders of Yisra'el.' **Now** consider what answer I am to **return** to **Him** who *sent* me."

¹³And Dawid said to Gaḏ, "I am in **great** trouble. Please let me *fall* into the **hand** of אֲיֵאֵל, for **His compassion** is **very great**, but *do not* let me *fall*

into the **hand** of man.”

¹⁴And אַיָּאָל sent a *plague* upon Yisra’el and seventy thousand men of Yisra’el fell.

¹⁵And **Elohim** sent a messenger to Yerushalayim to *destroy* it. And as he was destroying, אַיָּאָל saw and **relented** about the *evil* and said to the messenger who was destroying, “Enough! **Now** stop your **hand**.” And the messenger of אַיָּאָל was standing by the threshing-floor of Ornan the Yebusite.

¹⁶And Dawid lifted his eyes and **saw** the messenger of אַיָּאָל standing between earth and the heavens, having in his **hand** a drawn *sword stretched* out over Yerushalayim. And Dawid and the elders, wrapped in sackcloth, fell on their faces.

¹⁷And Dawid said to **Elohim**, “Was it not I who **commanded** the people to be numbered? I am the one who has *sinned* and done *evil* indeed. **But** these, the sheep, what have they done? **Let Your hand**, I pray, O אַיָּאָל my **Elohim**, be *against* me and my father’s house, but not *against* **Your people**, to be plagued.”

¹⁸And the messenger of אַיָּאָל **commanded** Gad to say to Dawid that Dawid should go up to **raise** an altar to אַיָּאָל on the threshing-floor of Ornan the Yebusite.

¹⁹So Dawid went up at the **word** of Gad, which he had **spoken** in the **Name** of אַיָּאָל.

²⁰And Ornan turned and **saw** the messenger. And his four sons with him hid themselves and Ornan was threshing wheat.

²¹And Dawid came to Ornan and Ornan **looked** and **saw** Dawid and he went out from the threshing-floor and bowed down to Dawid with his face to the ground.

²²And Dawid said to Ornan, “Give me the site of the threshing-floor, so that I build an altar to אַיָּאָל on it. Give it to me at the **complete** price, so that the *plague* is restrained from the people.”

²³And Ornan said to Dawid, “Take it for

yourself and let my master the sovereign do what is **good** in his eyes. **See**, I **shall** give you the cattle for burnt offerings, the threshing implements for wood and the wheat for the grain offering. I give it **all**.”

²⁴And Sovereign Dawid said to Ornan, “No, but I **shall** certainly buy it at the **complete** price, for I *do not* take what is yours for אַיָּאָל, nor offer a burnt offering without cost.”

²⁵And Dawid gave Ornan six hundred sheqels of gold by weight for the place.

²⁶And Dawid built there an altar to אַיָּאָל and offered burnt offerings and **peace** offerings and called on אַיָּאָל. And **He** answered him from the heavens by *fire* on the altar of burnt offering.

²⁷**Then** אַיָּאָל **commanded** the messenger and he returned his *sword* to its sheath.

²⁸At that **time**, when Dawid **saw** that אַיָּאָל had answered him on the threshing-floor of Ornan the Yebusite, he slaughtered there,

²⁹for the **Dwelling Place** of אַיָּאָל and the altar of the burnt offering, which Mosheh had made in the wilderness, were at that **time** at the *high place* in Gib’on.

³⁰**But** Dawid was *unable* to go before it to **inquire** of **Elohim**, for he was *afraid* of the *sword* of the messenger of אַיָּאָל.

22 Dawid then said, “This is the House of אַיָּאָל **Elohim** and this is the altar of burnt offering for Yisra’el.”

²And Dawid **commanded** to **gather** the foreigners who were in the land of Yisra’el. And he **appointed** stonemasons to *cut* hewn stones to build the House of **Elohim**.

³And Dawid prepared large quantities of iron for the nails of the **doors** of the gates and for the clamps and more bronze than could be weighed,

⁴and cedar trees beyond number, for the Tsidonians and those from Tsor brought much cedar **wood** to Dawid.

⁵And Dawid said, “Shelomoh my son is young and tender and the house that is to be built for אַיָּאֵל is to be exceedingly great, for a splendid Name, to **all** the lands. Please, let me make **preparation** for it.” So Dawid made extensive **preparations** before his *death*.

⁶He also called for his son Shelomoh and **commanded** him to build a house for אַיָּאֵל Elohim of Yisra’el.

⁷And Dawid said to Shelomoh, “My son, as for me, it has been in my **heart** to build a house to the **Name** of אַיָּאֵל my **Elohim**,

⁸but the **Word** of אַיָּאֵל came to me, saying, ‘You have shed much **blood** and have fought **great** battles. *you do not* build a house for **My Name**, **because** you have shed much **blood** on the earth in **My** presence.

⁹**See**, a son is to be born to you, who is a man of rest. And I *shall* give him rest from **all** his enemies **all** around, for Shelomoh is his name and **peace** and rest I give to Yisra’el in his days.

¹⁰He does build a house for **My Name**. He is to be **My** son and I am to be his **Father** and I *shall* establish the throne of his reign over Yisra’el **forever**.’

¹¹“**Now**, my son, אַיָּאֵל be with you, then you *shall* prosper and build the House of אַיָּאֵל your **Elohim**, as **He** has said to you.

¹²“Only, let אַיָּאֵל give you **wisdom** and **understanding** and **command** you concerning Yisra’el, so that you **guard** the **Torah** of אַיָּאֵל your **Elohim**,

¹³then you *shall* prosper, if you **guard** to do the **laws** and **right-rulings** with which אַיָּאֵל **commanded** Mosheh concerning Yisra’el. Be **strong** and brave, *do not* **fear** nor be discouraged.

¹⁴“**See**, in my *affliction* I have prepared for the House of אַיָּאֵל one hundred thousand talents of gold and one million talents of silver and bronze and iron beyond measure, for it is plenty. And I have prepared timber and stone and you *shall* add to them.

¹⁵“And with you there are many workmen: hewers and workers of stone and timber and **all** types of skilled men

for **every kind** of work.

¹⁶“Of gold and silver and bronze and iron there is no limit. Rise up and do and אַיָּאֵל is with you.”

¹⁷And Dawid **commanded** all the rulers of Yisra’el to help Shelomoh his son, *saying*,

¹⁸“Is not אַיָּאֵל your **Elohim** with you? And has **He** not **given** you rest **all** around? For **He** has **given** the inhabitants of the land into my **hand** and the land has been subdued before אַיָּאֵל and before **His** people.

¹⁹“**Now**, give your **heart** and your being to **seek** אַיָּאֵל your **Elohim**. Rise up and build the set-apart place of אַיָּאֵל **Elohim**, to bring the ark of the **covenant** of אַיָּאֵל and the set-apart vessels of **Elohim** into the house that is to be built for the **Name** of אַיָּאֵל.”

23 Dawid was old and **satisfied** with days and he made his son Shelomoh to **reign** over Yisra’el,

²and he gathered **all** the rulers of Yisra’el with the priests and the Lēwites.

³And the Lēwites were numbered from the age of thirty years and above. And their number, head by head, was thirty-eight thousand males.

⁴Of these, twenty-four thousand were to oversee the **work** of the House of אַיָּאֵל and six thousand were officers and judges.

⁵Four thousand were gatekeepers and four thousand to give **praise** to אַיָּאֵל, “which I made for giving praise.”

⁶And Dawid divided them into divisions, of the sons of Lēwi: of Gēreshon, Qehath and Merari.

⁷Of the Gēreshonites: La’dan and Shim’i.

⁸The sons of La’dan: Yeḥi’el the head, then Zētham and Yo’el, three.

⁹The sons of Shim’i: Shelomith and Ḥazi’el and Haran, three. These were the heads of the fathers’ houses of La’dan.

¹⁰And the sons of Shim’i: Yaḥath, Zina

and Ye'ush and Beri'ah. These were the four sons of Shim'i.

¹¹And Yahath was the head and Zizah the second. **But** Ye'ush and Beri'ah *did not* have many sons, so they were reckoned as one father's house.

¹²The sons of Qeath: Amram, Yitshar, Hebron and Uzzi'el, four.

¹³The sons of Amram: Aharon and Mosheh. And Aharon was set-apart, he and his sons **forever**, that he should set-apart the most set-apart, to burn incense before אַזָּאֵל, to **serve Him** and to give the **blessing in His Name forever**.

¹⁴**Now** Mosheh, the man of **Elohim**, his sons were named after the tribe of Lēwi.

¹⁵The sons of Mosheh: Gēreshom and Eli'ezer.

¹⁶The sons of Gēreshom: Sheḅu'el was the head.

¹⁷And the sons of Eli'ezer: Reḥabyah was the head. And Eli'ezer had no other sons, but the sons of Reḥabyah were **very** many.

¹⁸The sons of Yitshar: Shelomith was the head.

¹⁹The sons of Hebron: Yeriyahu was the head, Amaryah the second, Yaḥazi'el the third and Yeḳam'am the fourth.

²⁰The sons of Uzzi'el: Miḳah was the head and Yishshiyah the second.

²¹The sons of Merari: Maḥli and Mushi. The sons of Maḥli: El'azar and Qish.

²²And El'azar died and had no sons, but only daughters. And their brothers, the sons of Qish, took them.

²³The sons of Mushi: Maḥli, Ēḏer and Yerēmoth, three.

²⁴These were the sons of Lēwi by their fathers' houses, the heads of the fathers' houses as they were counted head by head by the number of their names, who did the **work** for the service of the House of אַזָּאֵל, from the age of twenty years and above.

²⁵For Dawid said, "אַזָּאֵל **Elohim** of Yisra'el has given rest to **His** people and **He** dwells in Yerushalayim **forever**,"

²⁶and also of the Lēwites, "They **shall** no longer bear the **Dwelling Place**, or any of the vessels for its service."

²⁷For by the **last words** of Dawid the Lēwites were numbered from twenty years old and above,

²⁸**because** their duty was to help the sons of Aharon in the service of the House of אַזָּאֵל, in the courtyards and in the rooms, in the **cleansing of all** that was set-apart and the **work** of the service of the House of **Elohim**,

²⁹both with the showbread and the fine flour for the grain offering and with the unleavened cakes and what is baked on the griddle and with what is mixed and with **all** kinds of measures and sizes;

³⁰and to **stand every** morning to **thank** and **praise אַזָּאֵל** and so at **evening**;

³¹and for **all** the burnt offerings to אַזָּאֵל on the **Sabbaths** and on the **New Moons** and on the **appointed times**, by number **according** to the **right-ruling** upon them, continually before אַזָּאֵל;

³²and that they should **guard** the duty of the **Tent** of Meeting, the duty of the set-apart place and the duty of the sons of Aharon their brothers in the service of the House of אַזָּאֵל.

24 And the divisions of the sons of Aharon: The sons of Aharon were Naḏab and Aḅihu, El'azar and Ithamar.

²**But** Naḏab and Aḅihu died before their father and had no children, so El'azar and Ithamar **served** as priests.

³And Dawid, with Tsaḏoq of the sons of El'azar and Ahimelek of the sons of Ithamar, divided them **according** to their offices in their service.

⁴And there were more leaders **found** of the sons of El'azar than of the sons of Ithamar. So they divided the sons of El'azar into sixteen heads of their fathers' houses and the sons of Ithamar into eight heads of their fathers' houses.

⁵And they were divided by **lot**, one group as another, for there were officials of the set-apart place and officials of **Elohim**, from the sons of El'azar and from the sons of Ithamar.

⁶The scribe, Shemayah son of Nethanē'1, a Lēwite, **wrote** them down

before the sovereign and the rulers, and Tsađoq the priest and Ahimelek son of Ebyathar and the heads of the fathers' houses of the priests and Lēwites, one father's house taken for El'azar and one for Ithamar.

⁷And the **first lot** came forth to Yehoyarib, the second to Yedayah,

⁸the third to Harim, the fourth to Se'orim,

⁹the fifth to Malkiyah, the sixth to Miyamin,

¹⁰the seventh to Haqqots, the eighth to Abiyah,

¹¹the ninth to Yēshua, the tenth to Shekanyahu,

¹²the eleventh to Elyashib, the twelfth to Yaqim,

¹³the thirteenth to Huppah, the fourteenth to Yesheb'ab,

¹⁴the fifteenth to Bilgah, the sixteenth to Immēr,

¹⁵the seventeenth to Hēzir, the eighteenth to Happitssets,

¹⁶the nineteenth to Pethahyah, the twentieth to Yehezqēl,

¹⁷the twenty-first to Yakin, the twentysecond to Gamul,

¹⁸the twenty-third to Delayahu, the twenty-fourth to Ma'azyahu.

¹⁹These were their offices in their service for **coming** into the House of אַזָּאֵל **according** to their **right-ruling** by the **hand** of Aharon their father, as אַזָּאֵל Elohim of Yisra'el had **commanded** him.

²⁰And the rest of the sons of Lēwi: of the sons of Amram, Shuḅa'el; of the sons of Shuḅa'el, Yehdeyahu.

²¹Concerning Rehabyahu, of the sons of Rehabyahu, the head was Yishshiyah.

²²Of the Yitsharites, Shelomoth; of the sons of Shelomoth, Yahath.

²³Of the sons of Ae'aron, Yeriyahu was the head, Amaryahu the second, Yahazi'el the third and Yeqam'am the fourth.

²⁴Of the sons of Uzzi'el, Mikah; of the sons of Mikah, Shamir.

²⁵The brother of Mikah, Yishshiyah; of

the sons of Yishshiyah, Zekaryahu.

²⁶The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi; the son of Ya'aziyahu, Benō.

²⁷The sons of Merari by Ya'aziyahu: Beno and Shoham and Zakkur and Ibri.

²⁸Of Mahli: El'azar, who had no sons.

²⁹Of Qish: the son of Qish, Yerahme'el.

³⁰And the sons of Mushi: Mahli, Eder and Yerimoth. These were the sons of the Lēwites **according** to their fathers' houses.

³¹These also **cast lots**, they too, as their brothers the sons of Aharon, in the presence of Sovereign Dawid and Tsađoq and Ahimelek and the heads of the fathers' houses of the priests and Lēwites – the head of the fathers, as well as his younger brothers.

25 And Dawid and the commanders of the army separated for the service some of the sons of Asaph and of Hēman and of Yeduthun, who should prophesy with lyres, with harps and with cymbals. And the number of the workmen **according** to their service was:

²Of the sons of Asaph: Zakkur and Yosēph, Nethanyah and Ashar'elah, the sons of Asaph at the hands of Asaph, who prophesied at the hands of the sovereign.

³Of Yeduthun, the sons of Yeduthun: Gedalyahu and Tseri and Yeshayahu, Hashabyahu and Mattityahu, six, under the hands of their father Yeduthun, who prophesied with a lyre to give **thanks** and to **praise** אַזָּאֵל.

⁴Of Hēman, the sons of Hēman: Buqqiyahu, Mattanyahu, Uzzi'el, Shebu'el, Yerimoth, Hananyah, Hanani, Eliyathah, Giddalti and Romamti-Ezer, Yoshbeqashah, Mallothi, Hothir, Mahaziyoth.

⁵All these were the sons of Hēman the sovereign's **seer** in the **words** of Elohim, to **exalt** his horn. For Elohim gave Hēman fourteen sons and three daughters.

⁶All these were at the hands of their father for song in the House of אַזָּאֵל, with cymbals, harps and lyres, for the

service of the House of **Elohim**: Asaph, Yeduthun and Hēman, at the hands of the sovereign.

⁷And the number of them, with their brothers who were **taught** in the songs of אַזָּאֵל, **all** who were skilled, was two hundred and eighty-eight.

⁸And they *cast lots* for their duty, the small as well as the great, the **teacher** with the student.

⁹And the **first lot** for Asaph came forth for Yosēph; Geḏalyahu the second, he and his brothers and sons, twelve;

¹⁰the third Zakkur, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

¹¹the fourth Yitsri, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

¹²the fifth Nethanyahu, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

¹³the sixth Buqqiyahu, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

¹⁴the seventh Yesar'ēlah, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

¹⁵the eighth Yeshayahu, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

¹⁶the ninth Mattanyahu, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

¹⁷the tenth Shim'i, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

¹⁸the eleventh Azar'ēl, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

¹⁹the twelfth Ḥashabiyah, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

²⁰the thirteenth Shuḇa'ēl, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

²¹the fourteenth Mattithyahu, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

²²the fifteenth Yerēmoth, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

²³the sixteenth Hananyahu, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

²⁴the seventeenth Yashbeqashah, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

²⁵the eighteenth Ḥanani, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

²⁶the nineteenth Mallothi, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

²⁷the twentieth Eliyathah, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

²⁸the twenty-first Hothir, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

²⁹the twenty-second Giddalti, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

³⁰the twenty-third Maḥaziyyoth, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

³¹the twenty-fourth Romamti-Ezer, his sons and his brothers, twelve.

26 For the divisions of the gatekeepers: Of the Qorḥites, Meshelemyahu son of Qorē, of the sons of Asaph.

²And the sons of Meshelemyahu: Zeḳaryahu the first-born, Yediya'ēl the second, Zeḇadyahu the third, Yathni'ēl the fourth,

³Ēylam the fifth, Yehoḥanan the sixth, Elyo'ēynai the seventh.

⁴And the sons of Obēd-Eḏom: Shemayah the first-born, Yēhozabad the second, Yo'aḥ the third, Saḳar the fourth, Nethanē'1 the fifth,

⁵Ammi'ēl the sixth, Yissasḳar the seventh, Pe'ullethai the eighth, for **Elohim blessed** him.

⁶Also to Shemayah his son were sons born who ruled their fathers' houses, **because** they were able mighty men.

⁷The sons of Shemayah: Othni and Repha'ēl and Obēd, Elzabaḏ, whose brothers Elihu and Semak'yahu were able men.

⁸All these were of the sons of Obēd Eḏom, they and their sons and their brothers, able men with strength for the work: sixty-two of Obēd-Eḏom.

⁹And Meshelemyahu had sons and brothers, eighteen able men.

¹⁰Also Ḥosah, of the children of Merari, had sons: Shimri the head (although he was not the first-born, his father made him the head),

¹¹Hilqiyahu the second, Tebalyahu the third, Zeḳaryahu the fourth. All the sons and brothers of Ḥosah were thirteen.

¹²These divisions of the gatekeepers, among the chief men, had duties like their brothers, to **serve** in the House of אַזָּאֵל.

¹³And they *cast lots* for each gate, the small as well as the great, **according** to

their father's house.

¹⁴And the **lot** to the east fell to Shelemyahu. **Then** they *cast lots* for his son Zekaryahu, a **wise** counsellor and his **lot** came out to the north;

¹⁵to Obēd-Edom to the south and to his sons the storehouse;

¹⁶to Shuppim and Hosah to the west, with the Shalleketh Gate on the ascending highway; guard corresponding with guard.

¹⁷On the east were six Lēwites, on the north four each day, on the south four each day and for the storehouse two by two.

¹⁸As for the Parbar on the west, there were four on the highway and two at the Parbar.

¹⁹These were the divisions of the gatekeepers among the sons of Qorah and among the sons of Merari.

²⁰Of the Lēwites, Aḥiyah was over the treasuries of the House of **Elohim** and over the treasuries of the set-apart gifts.

²¹The sons of La'dan, the sons of the Gēreshonites of La'dan, heads of their fathers' houses, of La'dan the Gēreshonite: Yehi'ēli.

²²The sons of Yehi'ēli, Zētham and Yo'el his brother, were over the treasuries of the House of אַזָּאֵל.

²³Of the Amramites, the Yitsharites, the Hebronites and the Uzzi'ēlites,

²⁴even Shebu'el son of Gēreshom, son of Mosheh, was overseer of the treasuries.

²⁵And his brothers by Eli'ezer were Reḥabyahu his son and Yeshayahu his son and Yoram his son and Zikri his son and Shelomoth his son.

²⁶This Shelomoth and his brothers were over **all** the treasuries of the set-apart gifts which Sovereign Dawid and the heads of fathers' houses, the commanders over thousands and hundreds and the commanders of the army, had set-apart.

²⁷Some of the booty won in battles they set-apart to maintain the House of אַזָּאֵל.

²⁸And **all** that Shemu'el the seer and

Sha'ul son of Qish and Abnēr son of Nēr and Yo'ab son of Tseruyah had set-apart, **all** who were setting apart, were under the **hand** of Shelomith and his brothers.

²⁹Of the Yitsharites, Kenanyahu and his sons were for the outward duties as officials and judges over Yisra'el.

³⁰Of the Hebronites, Hashabyahu and his brothers, one thousand seven hundred able men, had the oversight of Yisra'el beyond the Yardēn westward, for **all** the **work** of אַזָּאֵל and in the service of the sovereign.

³¹Of the Hebronites, Yeriyah was head of the Hebronites **according** to his genealogy of the fathers. In the fortieth year of the **reign** of Dawid they were sought and there were **found** among them able men at Ya'zēr of Gil'ad.

³²And his brothers were two thousand seven hundred able men, heads of fathers' *houses*, whom Sovereign Dawid made officials over the Re'ubēnites and the Gadites and the half-tribe of Menashsheh, in **all** matters of **Elohim** and matters of the sovereign.

27 And the children of Yisra'el, **according** to their number, the heads of fathers' *houses* and the commanders of thousands and hundreds and their officers, **served** the sovereign in **all** matters of the divisions which came in and went out month by month throughout **all** the months of the year, each division having twenty-four thousand.

²Over the **first** division for the **first** month was Yashob'am son of Zabdi'el and in his division were twenty-four thousand;

³of the sons of Perets and the chief of **all** the commanders of the army for the **first** month.

⁴And over the division of the second month was Doḏai an Aḥoḥite and of his division Miqlōth also was the leader and in his division were twenty-four thousand.

⁵The third commander of the army

for the third month was Benayahu, son of Yehoyada the priest, who was chief and in his division were twenty-four thousand.

⁶This was the Benayahu who was mighty among the thirty and was over the thirty and in his division was Ammizabād his son.

⁷The fourth for the fourth month was Asah'ēl the brother of Yo'ab and Zebađyah his son after him and in his division were twenty-four thousand.

⁸The fifth for the fifth month was Shamhuth the Yizrahite and in his division were twenty-four thousand.

⁹The sixth for the sixth month was Ira son of Iqqēsh the Teqowite and in his division were twenty-four thousand.

¹⁰The seventh for the seventh month was Hēlets the Pelonite, of the children of Ephrayim and in his division were twenty-four thousand.

¹¹The eighth for the eighth month was Sibbekai the Hushathite, of the Zarhites and in his division were twenty-four thousand.

¹²The ninth for the ninth month was Abi'ezer the Anathothite, of the Binyamites and in his division were twenty-four thousand.

¹³The tenth for the tenth month was Maharai the Netophathite, of the Zarhites and in his division were twenty-four thousand.

¹⁴The eleventh for the eleventh month was Benayah the Pirathonite, of the children of Ephrayim and in his division were twenty-four thousand.

¹⁵The twelfth for the twelfth month was Heldai the Netophathite, of Othni'ēl and in his division were twenty-four thousand.

¹⁶And over the tribes of Yisra'ēl: the chief officer over Re'uḇēn: Eli'ezer son of Zikri; over Shim'on: Shephatyahu son of Ma'akah;

¹⁷Lēwi: Hashabyah son of Qemu'ēl; over Aharon: Tsadoq;

¹⁸Yahudaḥ: Elihu, one of Dawid's brothers; Yissaskar: Omri son of Miķa'ēl;

¹⁹Zebulun: Yishmayahu son of Obadyahu; Naphtali: Yerimoth son of Azri'ēl;

²⁰the children of Ephrayim: Hoshēa son of Azazyahu; the half-tribe of Menashsheh: Yo'ēl son of Peđayahu;

²¹the half-tribe of Menashsheh in Gil'ad: Iddo son of Zekaryahu;

Binyamin: Ya'asi'ēl son of Abnēr;

²²Dan: Azar'ēl son of Yeroham. These were the rulers of the tribes of Yisra'ēl.

²³**But** Dawid *did not* take the number of those twenty years old and under, **because** אַיָּאֵל had said **He** would increase Yisra'ēl like the stars of the **heavens**.

²⁴Yo'ab son of Tseruyah began a census but he *did not* finish, for *wrath* came upon Yisra'ēl **because** of this census; nor was the number recorded in the annals of Sovereign Dawid.

²⁵And Azmaweth son of Ađi'ēl was over the sovereign's treasuries. And Yehonathan son of Uzziyahu was over the store houses in the field, in the cities and in the villages and in the watchtowers.

²⁶And Ezri son of Kelub was over those who did the **work** of the field for tiling the ground.

²⁷And Shim'i the Ramathite was over the vineyards and Zabdi the Shiphmite was over the increase of the vineyards for the **wine** cellars.

²⁸And Ba'al-Hanan the Geđērite was over the olive trees and the sycamore trees that were in the low country and Yo'ash was over the oil-stores.

²⁹And Shitrai the Sharonite was over the herds that fed in Sharon and Shaphat son of Adlai was over the herds that were in the valleys.

³⁰And Obil the Yishma'elite was over the camels and Yehdeyahu the Mēronothite was over the donkeys,

³¹and Yaziz the Hađrite was over the flocks. All of these were heads over the property of Sovereign Dawid.

³²Also Yehonathan, Dawid's uncle, was a counsellor, a **wise** man and a scribe. And Yehi'ēl son of Haķmoni was with

the sovereign's sons.

³³And Ahithophel was the sovereign's counsellor and Hushai the Arkite was the sovereign's companion.

³⁴And after Ahithophel was Yehoyada son of Benayahu, then Ebyathar. And the chief of the sovereign's army was Yo'ab.

28 And Dawid **assembled** at Yerushalayim **all** the rulers of Yisra'el: the rulers of the tribes and the commanders of the divisions who **served** the sovereign, the commanders over thousands and commanders over hundreds and the heads over **all** the property and possessions of the sovereign and of his sons, with the officials, the mighty men and **all** the mighty brave men.

²**Then** Sovereign Dawid rose to his feet and said, "**Hear** me, my brothers and my people: I had it in my **heart** to build a house of rest for the ark of the **covenant** of אַיָּאֵל and for the footstool of our **Elohim** and had made **preparations** to build it.

³⁴**But** **Elohim** said to me, 'You *do not* build a house for **My Name**, **because** you have been a man of battle and have shed blood.'

⁴⁴Yet אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** of Yisra'el **chose** me above **all** the house of my father to be sovereign over Yisra'el **forever**, for **He** has **chosen** Yahuḏah to be the ruler. And of the house of Yahuḏah, the house of my father and among the sons of my father, **He** was pleased with me to make me **reign** over **all** Yisra'el.

⁵⁴And of **all** my sons – for אַיָּאֵל has **given** me many sons – **He** has **chosen** my son Shelomoh to sit on the throne of the **reign** of אַיָּאֵל over Yisra'el,

⁶and said to me, 'Shelomoh your son is the one to build **My** house and **My** courtyards, for I have **chosen** him to be **My** son and **I** **Myself** am a **Father** to him.

⁷⁴And **I shall** establish his **reign** **forever**, if he is **strong** to do **My**

commands and **My right-rulings**, as it is this day.'

⁸⁴And **now**, before the eyes of **all** Yisra'el, the assembly of אַיָּאֵל and in the **hearing** of our **Elohim**, **guard** and **seek all the commands** of אַיָּאֵל your **Elohim**, so that you **possess** this **good** land and leave it as an **inheritance** for your children after you **forever**.

⁹⁴As for you, my son Shelomoh, **know** the **Elohim** of your father and **serve Him** with a **perfect heart** and with a **pleasing life**, for אַיָּאֵל searches **all hearts** and **understands all** the intent of the thoughts. **If** you do **seek Him**, **He** is **found** by you; but if you *forsake Him*, **He** *rejects you forever*.

¹⁰⁴**See, now**, for אַיָּאֵל has **chosen** you to build a house for the set-apart place. Be **strong** and do it."

¹¹And Dawid gave his son Shelomoh the plans for the porch and its houses and its treasuries and its upper rooms and its inner rooms and the place of atonement;

¹²and the plans for **all** that he had by the **Spirit**, of the courtyards of the House of אַיָּאֵל and of **all** the rooms **all** around and of the treasuries of the House of **Elohim** and of the treasuries for the set-apart gifts;

¹³and for the divisions of the priests and the Lēwites and for **all** the **work** of the service of the House of אַיָּאֵל and for **all** the vessels of service in the House of אַיָּאֵל;

¹⁴even gold by weight for *utensils* of gold, for **all** utensils used in **every kind** of service; for silver for **all** utensils of silver by weight, for **all** utensils used in **every kind** of service;

¹⁵and by weight for the lampstands of gold and their **lamps** of gold, by weight for each **lampstand** and its lamps; and for the lampstands of silver by weight, for the **lampstand** and its lamps, **according** to the use of each lampstand;

¹⁶and by weight gold for the tables of the showbread, for each table and silver for the tables of silver;

¹⁷and **clean** gold for the forks and the

basins and the jars of **clean** gold and the golden bowls, by weight for **every** bowl; and for the silver bowls, silver by weight for **every** bowl;

¹⁸and refined gold by weight for the altar of incense and for the pattern of the chariot of the gold keruḥim, spreading out their wings and covering over the ark of the **covenant** of אַיָּאָל.

¹⁹“אַיָּאָל made me **understand** all this in **writing**, by **His hand** upon me, **all the works** of these plans.”

²⁰And Dawid said to his son Shelomoh, “Be **strong and courageous** and do it. **Do not fear** nor be *afraid*, for אַיָּאָל **Elohim**, my **Elohim**, is with you. **He shall** not leave you nor *forsake* you, until you have **completed** all the **work** for the service of the House of אַיָּאָל.

²¹“And **see**, the divisions of the priests and the Lēwites for **all** the service of the House of **Elohim** and **every** volunteer of any **skill** is with you in **all work**, for **every kind** of service. And the rulers and **all** the people are entirely at your **command**.”

29 And Dawid the sovereign said to **all** the **assembly**, “My son Shelomoh, the one whom **Elohim** has **chosen**, is young and tender. And the **work** is great, **because** the palace is not for man but for אַיָּאָל **Elohim**.

²“And with **all** my **power** I have prepared for the House of my **Elohim**: the gold for the gold and the silver for the silver and the bronze for the bronze, the iron for the iron and the **wood** for the wood, shoham stones and settings and fair stones of various colours and **all** kinds of **precious** stones and marble slabs – in large quantities.

³“And also, **because** I **delighted** in the House of my **Elohim**, I have treasure of gold and silver; I give for the House of my **Elohim** even more than **all** that I have prepared for the **Set-apart** House:

⁴three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir and seven thousand talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of

the houses;

⁵the gold for the gold and the silver for the silver and for **all** kinds of **work** to be done by the hands of craftsmen. **Who** then is moved to fill his **hand** today for אַיָּאָל?”

⁶And the leaders of the fathers’ *houses* and the leaders of the tribes of Yisra’ēl and the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, with the heads over the sovereign’s **work**, volunteered

⁷and gave for the **work** of the House of **Elohim** five thousand talents and ten thousand darics of gold and ten thousand talents of silver and eighteen thousand talents of bronze and one hundred thousand talents of iron.

⁸And those with whom were **found precious stones** gave them to the treasury of the House of אַיָּאָל, into the **hand** of Yehi’ēl the Gēreshonite.

⁹And the people rejoiced, for they had **given** voluntarily, **because** with a **perfect heart** they had **given** voluntarily to אַיָּאָל. And Dawid the sovereign also rejoiced greatly.

¹⁰And Dawid **blessed** אַיָּאָל before **all** the assembly. And Dawid said, “**Blessed** are **You**, אַיָּאָל **Elohim** of Yisra’ēl, our **Father**, **forever** and **ever**.

¹¹“**Yours**, O אַיָּאָל, is the greatness, the **power** and the comeliness, the preeminence and the excellency, **because** of **all** that is in the heavens and in the earth. **Yours** is the reign, O אַיָּאָל and **You** are exalted as head above **all**.

¹²“And the riches and the **esteem** come from **Your** presence and **You** **rule** over **all**. And in **Your hand** is **power** and might and it is in **Your hand** to make **great** and to give **strength** to **all**.

¹³“And **now**, our **Elohim**, we **thank You** and **praise Your** comely **Name**.

¹⁴“**But** who am I and who are my people, that we should be able to give so voluntarily as this? For **all** comes from **You** and we have **given** to **You** out of **Your hand**.

¹⁵“For we are sojourners and pilgrims before **You**, as were **all** our fathers; our days on earth are as a shadow and without permanence.

¹⁶“O אַיָּאֵל our Elohim, all this store that we have prepared to build **You** a house for **Your** set-apart **Name** is from **Your hand** and **all** is of **You**.

¹⁷“And I **know**, my **Elohim**, that **You** are trying the **heart** and desire **uprightness**. As for me, in the **uprightness** of my **heart** I have voluntarily **given** all these. And **now** with **joy** I have **seen Your people**, who are present here to give voluntarily to **You**.

¹⁸“O אַיָּאֵל Elohim of Abraham, Yitshaq and Yisra’el, our fathers, **guard** this **forever** in the intent of the *thoughts* of the **heart of Your people** and **prepare their heart** toward **You**.

¹⁹“And give my son Shelomoh a **perfect heart** to **guard Your commands** and **Your witnesses** and **Your laws**, to do **all** and to build the palace for which I have prepared.”

²⁰And Dawid said to **all the assembly**, “**Now bless אַיָּאֵל** your **Elohim**.” And **all** the assembly **blessed אַיָּאֵל Elohim** of their fathers and bowed their heads and did obeisance to אַיָּאֵל and the sovereign.

²¹And they made offerings to אַיָּאֵל and offered burnt offerings to אַיָּאֵל on the next day: a thousand bulls, a thousand rams, a thousand lambs, with their drink offerings and slaughterings in large numbers for **all** Yisra’el.

²²And they ate and drank before אַיָּאֵל with **great joy** on that day.

And they set up Shelomoh son of Dawid to **reign** the second **time**, and **anointed** him before אַיָּאֵל to be leader and Tsadoq to be priest.

²³And Shelomoh sat on the throne of אַיָּאֵל as sovereign instead of Dawid his father and prospered; and **all** Yisra’el **obeyed** him.

²⁴And **all** the rulers and the mighty men and also **all** the sons of Sovereign Dawid, submitted themselves to Shelomoh the sovereign.

²⁵And אַיָּאֵל exalted Shelomoh exceedingly *in the eyes* of **all** Yisra’el and put upon him such royal splendour as had not been on any sovereign before him in Yisra’el.

²⁶Thus Dawid son of Yishai reigned over **all** Yisra’el.

²⁷And the days that he reigned over Yisra’el was forty years. He reigned seven years in Hebron and he reigned thirty-three years in Yerushalayim.

²⁸And he died in a **good** old age, **satisfied** with days, riches and esteem. And Shelomoh his son reigned in his place.

²⁹And the acts of Sovereign Dawid, **first** and **last**, **see**, they are **written** in the **book** of Shemu’el the seer, in the **book** of Nathan the **prophet** and in the **book** of Gad the seer,

³⁰with **all** his **reign** and his might and the times that passed over him and over Yisra’el and over **all** the reigns of the lands.

2 DIBRE ha YAMIM

2 CHRONICLES (2 ANNALS)

1 And Shelomoh son of Dawid strengthened himself over his reign, and **אָיָאָל** his **Elohim** was with him and made him exceedingly great.

²And Shelomoh spoke to **all** Yisra'el, to the commanders of the thousands and of the hundreds, to the judges and to **every** leader in **all** Yisra'el, the heads of the fathers' houses.

³And Shelomoh and **all** the assembly with him, went to the *high place* that was at Gib'on, for **Elohim**'s **Tent** of Meeting was there, which Mosheh the servant of **אָיָאָל** had made in the wilderness.

⁴However, Dawid had brought up the ark of **Elohim** from Qiryath Ye'arim to the place Dawid had prepared for it, for he had pitched a tent for it in Yerushalayim.

⁵And the bronze altar that Betsal'el son of Uri son of Hur had made, he put before the **Dwelling Place** of **אָיָאָל**. And Shelomoh and the assembly sought it.

⁶And Shelomoh went up there to the bronze altar before **אָיָאָל**, which was at the **Tent** of Meeting and offered a thousand burnt offerings on it.

⁷That night **Elohim** appeared to Shelomoh and said to him, "**Ask** what should I give you!"

⁸And Shelomoh said to **Elohim**, "You have shown **great kindness** to Dawid my father and have made me sovereign in his place.

⁹"**Now, אָיָאָל Elohim**, let **Your promise** to Dawid my father **stand** fast, for You have set me up to **reign** over a people as numerous as the dust of the earth.

¹⁰"**Now** give me **wisdom and knowledge**, so that I go out and **come** in before this people. For who **is able to rightly rule** this **great** people of **Yours**?"

¹¹And **Elohim** said to Shelomoh, "**Because** this was in your **heart** and you have not asked riches or wealth or **esteem** or the **life** of your enemies, nor have you asked long **life**, but have asked **wisdom and knowledge** for yourself, so as to **rightly rule My people** over whom I have set you up to reign,

¹²**wisdom and knowledge** are **given** to you. And riches and wealth and **esteem** I *also* give you, such as none of the sovereigns have had who have been before you, nor any after you have."

¹³And Shelomoh went to Yerushalayim from the *high place* that was at Gib'on, from before the **Tent** of Meeting and reigned over Yisra'el.

¹⁴And Shelomoh gathered chariots and horsemen and he had one thousand four hundred chariots and twelve thousand horsemen, whom he stationed in the chariot cities and with the sovereign in Yerushalayim.

¹⁵And the sovereign made silver and gold to be as stones in Yerushalayim and he made cedars to be as plenty as the sycamores which are in the low country.

¹⁶And Shelomoh had horses imported from Mitsrayim and from Quē – the sovereign's *merchants* bought them in Quē at a price.

¹⁷And they came up and brought from Mitsrayim a chariot for six hundred pieces of silver and a horse for one hundred and fifty. And so, for **all** the sovereigns of the Hittites and the sovereigns of Aram, they brought them out by their **hand**.

2 And Shelomoh gave **word** to build a House for the **Name** of **אָיָאָל** and a house for his reign.

²*Then* Shelomoh enrolled seventy thousand men to bear burdens, eighty thousand hewing *stone* in the mountains and three thousand six hundred to

oversee them.

³And Shelomoh **sent** to Hiram sovereign of Tsor, saying, “As you did for my father Dawid and **sent** him cedars to build himself a house to dwell in –

⁴see, I am building a House for the **Name** of אַיָּאֵל my **Elohim**, to set it apart to **Him**, to burn before **Him** sweet incense and for the continual showbread and for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the **Sabbaths** and on the **New Moons** and on the **appointed times** of אַיָּאֵל our **Elohim**. This is for Yisra’el **forever**.

⁵“And the House which I build is great, for our **Elohim** is greater than **all mighty ones**.

⁶“**But** who is able to build **Him** a House, since the heavens and the heavens of the heavens are *unable* to contain **Him**? *Who* am I then, that I should build **Him** a House, *except* to offer before **Him**?

⁷“And **now**, send me at once a man who **knows** to **work** in gold and in silver and in bronze and in iron and in purple and crimson and blue and knowing to engrave with the skilled men who are with me in Yahudah and Yerushalayim, whom Dawid my father has prepared.

⁸“And send me cedar, cypress and algum logs from Lebanon, for I **know** that your servants **know** to *cut* timber in Lebanon. And **see**, my servants are with your servants,

⁹even to **prepare** plenty of timber for me, for the House that I am building is **great** and marvellous.

¹⁰“And **see**, I have **given** servants to you, the hewers who *cut* timber, twenty thousand kors of ground wheat and twenty thousand kors of barley and twenty thousand baths of **wine** and twenty thousand baths of oil.”

¹¹**Then** Hiram the sovereign of Tsor answered in **writing**, which he **sent** to Shelomoh, “**Because** אַיָּאֵל loves **His** people, **He** has made you sovereign over them.”

¹²And Hiram said, “**Blessed** be אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** of Yisra’el,

who made the heavens and earth, for **He** has **given** Sovereign Dawid a **wise** son, knowing **wisdom** and **understanding**, to build a House for אַיָּאֵל and a house for his reign!

¹³“And **now** I have **sent** a skilled man having **understanding**, Hiram-abi,

¹⁴the son of a woman of the daughters of Dan and his father was a man of Tsor, who **knows** to **work** in gold and in silver, in bronze, in iron, in stone and in wood, purple and blue and in fine linen and in crimson and to make any engraving and to **accomplish** any plan that is **given** to him, with your skilled men and with the skilled men of my master Dawid your father.

¹⁵“And **now**, the wheat and the barley, the oil and the **wine** which my master has **spoken** of, let him send to his servants.

¹⁶“And let us *cut wood* from Lebanon, as much as you need and bring it to you in rafts by sea to Yapho and you take it up to Yerushalayim.”

¹⁷And Shelomoh numbered **all** the men, the strangers who were in the land of Yisra’el, **according** to the census in which Dawid his father had numbered them and they were **found** to be one hundred and fifty-three thousand six hundred.

¹⁸And he made seventy thousand of them to bear burdens and eighty thousand hewers *of stone* in the mountain and three thousand six hundred overseers to make the people work.

3 And Shelomoh began to build the House of אַיָּאֵל at Yerushalayim on Mount Moriyah, where **He** appeared to his father Dawid, at the place that Dawid had prepared on the threshing-floor of Ornan the Yebusite.

²And he began to build on the second **day** of the second month in the fourth year of his reign.

³And these are the foundations which Shelomoh laid for building the **House of**

Elohim: The length by cubits **according** to the former measure were sixty cubits and the width twenty cubits.

⁴And the porch that was in front was twenty cubits long **according** to the breadth of the house and the height was one hundred and twenty. And he overlaid the inside with **clean** gold.

⁵And the **great** house he panelled with cypress which he overlaid with fine gold and he *carved* palm trees and chainwork on it.

⁶And he covered the house with **precious** stones for comeliness and the gold was gold from Parwayim.

⁷And he overlaid the house, the beams, the doorposts and its walls and its **doors** with gold and *carved* kerubim on the walls.

⁸And he made the House of the Most Set-apart. Its length was **according** to the width of the house, twenty cubits and its width twenty cubits. And he overlaid it with fine gold, six hundred talents.

⁹And the weight of the nails was fifty sheqels of gold. And he overlaid the upper rooms with gold.

¹⁰In the Most **Set-apart** House he made two kerubim of sculptured **work** and overlaid them with gold.

¹¹And the wings of the kerubim: their *total* length was twenty cubits, one wing was five cubits, touching the wall of the room and the other wing was five cubits, touching the wing of the other kerub,

¹²and the wing of the other kerub was five cubits, touching the wall of the room and the other wing also was five cubits, touching the wing of the other kerub.

¹³The wings of these kerubim spread out twenty cubits and they stood on their feet and they faced inward.

¹⁴And he made the veil of blue and purple and crimson and fine linen and worked kerubim on it.

¹⁵And at the front of the House he made two columns thirty-five cubits high and the capital that was on the top of each of them was five cubits.

¹⁶And he made wreaths of chainwork, as in the Speaking **Place** and put them on top of the columns. And he made one

hundred pomegranates and put them on the wreaths of chainwork.

¹⁷And he set up the columns before the Hēkal, one on the **right** and the other on the left and called the name of the one on the **right** Yakin and the name of the one on the left Bo'az.

4 And he made an altar of bronze, twenty cubits long and twenty cubits wide and ten cubits high.

²And he made the Sea of *cast metal*, ten cubits from one rim to the other, round **all** about. And its height was five cubits and a line of thirty cubits measured around it.

³And figures like oxen were under it, **all** around it, ten to a cubit, **all** the way around the Sea. Two rows of oxen were *cast* when it was cast.

⁴It stood on twelve oxen, three facing north and three facing west and three facing south and three facing east. And the Sea was set upon them and **all** their back parts were inward.

⁵And it was a handbreadth thick and its rim was shaped like the rim of a **cup**, like a lily blossom. It held three thousand baths.

⁶And he made ten basins and put five on the **right** side and five on the left, to wash in them. In them they rinsed off what pertains to the burnt offering, but the Sea was for the priests to wash in.

⁷And he made ten lampstands of gold **according** to their ruling and set them in the Hēkal, five on the **right** side and five on the left.

⁸And he made ten tables and placed them in the Hēkal, five on the **right** side and five on the left. And he made one hundred bowls of gold.

⁹And he made the courtyard of the priests and the **great** court and **doors** for the court. And he overlaid these **doors** with bronze.

¹⁰And he placed the Sea on the **right** side, eastward over *against* the south.

¹¹And Hūram made the pots and the shovels and the bowls. So Hūram **completed** doing the **work** that he was

to do for Sovereign Shelomoh for the House of **Elohim**:

¹²the two columns and the bowl-shaped capitals that were on top of the two columns and the two networks to cover the two bowl-shaped capitals which were on top of the columns;

¹³and four hundred pomegranates for the two networks, two rows of pomegranates for each network, to cover the two bowlshaped capitals that were on the columns.

¹⁴And he made stands and the basins on the stands,

¹⁵one Sea and twelve oxen under it;

¹⁶and the pots and the shovels and the forks. And **all** their vessels Hiram his master craftsman made of polished bronze for Sovereign Shelomoh for the House of **אֵלֹהִים**.

¹⁷On the plain of Yardēn the sovereign had them *cast* in clay moulds, between Sukkoth and Tserēdathah.

¹⁸And Shelomoh *made* so large a number of **all** these vessels that the weight of the bronze was not searched out.

¹⁹And Shelomoh had **all** the furnishings made for the House of **Elohim** and the altar of gold and the tables on which was the showbread,

²⁰and the lampstands with their **lamps** of refined gold, to burn **according to right-ruling** in front of the Speaking **Place**,

²¹and the blossoms and the **lamps** and the snuffers of gold, of **perfect** gold,

²²and the snuffers and the bowls and the ladles and the *fire* holders of refined gold. And the entrance to the House, its inner **doors** to the Most **Set-apart Place** and the **doors** of the *hēḵal* of the House, were of gold.

5 And **all** the **work** that Shelomoh had done for the House of **אֵלֹהִים** was completed.

And Shelomoh brought in the set-apart items of his father Dawid: the silver and the gold and **all** the utensils. And he put

them in the treasuries of the House of **Elohim**.

²And Shelomoh **assembled** the elders of Yisra'ēl and **all** the heads of the tribes, the chief fathers of the children of Yisra'ēl, in Yerushalayim, to bring up the ark of the **covenant** of **אֵלֹהִים** from the City of Dawid, which is Tsiyon.

³And **all** the men of Yisra'ēl **assembled** to the sovereign at the **festival**, which was in the seventh month.

⁴And **all** the elders of Yisra'ēl came and the Lēwites took up the ark,

⁵and they brought up the ark, the **Tent** of Meeting and **all** the set-apart utensils that were in the **Tent**. The Lēwite priests brought them up.

⁶And Sovereign Shelomoh and **all** the congregation of Yisra'ēl who were **assembled** to him before the ark, were slaughtering so many sheep and cattle that *could not* be counted or numbered.

⁷And the priests brought in the ark of the **covenant** of **אֵלֹהִים** to its place, into the Speaking Place of the House, to the Most **Set-apart Place**, under the wings of the kerubim.

⁸For the kerubim spread their wings over the place of the ark and the kerubim covered over the ark and its poles.

⁹And the poles were so long that the ends of the poles of the ark were **seen** from the set-apart place, in front of the Speaking **Place**, but they were not **seen** from outside.

And they are there to this day.

¹⁰There was naught in the ark but the two tablets which Mosheh put there at Ḥorēb, when **אֵלֹהִים** made a **covenant** with the children of Yisra'ēl, when they came out of Mitsrayim.

¹¹And it came to be when the priests came out of the Most **Set-apart Place** – for **all** the priests who were present had set themselves apart, there was none to **watch** by division –

¹²and the Lēwite singers, **all** those of Asaph and Hēman and Yeḏuthun, with their sons and their brothers, stood at the east end of the altar, dressed in white

linen, having cymbals and harps and lyres and with them one hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets.

¹³**Then** it came to be, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be **heard** in praising and thanking אַיָּאֵל and when they lifted up their **voice** with the trumpets and with cymbals and with instruments of song and giving **praise** to אַיָּאֵל, “For **He** is **good**, for **His** **kindness** is **everlasting**,” that the house, the House of אַיָּאֵל, was filled with a cloud,

¹⁴and the priests were *unable* to **stand** and perform the service **because** of the cloud, for the **esteem** of אַיָּאֵל filled the House of **Elohim**.

6 *Then* Shelomoh said, “אַיָּאֵל has said **He** would dwell in the dark cloud.

²⁴**But** I have built **You** an exalted house and a place for **You** to dwell in **forever**.”

³And the sovereign turned around and **blessed** all the assembly of Yisra’el, while all the assembly of Yisra’el stood.

⁴And he said, “**Blessed** be אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** of Yisra’el, who has filled with **His** hands what **He** spoke with **His** mouth to my father Dawid, saying,

⁵“From the day that I brought **My** people out of the land of Mitsrayim, I have **chosen** no city from any tribe of Yisra’el in which to build a house for **My** **Name** to be there, *nor did* I choose any man to be a leader over **My** people Yisra’el.

⁶**But** I have **chosen** Yerushalayim, for **My** **Name** to be there. And I have **chosen** Dawid to be over **My** people Yisra’el.’

⁷“And it was in the **heart** of my father Dawid to build a House for the **Name** of אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** of Yisra’el.

⁸**But** אַיָּאֵל said to my father Dawid,

‘**Because** it was in your **heart** to build a House for **My** **Name**, you did well in that it was in your **heart**.

⁹**But** you do not build the house, for

your son who **comes** forth from your loins, he does build the House for **My** **Name**.’

¹⁰“**Now** אַיָּאֵל has **established** **His** **word** which **He** spoke and I have been **raised** up instead of my father Dawid and sit on the throne of Yisra’el, as אַיָּאֵל **promised**. And I have built the House for the **Name** of אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** of Yisra’el.

¹¹“And there I have placed the ark, in which is the **covenant** of אַיָּאֵל which **He** made with the children of Yisra’el.”

¹²And he stood before the altar of אַיָּאֵל in front of all the assembly of Yisra’el and spread out his hands –

¹³for Shelomoh had made a bronze platform five cubits long and five cubits broad and three cubits high and had put it in the **midst** of the court. And he stood on it and knelt down on his knees before all the assembly of Yisra’el and spread out his hands toward the heavens –

¹⁴and said, “אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** of Yisra’el, there is no **Elohim** in the heavens or on earth like **You**, **guarding** the **covenant** and **kindness** with **Your** servants who **walk** before **You** with all their **heart**,

¹⁵who has **guarded** what **You** promised **Your** servant Dawid my father. Indeed, **You** have both **spoken** with **Your** mouth and have filled it with **Your** hand, as it is this day.

¹⁶“And **now**, אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** of Yisra’el, **guard** what **You** promised **Your** servant Dawid my father, saying, ‘There is not to cease a man of yours before **Me**, sitting on the throne of Yisra’el – only, *if* your sons **guard** their way, to **walk** in **My** **Torah** as you have walked before **Me**.’

¹⁷“And **now**, O אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** of Yisra’el, let **Your** **word** come true which **You** have **spoken** to **Your** servant Dawid.

¹⁸“For is it true: **Elohim** dwells with men on the earth!

See, the heavens and the heavens of the heavens are *unable* to contain **You**, how much less this House which I have built!

¹⁹“**Yet**, **shall** **You** turn to the prayer of

Your servant and his supplication, O אַיָּהּ my **Elohim**, to **listen** to the cry and to the prayer which **Your** servant is praying before **You**?

^{20c}For **Your** eyes to be **open** toward this House day and night, toward the place **You** have said to put **Your Name** there, to **listen** to the prayer which **Your** servant prays toward this place.

^{21c}And **shall You** give **heed** to the supplications of **Your** servant and of **Your people** Yisra'el, when they pray toward this place and **hear** from **Your** dwelling place, in the heavens and **shall hear** and forgive?

^{22c}**If** anyone *sins against* his neighbour and he has lifted up an **oath** on him, to **cause** him to swear and **comes** and swears before **Your** altar in this House,

²³then **hear** in the heavens and act and **rightly rule** **Your** servants, *repaying* the **wrong** by bringing his *way* on his own head and **declare right** the **righteous** by giving him **according** to his **righteousness**.

^{24c}And if **Your people** Yisra'el are *smitten* before an enemy **because** they have *sinned against* **You** and they **shall turn back** and **confess** **Your Name** and pray and make supplication before **You** in this House,

²⁵then **hear** in the heavens and **forgive** the *sin* of **Your people** Yisra'el and bring them back to the land which **You** gave to them and their fathers.

^{26c}**When** the heavens are shut up and there is no rain **because** they have *sinned against* **You** and they **shall** pray toward this place and **confess** **Your Name** and turn from *their sin* **because** **You afflict** them,

²⁷then **hear** in the heavens and **forgive**, the *sin* of **Your** servants, **Your people** Yisra'el – for **You teach** them the **good way** in which they should **walk** – and **shall** send rain on **Your** land which **You** have **given** to **Your people** as an inheritance.

^{28c}**When** there is *scarcity of food* in the land; when there is *pestilence, blight, mildew, locusts or grasshoppers*; when their enemies *distress* them in the land of

their cities; any *plague* or any sickness; ²⁹**whatever** prayer, **whatever** supplication is made by anyone, or by **all Your people** Yisra'el, when each one **knows** his own *plague* and his own grief and spreads out his hands to this house,

³⁰then **hear** from the heavens **Your** dwelling place and **forgive** and give to everyone **according** to **all** his ways, whose **heart You know** – for **You** alone **know** the **hearts** of the sons of men – ³¹so that they **fear You**, to **walk** in *your ways* as long as they **live** in the land which **You** gave to our fathers.

^{32c}Also, concerning a foreigner, who is not of **Your people** Yisra'el, but who **comes** from a far land for the sake of **Your great Name** and **Your strong hand** and **Your** outstretched arm, when they **come** and pray in this House,

³³then **hear** from the heavens **Your** dwelling place and do **according** to **all** which the foreigner calls to **You** for, so that **all** the people of the earth **know** **Your Name** and **fear You**, as do **Your people** Yisra'el and to **know** that this House which I have built is called by **Your Name**.

^{34c}**When** **Your people** go out to battle *against* their enemies, in the **way** that **You** send them and they **shall** pray to **You** toward this city which **You** have **chosen** and toward the House which I have built for **Your Name**,

³⁵then **shall** **You** **hear** from the heavens their prayer and their supplication and maintain their **cause**?

^{36c}**When** they *sin against* **You** – for there is no one who *does not sin* – and **You** become **enraged** with them and give them to the enemy and they take them captive to a land far or near,

³⁷and they **shall turn back** unto their **heart**, in the land where they have been taken captive and **shall** turn and make supplication to **You** in the land of their captivity, saying, 'We have *sinned*, have *acted crookedly* and have done **wrong**,'

³⁸and when they **return** to **You** with **all** their **heart** and with **all** their being in the land of their captivity, where they have taken them captive and they **shall** pray

toward their land which **You** gave to their fathers and the city which **You** have **chosen** and toward the House which I have built for **Your Name**,

³⁹then **shall You hear** from the heavens, **Your dwelling place**, their prayer and their supplications and maintain their **cause** and **forgive, Your people** who have *sinned against You?*

⁴⁰“**Now, my Elohim**, I pray, let **Your eyes be open** and let **Your ears** be attentive to the prayer of this place.

⁴¹“**And now**, arise, O **אֱלֹהִים Elohim**, to **Your resting place**, **You** and the ark of **Your strength**. **Let Your priests**, O **אֱלֹהִים Elohim**, be robed with **deliverance** and let **Your kind ones rejoice in goodness**.

⁴²“O **אֱלֹהִים Elohim**, *do not* turn away the face of **Your anointed**; **remember** the **kind acts of Your servant Dawid**.”

7 And when Shelomoh had ended praying, **fire** came down from the heavens and **consumed** the burnt offering and the slaughterings and the **esteem of אֱלֹהִים filled the House**.

²And the priests were **unable to enter** the House of **אֱלֹהִים**, **because** the **esteem of אֱלֹהִים had filled the House of אֱלֹהִים**.

³And **all** the children of Yisra'el **saw** how the **fire** came down and the **esteem of אֱלֹהִים** on the House and they bowed their faces to the ground on the pavement and did obeisance and gave **thanks to אֱלֹהִים**, saying, “For **He is good**, for **His kindness is everlasting**.”

⁴And the sovereign and **all** the people were making offerings before **אֱלֹהִים**.

⁵And Sovereign Shelomoh made an offering of twenty-two thousand bulls and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep. Thus the sovereign and **all** the people **dedicated** the House of **Elohim**.

⁶And the priests were standing over their duties and the Lēwites with instruments of the song to **אֱלֹהִים**, which Sovereign Dawid had made to give **thanks to אֱלֹהִים**, saying, “For **His kindness is everlasting**,” whenever

Dawid **praised** by their **hand**. And the priests were blowing trumpets before them and **all Yisra'el** were standing.

⁷And Shelomoh set-apart the middle of the courtyard that was in front of the House of **אֱלֹהִים**, for there he made burnt offerings and the fat of the **peace offerings**, **because** the bronze altar which Shelomoh had made was not able to contain the burnt offerings and the grain offerings and the fat.

⁸And Shelomoh at that **time observed** the **Festival** seven days and **all Yisra'el** with him, a **very great** assembly from the entrance of Hamath to the wadi of Mitsrayim.

⁹And on the eighth day they held an **assembly**, for they performed the **dedication** of the altar seven days and the **festival** seven days.

¹⁰And on the twenty-third **day of the seventh month** he **sent** the people away to their tents, rejoicing and **glad of heart** for the **goodness** that **אֱלֹהִים** had done for Dawid and for Shelomoh and for **His people Yisra'el**.

¹¹Thus Shelomoh **finished** the House of **אֱלֹהִים** and the sovereign's house. And **all** that came into the **heart** of Shelomoh to do in the House of **אֱלֹהִים** and in his own house, he prosperously **executed**.

¹²And **אֱלֹהִים appeared** to Shelomoh by night and said to him, “I have **heard** your prayer and have **chosen** this place for **Myself** as a house of slaughtering.

¹³“**If I shut** up the heavens and there is no rain, or **if I command** the locusts to **devour** the land, or **if I send pestilence** among **My people**,

¹⁴and **My people** upon whom **My Name** is called, **shall** humble themselves and pray and **seek My face** and turn from their **evil ways**, **then I shall hear** from the heavens and **forgive, their sin** and **heal their land**.

¹⁵“**Now, My eyes are open** and **My ears** attentive to the prayer of this place.

¹⁶“**And now**, I have **chosen** and set this house apart for **My Name** to be there **forever**. **My eyes** and **My heart shall** always be there.

¹⁷“And you, *if* you **walk** before **Me** as your father Dawid walked and do **according to all** that I have **commanded** you and *if* you **guard My laws** and **My right-rulings**,

¹⁸*then I shall establish* the throne of your reign, as I **covenanted** with Dawid your father, saying, ‘There is not to cease a man of yours as ruler in Yisra’el.’

¹⁹“*But if* you *turn away* and *forsake My laws* and **My commands** which I have set before you and *shall go* and *serve* other *mighty ones* and *bow* yourself to *them*,

²⁰then I *shall pluck* them from **My** land, which I have **given** them and this house which I have set-apart for **My Name** I *shall cast out* of **My sight** and make it to be a proverb and a *mockery* among **all** peoples.

²¹“And this house, which has been exalted, everyone who passes by it is **shall be** astonished and say, ‘*Why* has אַיָּאֵל done thus to this land and this house?’

²²“*Then they shall say*, ‘**Because** they *forsook* אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Mitsrayim and *embraced* other *mighty ones* and *bowed* themselves to *them* and *served* *them*, therefore **He** has brought **all this evil** on them.’”

8 And it came to be at **the end** of twenty years, that Shelomoh had built the House of אַיָּאֵל and his own house.

²As to the cities which Hiram had **given** to Shelomoh, Shelomoh had built them and he settled the children of Yisra’el there.

³And Shelomoh went to Hamath Tsobah and *seized* it.

⁴And he built Tadmor in the wilderness and **all** the storage cities which he built in Hamath.

⁵And he built Upper Bëyth Horon and Lower Bëyth Horon, cities of defence, with walls, gates and bars,

⁶also Ba’alath and **all** the storage cities that Shelomoh had and **all** the chariot cities and the cities of the cavalry and

all that Shelomoh desired to build in Yerushalayim and in Leḇanon and in **all** the land of his **rule**.

⁷All the people who were left of the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hiwwites and the Yebusites, who were not of Yisra’el –

⁸their descendants who were left in the land after them, whom the children of Yisra’el *did not destroy* – from these Shelomoh **raised** compulsory labour, as it is to this day.

⁹And Shelomoh *did not* make slaves of the children of Yisra’el for his **work**, but they were men of battle and chiefs of his officers and commanders of his chariots and his cavalry.

¹⁰And these were the chiefs of the officials of Sovereign Shelomoh: two hundred and fifty, who ruled over the people.

¹¹And Shelomoh brought the daughter of Pharaoh up from the City of Dawid to the house he had built for her, for he said, “My wife *does not dwell* in the house of Dawid sovereign of Yisra’el, for *the place* where the ark of אַיָּאֵל has come, is set-apart.”

¹²**Then** Shelomoh offered burnt offerings to אַיָּאֵל on the altar of אַיָּאֵל which he had built before the porch,

¹³even as the duty of **every** day required, offering **according** to the **command** of Mosheh, for the **Sabbaths**, for the **New Moons** and for the **appointed times** *three times* a year: **The Festival of Unleavened Bread**, **Festival of weeks** and the **Festival of Booths**.

¹⁴And **according** to the ruling of Dawid his father, he **appointed** the divisions of the priests for their service, the Lëwites for their duties,

to **praise** and **serve** before the priests, as the duty of each day required and the gatekeepers by their divisions at each gate, for so was the **command** of Dawid the man of **Elohim**.

¹⁵And they *did not* turn aside from the **command** of the sovereign to the priests and Lëwites concerning any matter or

concerning the treasuries.

¹⁶And **all** the **work** of Shelomoh was prepared from the **day** of the foundation of the House of אַיָּאֵל until it was completed.

And the House of אַיָּאֵל was perfected.

¹⁷**Then** Shelomoh went to Etsyon Geber and Elyloth on the seacoast, in the land of Edom.

¹⁸And Hiram **sent** him ships by the **hand** of his servants and servants who **knew** the sea. And they went with the servants of Shelomoh to Ophir and took four hundred and fifty talents of gold from there and brought it to Sovereign Shelomoh.

9 And the sovereignty of Sheba **heard** of the report of Shelomoh and came to Yerushalayim to try Shelomoh with hard questions, with a **very great** company and camels bearing spices and much gold, and **precious** stones. And she came to Shelomoh and she spoke with him about **all** that was in her **heart**.

²And Shelomoh answered **all** her questions. And there was no matter *hidden* for Shelomoh which he *did not* make **known** to her.

³And the sovereignty of Sheba **saw** the **wisdom** of Shelomoh and the house that he had built,

⁴and the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their attire and his cupbearers and their attire and his burnt offerings that he offered up in the House of אַיָּאֵל and there was no more spirit in her.

⁵**Then** she said to the sovereign, “True was the **word** I **heard** in my own land about your **words** and your **wisdom**.”

⁶“**But** I *did not believe* their **words** until I came and **saw** with my own eyes. And **see**, I have not been told the half of the greatness of your **wisdom**! You exceed the report which I **heard**.”

⁷“**Blessed** are your men and **blessed** are these your servants, who **stand** continually before you and **hear** your **wisdom**!”

⁸“**Blessed** be אַיָּאֵל your Elohim,

who **delighted** in you, to put you on **His** throne to be sovereign for אַיָּאֵל your **Elohim**! **Because** your **Elohim** has **loved** Yisra’el, to **establish** them **forever**, therefore **He** made you sovereign over them, to do **right-ruling** and **righteousness**.”

⁹And she gave the sovereign one hundred and twenty talents of gold and **very** many spices and **precious** stones. And there has not been any spices such as those the sovereignty of Sheba gave to Sovereign Shelomoh.

¹⁰And also, the servants of Hiram and the servants of Shelomoh, who brought gold from Ophir, brought algum **wood** and **precious** stones.

¹¹And the sovereign made stairs of the algum **wood** for the House of אַיָּאֵל and for the sovereign’s house, also lyres and harps for singers. And there was never **seen** the like of them before in the land of Yahudah.

¹²And Sovereign Shelomoh gave to the sovereignty of Sheba **all** she desired, **whatever** she asked, besides that which she had brought to the sovereign. And she turned and went to her own land, she and her servants.

¹³And the weight of gold that came to Shelomoh yearly was *six* hundred and *sixty-six* talents of gold,

¹⁴besides that which the *merchants* and traders brought. And **all** the sovereigns of Arabia and governors of the land were bringing gold and silver to Shelomoh.

¹⁵And Sovereign Shelomoh made two hundred large shields of *beaten* gold – six hundred pieces of *beaten* gold went into each shield,

¹⁶and three hundred shields of *beaten* gold – three hundred pieces of gold went into each shield. And the sovereign put them in the House of the Forest of Lebanon.

¹⁷And the sovereign made a **great** throne of ivory and overlaid it with **clean** gold,

¹⁸and six steps *led* to the throne, with a footstool of gold, which were fastened to the throne; and there were armrests on either side of the place of the seat and

two lions stood beside the armrests.

¹⁹And twelve lions were standing there, one on each side of the six steps. The like of it was not in any reign.

²⁰And **all** the drinking vessels of Sovereign Shelomoh were of gold and **all** the vessels of the House of the Forest of Leḇanon were of refined gold – silver was reckoned of *little* value in the days of Shelomoh.

²¹For the sovereign's ships went to Tarshish with the servants of Huram. Once in three years the ships of Tarshish came, bringing gold and silver, ivory, apes and baboons.

²²And Sovereign Shelomoh became greater than **all** the sovereigns of the earth in riches and **wisdom**.

²³And **all** the sovereigns of the earth sought the presence of Shelomoh to **hear his wisdom**, which Elohim had put in his **heart**.

²⁴And each man brought his present: objects of silver and objects of gold and garments and armour and spices, horses and mules, the matter of a year by year.

²⁵And Shelomoh had four thousand stalls for horses and chariots and twelve thousand horsemen whom he stationed in the chariot cities and with the sovereign at Yerushalayim.

²⁶And he ruled over **all** the sovereigns from the River to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Mitsrayim.

²⁷And the sovereign made silver in Yerushalayim as the stones and he made cedar trees as plenty as the sycamores which are in the low country.

²⁸And they were bringing horses to Shelomoh from Mitsrayim and from **all** lands.

²⁹And the rest of the acts of Shelomoh, **first** and **last**, are they not **written** in the **book** of Nathan the **prophet** and in the prophecy of Aḥiyah the Shilonite and in the **visions** of Iddo the **seer** concerning Yarob'am son of Nebat?

³⁰And Shelomoh reigned in Yerushalayim over **all** Yisra'el forty years.

³¹So Shelomoh slept with his fathers

and was buried in the City of Dawid his father. And Reḥab'am his son reigned in his place.

10 And Reḥab'am went to Shekem, for **all** Yisra'el had gone to Shekem to set him up to reign.

²And it came to be, when Yarob'am son of Neḇat **heard** it – he was in Mitsrayim where he had fled from the presence of Shelomoh the sovereign – that Yarob'am returned from Mitsrayim.

³So they **sent** for him and called him. And Yarob'am and **all** Yisra'el came and spoke to Reḥab'am, saying,

⁴“Your father made our yoke hard and **now**, lighten the hard service of your father and his *heavy* yoke which he put on us, then we **shall serve** you.”

⁵And he said to them, “**Come back** to me after three days.” And the people went.

⁶**Then** Sovereign Reḥab'am consulted the elders who stood before his father Shelomoh while he still lived, saying, “**What** do you advise me to answer these people?”

⁷And they spoke to him, saying, “**If** you are **good** to these people and **shall** please them and **speak good words** to them, they **shall be** your servants **all** the days.”

⁸**But** he *ignored* the advice the elders gave him and consulted the young men who had grown up with him, who stood before him.

⁹And he said to them, “**What** advice do you give? **How** should we answer this people who have **spoken** to me, saying, ‘Lighten the yoke which your father put on us?’”

¹⁰And the young men who had grown up with him spoke to him, saying,

“Say this to the people who have **spoken** to you, saying, ‘**Your** father made our yoke heavy, but you make it lighter on us.’ **Say** this to them, ‘**My little finger** is thicker than my father's waist!’

¹¹And **now**, my father put a *heavy*

yoke on you, but I, I add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I with scourges! ”

¹²So Yarob'am and **all** the people came to Rehāb'am on the third day, as the sovereign **commanded**, saying, **“Come back** to me the third day.”

¹³And the sovereign answered them harshly. Thus Sovereign Rehāb'am *ignored* the advice of the elders,

¹⁴and spoke to them **according** to the advice of the young men, saying, “My father made your yoke heavy, but I, I add to it; my father chastised you with whips, but I with scourges!”

¹⁵So the sovereign *did not listen* to the people, for the turn of *events* was from **Elohim, in order** for אַיָּאֵל to **establish His word**, which **He** had **spoken** by the **hand** of Aḥiyahu the Shilonite to Yarob'am son of Neḅat.

¹⁶And when **all** Yisra'el **saw** that the sovereign *did not listen* to them, the people answered the sovereign, saying, **“What** portion have we in Dawid? We have **no inheritance** in the son of Yishai. Every man to your *mighty ones*, O Yisra'el! **Now see** to your own house, O Dawid!” So **all** Yisra'el went to their tents.

¹⁷**But** as for the children of Yisra'el who dwell in the cities of Yahudāh, Rehāb'am reigned over them.

¹⁸**Then** Sovereign Rehāb'am **sent** Haḏoram, who was over the compulsory labour and the children of Yisra'el stoned him with stones and he *died*.

And Sovereign Rehāb'am hastily mounted his chariot to **flee** to Yerushalayim.

¹⁹Thus Yisra'el revolted *against* the house of Dawid to this day.

11 And when Rehāb'am came to Yerushalayim, he **assembled** from the house of Yahudāh and Binyamin one hundred and eighty thousand **chosen** brave men to *fight against* Yisra'el, to bring back the **reign** to Rehāb'am.

²**But** the **Word** of אַיָּאֵל came to

Shemayahu the man of **Elohim**, saying, ³**“Speak** to Rehāb'am son of Shelomoh, sovereign of Yahudāh and to **all** Yisra'el in Yahudāh and Binyamin, saying,

⁴Thus said אַיָּאֵל, **“Do not** go up or *fight against* your brothers! **Let every** man **return** to his house, for this matter is from **Me**.” ’ So they **obeyed** the **words** of אַיָּאֵל and turned back from going *against* Yarob'am.

⁵Rehāb'am dwelt in Yerushalayim and built cities for a defence in Yahudāh.

⁶And he built Bēyth Leḥem, Ēytam and Teqowa,

⁷Bēyth Tsur and Soko and Adullam,

⁸and Gath and Marēshah and Ziph,

⁹and Adorayim and Laḳish and Azēqah,

¹⁰and Tsor'ah and Ayalon and Heḅron, which are in Yahudāh and Binyamin, cities of defence.

¹¹And he strengthened the *strongholds* and put commanders in them and stores of food and oil and **wine**,

¹²and shields and spears in **every** city and made them **very** strong. Thus Yahudāh and Binyamin were his.

¹³And from **all** their borders the priests and the Lēwites who were in **all** Yisra'el took their **stand** with him.

¹⁴For the Lēwites left their **open** lands and their possessions and came to Yahudāh and Yerushalayim, for Yarob'am and his sons had *rejected* them from serving as priests unto אַיָּאֵל,

¹⁵as he **appointed** for himself priests for the *high places* and for goats and the *calf idols* which he had made.

¹⁶And after the Lēwites left, those from **all** the tribes of Yisra'el, such as set their **heart** to **seek** אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** of Yisra'el, came to Yerushalayim to offer to אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** of their fathers.

¹⁷And they strengthened the **reign** of Yahudāh and made Rehāb'am son of Shelomoh **strong** for three years, for they walked in the **way** of Dawid and Shelomoh for three years.

¹⁸And Rehāb'am took for himself as wife Maḥalāth the daughter of Yerimoth

son of Dawid and of Abihayil the daughter of Eliyah son of Yishai.

¹⁹And she bore him sons: Ye'ush and Shemayah and Zaham.

²⁰And after her he took Ma'akah the granddaughter of Abshalom. And she bore him Abiyah and Attai and Ziza and Shelomith.

²¹And Reḥab'am **loved** Ma'akah the granddaughter of Abshalom more than **all** his wives and his concubines. For he had taken eighteen wives and sixty concubines and brought forth twenty-eight sons and sixty daughters.

²²And Reḥab'am **appointed** Abiyah son of Ma'akah as chief, to be leader among his brothers, **in order** to make him reign.

²³And he had **understanding** and *dispersed* some of his sons throughout **all** the lands of Yahudah and Binyamin, to **all** the cities of defence and gave them ample provision. And he sought many wives *for them*.

12 And it came to be, when Reḥab'am had **established** the **reign** and had strengthened himself, that he **forsook** the **Torah** of אַיָּאָל and **all** Yisra'el with him.

²And it came to be, in the fifth year of Sovereign Reḥab'am, that Shishaq sovereign of Mitsrayim came up *against* Yerushalayim – **because** they had trespassed *against* אַיָּאָל –

³with twelve hundred chariots and sixty thousand horsemen and innumerable people who came with him out of Mitsrayim: the Luḅim, the Sukkites and the Kushites.

⁴And he took the cities of defence of Yahudah and came to Yerushalayim.

⁵And Shemayah the **prophet** came to Reḥab'am and the rulers of Yahudah, who had been gathered in Yerushalayim **because** of Shishaq and said to them, "Thus said אַיָּאָל, 'You have **forsaken Me** and therefore I also have left you in the **hand** of Shishaq.'"

⁶**Then** the rulers of Yisra'el and the sovereign humbled themselves and they

said, "אַיָּאָל is righteous."

⁷And when אַיָּאָל **saw** that they humbled themselves, the **Word** of אַיָּאָל came to Shemayah, saying, "They have humbled themselves. I *do not destroy* them, but I **shall** give to them some **deliverance** and not **pour out My wrath** on Yerushalayim by the **hand** of Shishaq.

⁸but they are to become his servants, so that they **know My** service and the service of the reigns of the lands."

⁹And Shishaq sovereign of Mitsrayim came up *against* Yerushalayim and took away the treasures of the House of אַיָּאָל and the treasures of the sovereign's house. **He** took **all**, he also took the gold shields which Shelomoh had made.

¹⁰And Sovereign Reḥab'am made bronze shields to replace them and committed them into the hands of the chiefs of the guard, who **guarded** the entrance of the sovereign's house.

¹¹And it came to be, whenever the sovereign went into the House of אַיָּאָל, the **guard** would go and bring them out, then they would take them back into the guardroom.

¹²And when he humbled himself, the *wrath* of אַיָּאָל turned from him, so as not to *destroy* him **completely**. And matters also went well in Yahudah.

¹³So Sovereign Reḥab'am strengthened himself in Yerushalayim and reigned.

For Reḥab'am was forty-one years old when he became sovereign and he reigned seventeen years in Yerushalayim, the city which אַיָּאָל had **chosen** out of **all** the tribes of Yisra'el, to put **His Name** there. And his mother's name was Na'amah, the Ammonitess.

¹⁴And he did *evil*, **because** he *did not prepare his heart to seek* אַיָּאָל.

¹⁵And the acts of Reḥab'am, the **first** and the **last**, are they not **written** in the **book** of Shemayah the **prophet** and of Iddo the **seer** concerning genealogies? And there was *fighting* between Reḥab'am and Yarob'am **all** the days.

¹⁶So Reḥab'am slept with his fathers and was buried in the City of Dawid.

And Abiyah his son reigned in his place.

13 In the eighteenth year of Sovereign Yarob'am, Abiyah began to reign over Yahudah.

²He reigned three years in Yerushalayim. And his mother's name was Mikayahu the daughter of Uri'el of Gib'ah. And there was *fighting* between Abiyah and Yarob'am.

³And Abiyah joined battle with an army of mighty men of battle, four hundred thousand choice men. And Yarob'am drew up in battle formation *against* him with eight hundred thousand choice men, mighty brave men.

⁴And Abiyah stood on Mount Tsemarayim, which is in the mountains of Ephrayim and said, "**Hear** me, Yarob'am and all Yisra'el:

⁵**Do** you not know that **אֱלֹהִים** Elohim of Yisra'el has **given** the reign over Yisra'el to Dawid forever, to him and his sons, by a **covenant** of salt?

⁶"Yet Yarob'am son of Nebat, the servant of Shelomoh son of Dawid, rose up and *rebelled against* his master.

⁷"And vain men gathered to him, sons of Beliya'al and strengthened themselves *against* Rehab'am son of Shelomoh, when Rehab'am was young and tender of **heart** and *could not stand against* them.

⁸"And **now** you *think to stand against* the reign of **אֱלֹהִים**, which is in the **hand** of the sons of Dawid. And you are a large crowd and with you are the gold calves which Yarob'am made for you as *mighty ones*.

⁹"Have you not *thrown* out the priests of **אֱלֹהִים**, the sons of Aharon and the Lewites and made for yourselves, like the peoples of the lands, so that **whoever comes** to ordain himself with a young bull and seven rams then becomes a priest of *what are not mighty ones*?

¹⁰"**But** as for us, **אֱלֹהִים** is our Elohim and we have not *forsaken Him* and priests are serving **אֱלֹהִים**, the sons of Aharon and the Lewites, in the **work**,

¹¹and are *burning* to **אֱלֹהִים** every

morning and **every evening** burnt offerings and **sweet** incense and the showbread is *set* on the **clean** table and the **lampstand** of gold with its **lamps** to burn **every evening**, for we are **guarding** the Charge of **אֱלֹהִים** our Elohim. **But** you have *forsaken Him*.

¹²"And **see**, with us as Head is **Elohim Himself** and **His** priests with sounding trumpets to sound the *alarm against* you. O children of Yisra'el, *do not fight against אֱלֹהִים* Elohim of your fathers, for you are not going to prosper!"

¹³**But** Yarob'am **sent** round an ambush to go behind them, so they were in front of Yahudah and the ambush was behind them.

¹⁴And Yahudah turned and **saw** the battle was both in front and behind them. **Then** they *cried out* to **אֱלֹהִים** and the priests sounded the trumpets.

¹⁵And the men of Yahudah gave a shout. And it came to be, as the men of Yahudah shouted, that **Elohim smote** Yarob'am and **all** Yisra'el before Abiyah and Yahudah.

¹⁶And the children of Yisra'el fled before Yahudah and **Elohim** gave them into their **hand**.

¹⁷And Abiyah and his people *smote* them with a **great** slaughter and five hundred thousand choice men of Yisra'el fell slain.

¹⁸And the children of Yisra'el were humbled at that **time**, while the children of Yahudah prevailed, **because** they *relied* on **אֱלֹהִים** Elohim of their fathers.

¹⁹And Abiyah pursued Yarob'am and captured cities from him: Bēyth Ēl with its villages and Yeshanah with its villages and Ephron with its villages.

²⁰And Yarob'am *did not* regain **power** again in the days of Abiyahu. And **אֱלֹהִים** *smote* him and he *died*.

²¹**But** Abiyah grew **strong** and took fourteen wives and brought forth twenty-two sons and sixteen daughters.

²²And the rest of the acts of Abiyah and his ways and his **words** are **written** in the commentary of the **prophet** Iddo.

14 So Aḅiyah slept with his fathers and they buried him in the City of Dawid. And Asa his son reigned in his place. In his days the land rested ten years.

²And Asa did what was **good** and what was **right in the eyes of אַיָּאֵל** his **Elohim**,

³and removed the altars of the stranger and the *high places* and broke down the *pillars* and *cut down* the Ashērīm,

⁴and **commanded** Yahuḁah to **seek אַיָּאֵל Elohim** of their fathers and to do the **Torah** and the **command**.

⁵And he removed the *high places* and the *sun-pillars* from **all** the cities of Yahuḁah and the **reign** rested under him.

⁶And he built cities of defence in Yahuḁah, since the land had rest and he had no *fighting* in those years, **because אַיָּאֵל** had **given** him rest.

⁷And he said to Yahuḁah, “**Let** us build these cities and make walls around them and towers, gates and bars, while the land is yet before us, **because** we have sought אַיָּאֵל our **Elohim**. We have sought and **He** has **given** us rest **all** around.” So they built and prospered.

⁸And Asa had an army of three hundred thousand men from Yahuḁah bearing shields and spears and from Binyamin two hundred and eighty thousand men bearing shields and drew bows. All of them were mighty brave men.

⁹And Zeraḥ the Kushite came out *against* them with an army of a million men and three hundred chariots and he came to Marëshah.

¹⁰And Asa went out *against* him and they set battle in array in the Valley of Tsephathah at Marëshah.

¹¹And Asa called to אַיָּאֵל his **Elohim** and said, “אַיָּאֵל, there is no one but You to help between the mighty and the powerless. Help us, O אַיָּאֵל our **Elohim**, for we rest on **You** and in **Your Name** we go *against* this crowd. O אַיָּאֵל, **You** are our **Elohim**, *do not* let man *prevail against You!*”

¹²So אַיָּאֵל *smote* the Kushites before Asa and Yahuḁah and the Kushites fled.

¹³And Asa and the people who were with him pursued them to Gerar. And the Kushites fell, until none was left **alive** for them, for they were broken before אַיָּאֵל and **His** army. And they took **very** much spoil,

¹⁴and *smote* **all** the cities around Gerar, for the **fear** of אַיָּאֵל came upon them. And they plundered **all** the cities, for there was exceedingly much spoil in them.

¹⁵And they also *smote* the camps of the herdsmen and captured many sheep and camels and returned to Yerushalayim.

15 And the **Spirit** of **Elohim** came upon Azaryahu son of Odëd.

²And he went out to face Asa and said to him, “**Hear** me, Asa and **all** Yahuḁah and Binyamin. אַיָּאֵל is with you while you are with **Him**. And if you **seek Him**, **He** is **found** by you, but if you *forsake Him*, **He** *forsakes* you.

³And for many days Yisra’ël has been without the **true Elohim** and without a **Torah** priest and without **Torah**.

⁴**But** in their *distress* they turned to אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** of Yisra’ël and they **sought Him** and **He** was **found** by them.

⁵And in those days there was no **peace** to the one who went out, nor to the one who came in, for **great** disturbances were on **all** the inhabitants of the lands,

⁶and they were *beaten* down, nation by nation and city by city, for **Elohim** *troubled* them with **every distress**.

⁷**But** you, be **strong** and *do not* let your hands be feeble, for there is a reward for your work!”

⁸And when Asa **heard** these **words** and the prophecy of Odëd the **prophet**, he took courage and removed the **abominations** from **all** the land of Yahuḁah and Binyamin and from the cities which he had taken in the mountains of Ephrayim and restored the altar of אַיָּאֵל that was before the

porch of אַיָּאֵל,

⁹and gathered **all** Yahudah and Binyamin and those who sojourned with them from Ephrayim and Menashsheh and Shim'on, for they came over to him in **great** numbers from Yisra'el when they **saw** that אַיָּאֵל his **Elohim** was with him.

¹⁰And they gathered **together** at Yerushalayim in the third month, in the fifteenth year of the **reign** of Asa,

¹¹and offered to אַיָּאֵל on that day seven hundred bulls and seven thousand sheep from the spoil which they had brought.

¹²And they entered into a **covenant** to **seek** אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** of their fathers with **all** their **heart** and with **all** their being;

¹³and *whoever would not seek* אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** of Yisra'el would be put to *death*, from small to great, from man to woman.

¹⁴And they **swore** to אַיָּאֵל with a loud **voice**, with shouting and with trumpets and with rams' horns.

¹⁵And **all** Yahudah rejoiced concerning the oath, for they had sworn with **all** their **heart** and sought **Him** with **all** their being.

And **He** was **found** by them and אַיָּאֵל gave them rest **all** around.

¹⁶And he also removed Ma'akah, the mother of Asa the sovereign, from being sovereignty mother, **because** she had made an **abominable** *image* of Asherah. And Asa *cut down* her **abominable** *image* and crushed it and *burned* it by the wadi Qidron.

¹⁷Yet the *high places* were not removed from Yisra'el. However, the **heart** of Asa was **perfect** **all** his days.

¹⁸And he brought into the House of **Elohim** the set-apart items of his father and his own set-apart items: silver and gold and utensils.

¹⁹And there was no more *fighting* until the thirty-fifth year of the **reign** of Asa.

reign of Asa, Ba'asha the sovereign of Yisra'el came up *against* Yahudah and built Ramah, to prevent anyone going out or **coming** in to Asa, sovereign of Yahudah.

²And Asa brought silver and gold from the treasuries of the House of אַיָּאֵל and of the sovereign's house and **sent** to BenHadad sovereign of Aram, who dwelt in Damascus, saying,

³**Let** there be a **covenant** between you and me, as there was between my father and your father. **See**, I have **sent** you silver and gold. **Come**, *break* your **covenant** with Ba'asha sovereign of Yisra'el, so that he withdraws from me."

⁴And Ben-Hadad **listened** to Sovereign Asa and **sent** the commanders of his armies *against* the cities of Yisra'el and they *smote* Iyon and Dan and Abel Mayim and **all** the storage cities of Naphtali.

⁵And it came to be, when Ba'asha **heard** it, that he *stopped* building Ramah and ceased his work.

⁶**Then** Asa the sovereign brought **all** Yahudah and they took away the stones and timber of Ramah, which Ba'asha had used for building. And with them he built Geba and Mitspah.

⁷And at that **time** Hanani the **seer** came to Asa sovereign of Yahudah and said to him, "**Because** you have **relied** on the sovereign of Aram and have not **relied** on אַיָּאֵל your **Elohim**, therefore the army of the sovereign of Aram has **escaped** from your **hand**."

⁸**Were** the Kushites and the Lubim not a mighty army with **very** many chariots and horsemen? And **because** you **relied** on אַיָּאֵל, **He** gave them into your **hand**.

⁹**For** the eyes of אַיָּאֵל **diligently** **search** throughout **all** the earth, to **show** **Himself** **strong** on behalf of those whose **heart** is **perfect** to **Him**. You have *acted* foolishly in this, so from **now** on you **shall** have battles."

¹⁰And Asa was *wroth* with the seer and put him in prison, for he was **enraged** at him **because** of this. And Asa *oppressed* some of the people at that **time**.

16 In the thirty-sixth year of the

¹¹And look, the acts of Asa, the **first** and the **last**, **see**, they are **written** in the **book** of the sovereigns of Yahudāh and Yisra'el.

¹²And in the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa became **diseased** in his feet and his *disease* was *severe*. Yet even in his *disease* he *did not seek* אַיָּאֵל, but the physicians.

¹³So Asa slept with his fathers and died in the forty-first year of his reign.

¹⁴And they buried him in his own tomb, which he had made for himself in the City of Dawid. And they laid him in the bed which was filled with spices and various kinds of ointments mixed by the perfumer's skill. And they made a **very great burning** for him.

17 And Yehoshaphat his son reigned in his place and strengthened himself *against* Yisra'el,

²and placed an army in **all** the walled cities of Yahudāh and set watch-posts in the land of Yahudāh and in the cities of Ephrayim which Asa his father had taken.

³And אַיָּאֵל was with Yehoshaphat, for he walked in the former **ways** of his father Dawid and *did not seek* the Ba'als,

⁴but sought the **Elohim** of his father and walked in **His commands** and not **according** to the **deeds** of Yisra'el.

⁵So אַיָּאֵל established the reign in his hand. **All** Yahudāh gave presents to Yehoshaphat and he had **great** riches and esteem.

⁶His **heart** was exalted in the **ways** of אַיָּאֵל and he again removed the *high places* and the Asherim from Yahudāh.

⁷In the third year of his **reign** he **sent** his leaders, Ben-Hayil, Obadyah and Zekaryah, Nethan'e'l and Mikayahu, to **teach** in the cities of Yahudāh.

⁸And with them he **sent** Lēwites: Shemayahu and Nethanyahu and Zebadyahu and Asah'e'l and Shemiramoth and Yehonathan and Aḏoniyahu and Tōbiyahu and

Tobaḏoniyah, the Lēwites and with them Elishama and Yehoram, the priests.

⁹And they **taught** in Yahudāh and with them was the **Book of the Torah** of אַיָּאֵל. And they went around into **all** the cities of Yahudāh and **taught** the people.

¹⁰And the **fear** of אַיָּאֵל fell on **all** the reigns of the lands that were around Yahudāh and they *did not fight against* Yehoshaphat.

¹¹And some of the Philistines brought Yehoshaphat gifts and a load of silver. And the Arabians brought him flocks, seven thousand seven hundred rams and seven thousand seven hundred male goats.

¹²And Yehoshaphat became increasingly great and he built palaces and storage cities in Yahudāh.

¹³And he had much **work** in the cities of Yahudāh. And the men of battle, mighty brave men, were in Yerushalayim.

¹⁴And these were their numbers, **according** to their fathers' houses: Of Yahudāh, the commanders of thousands: Aḏnah the commander and with him three hundred thousand mighty brave men;

¹⁵and next to him was Yehoḥanan the commander and with him two hundred and eighty thousand;

¹⁶and next to him was Amasyah son of Zikri, who volunteered himself to אַיָּאֵל and with him two hundred thousand mighty brave men.

¹⁷And of Binyamin: Elyada, a mighty brave one and with him two hundred thousand men armed with bow and shield;

¹⁸and next to him was Yehozabad and with him one hundred and eighty thousand prepared for battle.

¹⁹These were the ones serving the sovereign, besides those whom the sovereign put in the walled cities throughout **all** Yahudāh.

18 And Yhoshaphat had **great**

riches and esteem and allied himself with Aḥab by marriage.

²And some years later he went down to **visit** Aḥab in Shomeron. And Aḥab slaughtered many sheep and cattle for him and the people with him and incited him to go up with him to Ramoth Gil'ad.

³And Aḥab sovereign of Yisra'el said to Yehoshaphat sovereign of Yahudah, "**Do** you go with me *against* Ramoth Gil'ad?" And he answered him, "I am as you are and my people as your people, even with you in battle."

⁴And Yehoshaphat said to the sovereign of Yisra'el, "Please **inquire** for the **Word** of אַיָּאֵל today."

⁵And the sovereign of Yisra'el gathered the prophets together, four hundred men and said to them, "**Do** we go *against* Ramoth Gil'ad to battle, or do I refrain?" And they said, "Go up, for **Elohim** does give it into the sovereign's **hand**."

⁶**But** Yehoshaphat said, "Is there not still a **prophet** of אַיָּאֵל here, so that we **inquire** of him?"

⁷And the sovereign of Yisra'el said to Yehoshaphat, "There is still one man to **inquire** of אַיָּאֵל from him; but I **hate** him, **because** he never prophesies **good** concerning me, but **always evil**. **He** is Mikayehu, the son of Yimla." And Yehoshaphat said, "**Let** not the sovereign say so!"

⁸So the sovereign of Yisra'el called one of his officers and said, "Bring Mikayehu son of Yimla at once!"

⁹And the sovereign of Yisra'el and Yehoshaphat the sovereign of Yahudah, dressed in their robes, sat each on his throne. And they sat at a threshing-floor at the entrance of the gate of Shomeron. And **all** the prophets were prophesying before them.

¹⁰And Tsidqiyahu son of Kena'anah had made horns of iron for himself and said, "Thus said אַיָּאֵל, 'With these you push the Arameans until they are *destroyed*.'"

¹¹And **all** the prophets were prophesying so, saying, "Go up to Ramoth Gil'ad and prosper and אַיָּאֵל

shall give it into the **hand** of the sovereign."

¹²And the messenger who had gone to **call** Mikayehu spoke to him, saying, "**See**, the **words** of the prophets with one **mouth** are **good** towards the sovereign. So please let your **word** be like the **word** of one of them and you **shall speak good**."

¹³And Mikayehu said, "As אַיָּאֵל lives, **whatever** my **Elohim** says, that I speak."

¹⁴And he came to the sovereign. And the sovereign said to him, "Mikah, do we go *against* Ramoth Gil'ad to battle, or do I refrain?" And he said, "Go and prosper and they are **given** into your **hand**!"

¹⁵And the sovereign said to him, "**How** many times have I made you swear that *you do not speak* to me, **except** the **truth**, in the **Name** of אַיָּאֵל?"

¹⁶So he said, "I **saw all** Yisra'el *scattered* on the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd. And אַיָּאֵל said, 'These have no **Master**. **Let** each **return** to his house in peace.'"

¹⁷And the sovereign of Yisra'el said to Yehoshaphat, "Did I not say to you that he *would not* prophesy **good** concerning me, but *evil*?"

¹⁸Then he said, "Therefore **hear** the **Word** of אַיָּאֵל: I **saw** אַיָּאֵל sitting on **His** throne and **all** the host of the heavens standing on **His right** and on **His left**."

¹⁹And אַיָּאֵל said, '**Who shall** entice Aḥab sovereign of Yisra'el to go up and **fall** at Ramoth Gil'ad?' And one said this and another said that.

²⁰"And a spirit came forward and stood before אַיָּאֵל and said, '**Let** me entice him.' אַיָּאֵל said to him, 'In what way?'

²¹"And he said, 'I **shall** go out and be a spirit of *falsehood* in the **mouth** of **all** his **prophets**.' And **He** said, 'Entice him and also prevail. Go out and do so.'

²²"And **now, see**, אַיָּאֵל has put a spirit of *false hood* in the **mouth** of these prophets of yours and אַיָּאֵל has spoken *evil* concerning you." said to the driver of his chariot, "Turn around and take me out of the battle, for I am wounded."

²³And Tsiḏqiyahu son of Kena'anah came **near** and *smote* Miḳayehu on the cheek and said, "Which **way** did the spirit of אַיָּאֵל pass over from me to **speak** to you?"

²⁴And Miḳayehu said, "Look, you **shall see** on that day when you go into an inner room to hide!"

²⁵**Then** the sovereign of Yisra'el said, "Take Miḳayehu and **return** him to Amon the governor of the city and to Yo'ash the sovereign's son,

²⁶and say, 'Thus said the sovereign, "Put this one in prison and feed him with **bread** of affliction and water of affliction until I **return** in peace.' " "

²⁷And Miḳayehu said, "**If** you **return** at all in peace, אַיָּאֵל has not **spoken** by me." And he said, "**Hear**, all you people!"

²⁸**Then** the sovereign of Yisra'el and Yehoshaphat the sovereign of Yahuḏah went up to Ramoth Gil'ad.

²⁹And the sovereign of Yisra'el said to Yehoshaphat,

"**Let** me disguise myself and go into battle, but you put on your robes." And the sovereign of Yisra'el disguised himself and they went into battle.

³⁰And the sovereign of Aram had **commanded** the commanders of the chariots who were with him, saying, "Fight with no one small or great, but only with the sovereign of Yisra'el."

³¹And it came to be, when the commanders of the chariots **saw** Yehoshaphat, that they said, "It is the sovereign of Yisra'el!" So they turned around to *fight against* him and Yehoshaphat *cried out* and אַיָּאֵל helped him and **Elohim** moved them to turn away from him.

³²And it came to be, when the commanders of the chariots **saw** that it was not the sovereign of Yisra'el, that they turned back from pursuing him.

³³And a man drew a bow in his simplicity and *smote* the sovereign of Yisra'el between the joints of his armour. And he

³⁴**But** the battle increased that day and the sovereign of Yisra'el was propped up in his chariot facing the Arameans until

evening and he died at the **time** of the going down of the sun.

19 And Yehoshaphat the sovereign of Yahuḏah returned to his house in peace in Yerushalayim.

²And Yēhu son of Hanani the **seer** went out to face him and said to Sovereign Yehoshaphat, "**Do** you help the **wrong** and **love** those who *hate* אַיָּאֵל? Therefore the *wrath* of אַיָּאֵל is upon you.

³**But good** matters are **found** in you, in that you have removed the Ashēroth from the land and have prepared your **heart to seek Elohim.**"

⁴So Yehoshaphat dwelt in Yerushalayim and he went out again among the people from Be'ērsheba to the hill country of Ephrayim and brought them back to אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** of their fathers.

⁵And he **appointed** judges in the land in **all** the walled cities of Yahuḏah, city by city,

⁶and said to the judges, "**Watch** what you are doing, for you *do not judge* for man, but for אַיָּאֵל who is with you in the matter of right-ruling.

⁷"And **now**, let the **fear** of אַיָּאֵל be upon you. **Guard** and do it, for there is no *unrighteousness* with אַיָּאֵל our **Elohim**, nor *partiality*, nor taking of *bribes*."

⁸And in Yerushalayim Yehoshaphat also **appointed** some of the Lēwites and priests and some of the chief fathers of Yisra'el, for the **right-ruling** of אַיָּאֵל and for dispute. **Then** they returned to Yerushalayim.

⁹And he **commanded** them, saying, "**Do** this in the **fear** of אַיָּאֵל, trustworthily and with a **perfect** heart:

¹⁰"**When** any *dispute* comes to you from your brothers who dwell in their cities, between **blood** and **blood**, between **Torah** and **command**, **laws** and **right-rulings**, then you **shall warn** them, lest they *trespass against* אַיָּאֵל and *wrath* come upon

you and your brothers. **Do** this and you **shall** not be *guilty*.

¹¹“And look, Amaryahu the chief priest is over you in **all** matters of אַׁיֶאֱל. And Zebadyahu son of Yishma’el, the ruler of the house of Yahudah, for **all** the matters of the sovereign and the Lēwites are officials before you. Be **strong** and do and אַׁיֶאֱל is with the **good**.”

20 And after this it came to be that the children of Mo’ab and the children of Ammon came in and with them some of the peoples, *against* Yehoshaphat to battle.

²And they came and spoke to Yehoshaphat, saying, “A **great** army is **coming** *against* you from beyond the sea, from Aram. And **see**, they are in Hatsatn Tamar,” which is Ēn Gedi.

³And Yehoshaphat was *afraid* and set his face to **seek** אַׁיֶאֱל and **proclaimed** a fast throughout **all** Yahudah.

⁴And Yahudah gathered to **inquire** of אַׁיֶאֱל, even from **all** the cities of Yahudah they came to **seek** אַׁיֶאֱל.

⁵And Yehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Yahudah and Yerushalayim, in the House of אַׁיֶאֱל, in front of the new courtyard,

⁶and said, “O אַׁיֶאֱל Elohim of our fathers, are You not **Elohim** in the heavens and do You not **rule** over **all** the reigns of the nations and in **Your hand** is there not **power** and might, so that no one is **able** to **stand** *against* You?”

⁷“Are You not our **Elohim**? You have *driven* out the inhabitants of this land before **Your people** Yisra’el and gave it to the seed of Aḅraham **Your** friend **forever**.

⁸“And they dwell in it and have built You a set-apart place in it for **Your Name**, saying,

⁹*“If evil* does **come** upon us, such as the *sword*, judgment, or pestilence, or *scarcity of food*, we **shall stand** before this House and in **Your** presence – for **Your Name** is in this House – and cry

out to You in our *distress* and You do **hear** and save.”

¹⁰“And **now**, **see**, the children of Ammon and Mo’ab and Mount Sē’ir, whom You *would not* let Yisra’el invade when they came out of the land of Mitsrayim, for they turned from them and *did not destroy* them,

¹¹and **see**, they are repaying us by **coming** in to *drive* us out of **Your** possession which You have **given** us to inherit.

¹²“O our **Elohim**, would You not **judge** them? For we are powerless *against* this **great** army that is **coming** *against* us. And we *do not know* what to do, but our eyes are upon **You**.”

¹³And **all** Yahudah, with their *little* ones, their wives and their children, stood before אַׁיֶאֱל.

¹⁴And the **Spirit** of אַׁיֶאֱל came upon Yahazi’el son of Zekaryahu, son of Benayah, son of Ye’i’el, son of Mattanyah, a Lēwite of the sons of Asaph, in the **midst** of the **assembly**,

¹⁵and he said, “**Listen**, **all** Yahudah and you inhabitants of Yerushalayim and Sovereign Yehoshaphat! Thus said אַׁיֶאֱל to you, ‘**Do not fear**, nor be *afraid* of the face of this **great** army, for the battle is not yours, but **Elohim**’s.

¹⁶Go down *against* them **tomorrow**. **See**, they are **coming** up by the ascent of Tsits and you **shall** find them at the **end** of the wadi before the Wilderness of Yeru’el.

¹⁷“It is not for you to *fight* in this. Position yourselves, **stand** still and **see** the **deliverance** of אַׁיֶאֱל with you, O Yahudah and Yerushalayim!’ **Do not** be *afraid* nor **fear**, go out *against* them **tomorrow**, for אַׁיֶאֱל is with you.”

¹⁸And Yehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground and **all** Yahudah and the inhabitants of Yerushalayim fell down before אַׁיֶאֱל, to bow themselves before אַׁיֶאֱל.

¹⁹And the Lēwites, of the children of the Qehathites and of the children of the Qorhites stood up to **praise** אַׁיֶאֱל **Elohim** of Yisra’el with exceedingly

loud voice.

²⁰And they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Teqowa. And as they went out, Yehoshaphat stood and said, “Hear me, O Yahudah and you inhabitants of Yerushalayim: Trust in אַיָּאֵל your Elohim and be steadfast, trust His prophets and prosper.”

²¹And after consulting with the people, he appointed those who should sing to אַיָּאֵל and who should praise the splendour of set-apartness, as they went out before the army and were saying, “Give thanks to אַיָּאֵל, for His kindness is everlasting.”

²²And when they began singing and praising, אַיָּאֵל set ambushes *against* the children of Ammon, Mo’ab and Mount Sē’ir, who had come *against* Yahudah and they were smitten.

²³Then the children of Ammon and Mo’ab stood up *against* the inhabitants of Mount Sē’ir to *destroy* and *annihilate* them. And when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Sē’ir, they helped to *destroy* one another.

²⁴And when Yahudah came at the lookout in the wilderness, they looked toward the army and saw their dead bodies, lying on the ground and none had escaped.

²⁵And Yehoshaphat and his people came to take away their spoil and they found among them a great amount of valuables on the dead bodies and precious jewelry, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could take away. And they were three days plundering the spoil, for it was much.

²⁶And on the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Berakah, for there they blessed אַיָּאֵל. Therefore the Name of that place was called The Valley of Berakah to this day.

²⁷Then they returned, every man of Yahudah and Yerushalayim, with Yehoshaphat in front of them, to go back to Yerushalayim with joy, for אַיָּאֵל had made them rejoice over their enemies.

²⁸And they came to Yerushalayim, with harps and lyres and trumpets, to the House of אַיָּאֵל.

²⁹And the fear of Elohim was on all the reigns of the lands when they heard that אַיָּאֵל had fought *against* the enemies of Yisra’el.

³⁰Then the reign of Yehoshaphat was at peace, for his Elohim gave him rest on all sides.

³¹Thus Yehoshaphat reigned over Yahudah – thirty-five years old when he began to reign and he reigned twenty-five years in Yerushalayim. And his mother’s name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi.

³²And he walked in the way of his father Asa and did not turn aside from it, doing what was right in the eyes of אַיָּאֵל.

³³Only, the high places were not taken away, for as yet the people had not prepared their hearts for the Elohim of their fathers.

³⁴And the rest of the acts of Yehoshaphat, the first and the last, see, they are written in the book of Yēhu son of Hanani, which is mentioned in the book of the sovereigns of Yisra’el.

³⁵And after this Yehoshaphat sovereign of Yahudah joined himself with Ahazyahu sovereign of Yisra’el. He did wrong in doing so.

³⁶And he joined himself with him to make ships to go to Tarshish and they made the ships in Etsyon Geber.

³⁷Then Eli’ezer son of Dodawahu of Marēshah prophesied *against* Yehoshaphat, saying, “Because you have joined yourself with Ahazyahu, אַיָּאֵל shall break up your work.” And the ships were wrecked, so that they were unable to go to Tarshish.

21 And Yehoshaphat slept with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the City of Dawid. And Yehoram his son reigned in his place.

²And he had brothers, the sons of Yehoshaphat: Azaryahu and Yehi’el and

Zekaryahu and Azaryahu and Miḳa'el and Shephatyahu. All these were sons of Yehoshaphat sovereign of Yisra'el.

³And their father gave them many gifts of silver and gold and **precious** items, with walled cities in Yahudah, but he had **given the reign to Yehoram because** he was the first-born.

⁴And when Yehoram had risen up over the **reign** of his father and made himself **strong**, he slew **all** his brothers with the *sword* and also others of the heads of Yisra'el.

⁵Yehoram was thirty-two years old when he began to reign and he reigned eight years in Yerushalayim.

⁶And he walked in the **way** of the sovereigns of Yisra'el, as the house of Ahab had done, for he had the daughter of Aḥaḥ as a wife. And he did *evil in the eyes of* אַיָּאֵל.

⁷However, אַיָּאֵל *would not destroy* the house of Dawid, **because** of the **covenant** He had made with Dawid and since **He** had **promised** to give a **lamp** to him and to his sons, **all** the days.

⁸In his days the Edomites revolted from under the **hand** of Yahudah and **appointed** a sovereign over themselves.

⁹**Then** Yehoram went out with his officers and **all** his chariots with him. And it came to be that he rose by night and *smote* the Edomites who had surrounded him and the commanders of the chariots.

¹⁰Thus the Edomites revolted from under the **hand** of Yahudah to this day. **Then** Libnah revolted from under his **hand, because** he had *forsaken* אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** of his fathers.

¹¹**He** had also made *high places* in the mountains of Yahudah and **caused** the inhabitants of Yerushalayim to *commit whoring* and led Yahudah *astray*.

¹²And a letter came to him from Eliyahu the **prophet**, saying, Thus said אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** of your father Dawid, "**Because** you have not walked in the **ways** of Yehoshaphat your father, or in the **ways** of Asa sovereign of Yahudah,

¹³but have walked in the **way** of

the sovereigns of Yisra'el and have made Yahudah and the inhabitants of Yerushalayim to *commit whoring* like the *whorings* of the house of Ahab and also have *slain* your brothers, those of your father's household, who were better than yourself,

¹⁴see, אַיָּאֵל is going to *strike* with a **great blow** among your people, your children, your wives and **all** your possessions,

¹⁵and you, with many *sicknesses*, with *disease* of your intestines, until your intestines **come out because** of the sickness, day by day."

¹⁶And אַיָּאֵל stirred up the spirit of the Philistines *against* Yehoram and of the Arabians who were **near** the Kushites.

¹⁷And they came up into Yahudah and broke into it and captured **all** the possessions that were **found** in the sovereign's house and also his sons and his wives, so that there was not a son left to him *except* Yeho'ahaz, the youngest of his sons.

¹⁸And after **all** this אַיָּאֵל *plagued* him in his intestines with a *disease* for which there was no healing.

¹⁹And it came to be in the course of **time**, at the **end** of two years, that his intestines came out **because** of his sickness and he died in **great** pain. And his people made no *burning* for him, like the *burning* for his fathers.

²⁰**He** was thirty-two years old when he began to reign and he reigned eight years in Yerushalayim, to no one's regret and passed away. And they buried him in the City of Dawid, but not in the tombs of the sovereigns.

22 And the inhabitants of Yerushalayim set up Aḥazyahu his youngest son to **reign** in his place, for the raiding band that came with the Arabians into the camp had *slain* **all** the older sons. So Aḥazyahu son of Yehoram, sovereign of Yahudah, reigned.

²Aḥazyahu was forty-two years old when he began to reign and he reigned in Yerushalayim one year. And his mother's

name was Athalyahu the granddaughter of Omri.

³He too walked in the *ways* of the house of Aḥaḇ, for his mother counselled him to do *wrong*.

⁴And he did *evil in the eyes* of אַיָּאֵל, like the house of Aḥaḇ, for they were his counsellors after the *death* of his father, to his *destruction*.

⁵He also walked in their counsel and went with Yehoram son of Aḥaḇ sovereign of Yisra'el to *fight against* Haza'el sovereign of Aram at Ramoth Gil'ad. And the Arameans *smote* Yoram,

⁶and he returned to Yizre'el to recover from the *wounds* which he had received at Ramah, when he fought *against* Haza'el sovereign of Aram. And Azaryahu son of Yehoram, sovereign of Yahudaḥ, went down to *see* Yehoram son of Aḥaḇ in Yizre'el, for he was *sick*,

⁷**But** from Elohim came the downfall of Aḥazyahu, through his **coming** to Yoram. For when he came he went out with Yehoram *against* Yēhu son of Nimshi, whom אַיָּאֵל had **anointed** to *cut off* the house of Aḥaḇ.

⁸And it came to be, when Yēhu was executing judgment on the house of Aḥaḇ, that he **found** the rulers of Yahudaḥ and the sons of Aḥazyahu's brothers who **served** Aḥazyahu and slew them.

⁹So he searched for Aḥazyahu and they **caught** him while he was hiding in Shomeron and brought him to Yēhu and put him to *death*, then buried him, for they said, "He is the son of Yehoshaphat, who sought אַיָּאֵל with **all his heart**." And there was none in the house of Aḥazyahu **strong** enough to reign.

¹⁰And when Athalyahu the mother of Aḥazyahu **saw** that her son was *dead*, she rose up and **destroyed all** the offspring of the **reign** of the house of Yahudaḥ.

¹¹**But** Yehoshab'ath, the daughter of the sovereign, took Yo'ash son of Aḥazyahu and stole him away from among the sovereign's sons who were slain and put him and his nurse in a bedroom. So

Yehoshab'ath, the daughter of Sovereign Yehoram, the wife of Yehoyada the priest, **because** she was the sister of Aḥazyahu, hid him from Athalyahu so that she *could not* put him to *death*.

¹²And he was *hidden* with them in the House of **Elohim** for six years, while Athalyah was **reigning** over the land.

23 And in the seventh year Yehoyada strengthened himself and made a **covenant** with the commanders of hundreds: Azaryah son of Yeroḥam and Yishma'el son of Yehoḥanan and Azaryahu son of Obēd and Ma'asēyahu son of Aḏayahu and Elishaphat son of Zikri.

²And they went about through Yahudaḥ and gathered the Lēwites from **all** the cities of Yahudaḥ and the chiefs of the fathers of Yisra'el and they came to Yerushalayim.

³And **all** the assembly made a **covenant** with the sovereign in the House of **Elohim**. And he said to them, "See, the son of the sovereign is to reign, as אַיָּאֵל has said of the sons of Dawiḏ.

⁴"This is what you do: One-third of you *entering* on the **Sabbath**, of the priests and the Lēwites, gatekeepers of the thresholds;

⁵and one-third are at the sovereign's house and one-third at the Gate of the Foundation, while **all** the people are in the courtyards of the House of אַיָּאֵל.

⁶"And let no one **come** into the House of אַיָּאֵל **except** the priests and those of the Lēwites who **serve** – they go in, for they are set-apart. **But all** the people are to **guard** the Charge of אַיָּאֵל.

⁷"And the Lēwites **shall** surround the sovereign on **all** sides, **every** man with his weapons in his **hand**. And **whoever comes** into the house, let him be put to *death*. And be with the sovereign when he **comes in** and when he goes out."

⁸And the Lēwites and **all** Yahudaḥ did **according to all** that Yehoyada the priest **commanded**. And each man took his men who were to **come** in on the

Sabbath, with those going out on the **Sabbath**, for Yehoyada the priest *did not* dismiss the divisions.

⁹And Yehoyada the priest gave to the commanders of hundreds the spears and the large and small shields which had been Sovereign Dawid's, that were in the House of **Elohim**.

¹⁰And he set **all** the people, **every** man with his weapon in his **hand**, from the **right** side of the House to the left side of the House, along by the altar and by the House, **all** around the sovereign.

¹¹And they brought out the son of the sovereign and put on him the diadem and the Witness and set him up to reign. **Then** Yehoyada and his sons **anointed** him and said, "**Let** the sovereign live!"

¹²And Athalyahu **heard** the noise of the people running and praising the sovereign and she came to the people in the House of **YHWH**,

¹³and **looked** and **saw** the sovereign standing by his column at the entrance. And the chiefs and the trumpeters were beside the sovereign and **all** the people of the land rejoicing and blowing trumpets, also the singers with instruments of song and those who led in praise. **Then** Athalyahu tore her garments and said, "Treason! Treason!"

¹⁴And Yehoyada the priest brought out the commanders of hundreds who were set over the army and said to them, "Take her outside the ranks and *slay* with the *sword* **whoever follows** her." For the priest said, "**Do not kill** her in the House of **YHWH**."

¹⁵So they laid hands on her and she went by **way** of the entrance of the Horse Gate into the sovereign's house and they put her to *death* there.

¹⁶Yehoyada then made a **covenant** – between himself and the people and the sovereign – to be the people of **YHWH**.

¹⁷And **all** the people went to the house of Ba'al and broke it down. They **completely** broke up its altars and images and slew Mattan the priest of Ba'al before the *altars*.

¹⁸And Yehoyada put the offices of the House of **YHWH** into the **hand** of the

priests, the Lēwites, whom Dawid had assigned in the House of **YHWH**, to offer the burnt offerings of **YHWH**, as it is **written** in the **Torah** of Mosheh, with rejoicing and with singing, by the hands of Dawid.

¹⁹And he set the gatekeepers at the gates of the House of **YHWH**, so that no one who was in any **way** *unclean* should enter.

²⁰And he took the commanders of hundreds and the nobles and the governors of the people and **all** the people of the land and brought the sovereign down from the House of **YHWH**. And they went through the Upper Gate to the sovereign's house and set the sovereign on the throne of the reign.

²¹And **all** the people of the land rejoiced. And the city had rest, for they had *slain* Athalyahu with the *sword*.

24 Yo'ash was seven years old when he began to reign and he reigned forty years in Yerushalayim. And the name of his mother was Tsibyah of Be'ērsheba.

²And Yo'ash did what was **right** in the **eyes** of **YHWH** **all** the days of Yehoyada the priest.

³Yehoyada took for him two wives and he brought forth sons and daughters.

⁴And after this it came to be that Yo'ash set his **heart** on restoring the House of **YHWH**.

⁵And he gathered the priests and the Lēwites and said to them, "Go out to the cities of Yahudah and **gather** from **all** Yisra'el silver to repair the House of your **Elohim** from year to year and **see** that you hurry the matter." **But** the Lēwites *did not* hurry it.

⁶And the sovereign called Yehoyada the chief and said to him, "**Why** have you not required the Lēwites to bring in from Yahudah and from Yerushalayim the levy of Mosheh the servant of **YHWH** and of the assembly of Yisra'el, for the **Tent** of the Witness?"

⁷For the sons of Athalyahu, that *wrong* woman, had broken into the House of **Elohim** and had also prepared **all** the set-apart *vessels* of the House of אַיָּאֵל to the Ba'als.

⁸So the sovereign **commanded** and they made a chest and set it outside at the gate of the House of אַיָּאֵל.

⁹and made it **known** in Yahudah and in Yerushalayim to bring to אַיָּאֵל the levy that Mosheh the servant of **Elohim** had imposed on Yisra'el in the wilderness.

¹⁰And **all** the rulers and **all** the people rejoiced and they brought in and put them into the chest to completion.

¹¹And it came to be, at that **time**, when the chest was brought to the sovereign's official by the **hand** of the Lēwites and

when they **saw** that there was much silver, that the sovereign's scribe and the high priest's officer came and emptied the chest and took it and returned it to its place. So they did day by day and gathered a large amount of silver.

¹²And the sovereign and Yehoyada gave it to those who did the **work** of the service of the House of אַיָּאֵל. And they hired stonemasons and carpenters to restore the House of אַיָּאֵל and also those who worked in iron and bronze to repair the House of אַיָּאֵל.

¹³And the workmen laboured and the work of restoration progressed in their hands and they **established** the House of **Elohim** to its proper form and strengthened it.

¹⁴And when they had **finished**, they brought the rest of the silver before the sovereign and Yehoyada and they made utensils from it for the House of אַיָּאֵל, utensils for serving and offering, ladles and vessels of gold and silver. And they offered burnt offerings in the House of אַיָּאֵל continually **all** the days of Yehoyada.

¹⁵And Yehoyada was old and **satisfied** with days and died, one hundred and thirty years old when he *died*.

¹⁶And they buried him in the City of Dawid among the sovereigns, for he

had done **good** in Yisra'el, both toward **Elohim** and **His** house.

¹⁷And after the *death* of Yehoyada the rulers of Yahudah came and bowed themselves to the sovereign. And the sovereign **listened** to them,

¹⁸and they *forsook* the House of אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** of their fathers and **served** the Ashērīm and the *idols*.

And *wrath* came upon Yahudah and Yerushalayim **because** of their *trespass*.

¹⁹And **He sent** prophets to them, to bring them back to אַיָּאֵל. And they **witnessed** *against* them, but they *did not listen*.

²⁰**Then** the **Spirit** of **Elohim** came upon Zekaryah son of Yehoyada the priest, who stood above the people and said to them, "Thus said **Elohim**,

'*Why* are you *transgressing* the **commands** of אַיָּאֵל and *do not prosper*? **Because** you have *forsaken* אַיָּאֵל, **He** has *forsaken* you.' "

²¹And they *conspired* *against* him and at the **command** of the sovereign they stoned him with stones in the courtyard of the House of אַיָּאֵל.

²²Thus Yo'ash the sovereign *did not remember* the **kindness** which Yehoyada his father had done to him and slew his son. And as he died, he said, "אַיָּאֵל does **see** and repays!"

²³And it came to be, at the turn of the year, that the army of Aram came up *against* him. And they came into Yahudah and Yerushalayim and **destroyed** **all** the rulers of the people from among the people and **sent** **all** their spoil to the sovereign of Damascus.

²⁴For the army of Aram came with **few** men, but אַיָּאֵל gave a **very great** army into their **hand**, **because** they had *forsaken* אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** of their fathers. So they *executed* judgment *against* Yo'ash.

²⁵And when they had withdrawn from him – for they left him **very sick** – his own servants *conspired* *against* him **because** of the **blood** of the sons of Yehoyada the priest and slew him on his bed and he *died*. And they buried him in

the City of Dawid, but they *did not* bury him in the tombs of the sovereigns.

²⁶And these are the ones who *conspired against* him: Zabād the son of Shim'ath the Ammonitess and Yehozabād the son of Shimrith the Mo'abitess.

²⁷As to his sons and the many **words** about him and the rebuilding of the House of **Elohim**, **see**, they are **written** in the commentary of the **book** of the sovereigns. And Amatsyahu his son reigned in his place.

25 Amatsyahu was twenty-five years old when he began to reign and he reigned twenty-nine years in Yerushalayim. And the name of his mother was Yehoaddan of Yerushalayim.

²And he did what was **right** in the eyes of אַיָּאָל, but not with a **perfect heart**.

³And it came to be, when the **reign** was **established** for him, that he slew his servants who had *smitten* his father the sovereign.

⁴*But he did not* put their children to *death*, but did as it is **written** in the **Torah** in the **Book** of Mosheh, where אַיָּאָל **commanded**, saying, "Fathers are not put to *death* for their children and children are not put to *death* for their fathers, but each one has to *die* for his own *sin*."

⁵And Amatsyahu gathered Yahudāh and set over them commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, **according** to the fathers' houses, for **all** Yahudāh and Binyamin. And he registered them from twenty years old and above and **found** them to be three hundred thousand choice men going out to the army, handling spear and shield.

⁶And he hired one hundred thousand mighty brave ones from Yisra'el for one hundred talents of silver.

⁷*But* a man of **Elohim** came to him, saying, "O sovereign, *do not* let the army of Yisra'el go with you, for אַיָּאָל is not with Yisra'el, with **all** the children of Ephrayim.

⁸*But* if you are going, do it! Be **strong** in battle, *else* **Elohim** would

make you *fall* before the enemy, for **Elohim** has **power** to help and to overthrow."

⁹And Amatsyahu said to the man of **Elohim**, "*But* what do we do about the hundred talents which I have **given** to the army of Yisra'el?" And the man of **Elohim** answered, "אַיָּאָל has more to give you than this."

¹⁰So Amatsyahu dismissed the army that had **come** to him from Ephrayim, to go back home. And they were greatly **enraged against** Yahudāh and they returned home in a *rage*.

¹¹And Amatsyahu strengthened himself and led his people and went to the Valley of Salt and *smote* ten thousand of the sons of Sē'ir.

¹²And the sons of Yahudāh took captive another ten thousand **alive** and they brought them to the top of the rock and threw them down from the top of the rock and **all** of them were dashed to pieces.

¹³And the soldiers of the army which Amatsyahu had **sent** back from going with him to battle, they raided the cities of Yahudāh from Shomeron to Bēyth Horon and *smote* three thousand in them and took much spoil.

¹⁴And it came to be, after Amatsyahu came from smiting the Edomites, that he brought the *mighty ones* of the people of Sē'ir and set them up to be his *mighty ones* and bowed down before them and *burned* incense to them.

¹⁵Therefore the *displeasure* of אַיָּאָל *burned against* Amatsyahu and **He sent** him a **prophet** who said to him, "*Why* have you sought the *mighty ones* of the people, which *did not deliver* their own people from your **hand**?"

¹⁶And it came to be, as he talked with him, that the sovereign said to him, "Have we **appointed** you counsellor to the sovereign? Stop! *Why* should they *smite* you?" **Then** the **prophet stopped** and said, "I **know** that **Elohim** has counselled to *destroy* you, **because** you have done this and have *not listened* to my counsel."

¹⁷And Amatsyahu sovereign of Yahudāh took counsel and **sent** to Yo'ash son of Yeho'ahaz, son of Yēhu, sovereign of Yisra'el, saying, “**Come**, let us look each other in the face!”

¹⁸And Yo'ash sovereign of Yisra'el **sent** to Amatsyahu sovereign of Yahudāh, saying, “The thistle that was in Lebanon **sent** to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying, ‘Give your daughter to my son as wife.’ And a wild beast that was in Lebanon passed by and trampled the thistle.

¹⁹“You have said, ‘**See**, I have *smitten* Eḏom,’ and your **heart** has lifted you up to boast. **Now** stay at home, why should you stir up yourself to *evil*, that you should *fall* and Yahudāh with you?”

²⁰**But** Amatsyahu *did not listen*, for it came from **Elohim**, **in order** to give them into the **hand** of their enemies, **because** they had sought the *mighty ones* of Edom.

²¹So Yo'ash sovereign of Yisra'el went out. And he and Amatsyahu sovereign of Yahudāh faced one another at Bēyth Shemesh, which belongs to Yahudāh.

²²And Yahudāh was *smitten* before Yisra'el and they each fled to his tent.

²³And Yo'ash the sovereign of Yisra'el **caught** Amatsyahu sovereign of Yahudāh, son of Yo'ash, son of Yeho'ahaz, at Bēyth Shemesh and brought him to Yerushalayim and broke down the wall of Yerushalayim from the Gate of Ephrayim to the Corner Gate, four hundred cubits,

²⁴and **took all** the gold and the silver and **all** the utensils that were **found** in the House of **Elohim** with Obēd-Eḏom and the treasures of the sovereign's house and hostages and returned to Shomeron.

²⁵And Amatsyahu son of Yo'ash, sovereign of Yahudāh, lived fifteen years after the *death* of Yo'ash son of Yeho'ahaz, sovereign of Yisra'el.

²⁶And the rest of the acts of Amatsyahu, from the **first** to the **last**, **see**, are they not **written** in the **book** of the sovereigns of Yahudāh and Yisra'el?

²⁷And from the **time** that Amatsyahu

turned away from **following** אַיָּאֵל, they made a **conspiracy** *against* him in Yerushalayim and he fled to Lakish. And they **sent** after him to Lakish and *killed* him there,

²⁸and they brought him on horses and buried him with his fathers in the City of Yahudāh.

26 And **all** the people of Yahudāh took Uzziyahu, who was sixteen years old and set him up to **reign** instead of his father Amatsyahu.

²He built Elyoth and restored it to Yahudāh, after the sovereign slept with his fathers.

³Uzziyahu was sixteen years old when he began to reign and he reigned fifty-two years in Yerushalayim. And his mother's name was Yekolyah of Yerushalayim.

⁴And he did what was **right** in the eyes of אַיָּאֵל, **according** to **all** that his father Amatsyahu did.

⁵And he sought **Elohim** in the days of Zekaryahu, who had **understanding** in the **visions** of **Elohim**. And while he sought אַיָּאֵל, **Elohim** made him prosper.

⁶And he went out and fought *against* the Philistines and broke down the wall of Gath and the wall of Yabneh and the wall of Ashdod and built cities around Ashdod and among the Philistines.

⁷And **Elohim** helped him *against* the Philistines and *against* the Arabians who lived in Gur Ba'al and the Me'unites.

⁸And the Ammonites gave gifts to Uzziyahu. And his name spread as far as the entrance of Mitsrayim, for he strengthened himself greatly.

⁹And Uzziyahu built towers in Yerushalayim at the Corner Gate and at the Valley Gate and at the corner buttress and strengthened them.

¹⁰And he built towers in the wilderness and dug many wells, for he had much livestock, both in the low country and in the plain, farmers and vinedressers in the mountains and in Karmel, for he **loved** the soil.

¹¹And Uzziyah had an army of *fighting* men who went out to battle by divisions, **according** to the number on their roll as prepared by Ye'i'el the scribe and Ma'aseyahu the officer, under the **hand** of Hananyahu, one of the sovereign's commanders.

¹²The total number of the clan chiefs of the mighty brave ones was two thousand six hundred.

¹³And under their **hand** was an army of three hundred and seven thousand five hundred that fought with mighty power, to help the sovereign *against* the enemy.

¹⁴And Uzziyahu prepared for them, for the entire army, shields and spears and helmets and body armour and bows and sling stones.

¹⁵And he made machines in Yerushalayim, devised by skilled men, to be on the towers and the corners, to shoot arrows and large stones. And his name spread far and wide, for he was marvelously helped til he became strong.

¹⁶**But** when he became **strong** his **heart** was lifted up, to his **destruction**, for he trespassed *against* אַיָּאֵל his **Elohim** by entering the Hēkal of אַיָּאֵל to burn incense on the altar of incense.

¹⁷And Azaryahu the priest went in after him and with him were eighty priests of אַיָּאֵל, who were brave men.

¹⁸And they stood up *against* Sovereign Uzziyahu and said to him, "It is not for you, Uzziyahu, to burn incense to אַיָּאֵל, but for the priests, the sons of Aharon, who are set-apart to burn incense. Get out of the set-apart place, for you have trespassed and there is no **esteem** to you from אַיָּאֵל **Elohim**."

¹⁹And Uzziyahu was *wroth*. And he had a censer in his **hand** to burn incense. And while he was *wroth* with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead, before the priests in the House of אַיָּאֵל, beside the incense altar.

²⁰And Azaryahu the chief priest and **all** the priests **looked** at him and **saw** that he was leprous on his forehead. And they hurried him from there. And he also hurried to get out, **because** אַיָּאֵל had

struck him.

²¹And Sovereign Uzziyahu was a leper until the **day** of his *death* and dwelt in a separate house, **because** he was a leper, for he was *cut off* from the House of אַיָּאֵל. And Yotham his son was over the sovereign's house, ruling the people of the land.

²²And the rest of the acts of Uzziyahu, from the **first** to the **last**, the **prophet** Yeshayahu the son of Amots **wrote**.

²³So Uzziyahu slept with his fathers and they buried him with his fathers in the field of burial which belonged to the sovereigns, for they said, "He is a leper." And Yotham his son reigned in his place.

27 Yotham was twenty-five years old when he began to reign and he reigned sixteen years in Yerushalayim. And his mother's name was Yerushah the daughter of Tsadoq.

²And he did what was **right** in the eyes of אַיָּאֵל, **according** to **all** that his father Uzziyahu had done. Only, he *did not come* into the Hēkal of אַיָּאֵל. And the people continued to *act corruptly*.

³**He** built the Upper Gate of the House of אַיָּאֵל and he built much on the wall of Ophel.

⁴And he built cities in the hill country of Yahudāh and in the forests he built palaces and towers.

⁵And he fought with the sovereign of the Ammonites and prevailed over them. And the children of Ammon gave him in that year one hundred talents of silver and ten thousand kors of wheat and ten thousand of barley. This is what the children of Ammon paid him, also in the second and third years.

⁶And Yotham strengthened himself, for he prepared his **ways** before אַיָּאֵל his **Elohim**.

⁷And the rest of the acts of Yotham and **all** his battles and his ways, **see**, they are **written** in the **book** of the sovereigns of Yisra'el and Yahudāh.

⁸**He** was twenty-five years old when he began to reign and he reigned sixteen years in Yerushalayim.

⁹So Yotham slept with his fathers and they buried him in the City of Dawid. And his son Aḥaz reigned in his place.

28 Aḥaz was twenty years old when he began to reign and he reigned sixteen years in Yerushalayim. And he *did not* do what was **right** in the eyes of אַיָּאֵל, as his father Dawid had done,

²and walked in the ways of the sovereigns of Yisra'el and made *moulded images* for the Ba'als.

³And he himself *burned* incense in the Valley of the **Son** of Hinnom and *burned* his children in the *fire*, **according** to the **abominations** of the *gentiles* whom אַיָּאֵל dispossessed from before the children of Yisra'el,

⁴and slaughtered and *burned* incense on the *high places* and on the hills and under **every green tree**.

⁵Therefore אַיָּאֵל his **Elohim** gave him into the **hand** of the sovereign of Aram and they *smote* him and took many of them away as captives and brought them to Damascus. And he was also **given** into the **hand** of the sovereign of Yisra'el, who *smote* him with a **great** slaughter.

⁶And Peqah son of Remalyahu slew one hundred and twenty thousand in Yahudah in one day, **all** brave men, **because** they had *forsaken* אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** of their fathers.

⁷And Zikri, a mighty man of Ephrayim, slew Ma'asēyahu son of the sovereign and Azriqam the officer over the house and Elqanah who was second to the sovereign.

⁸And the children of Yisra'el took captive from their brothers two hundred thousand women, sons and daughters. And they also *seized* from them much spoil and they brought the spoil to Shomeron.

⁹**But** a prophet of אַיָּאֵל was there, whose name was Oḏēd. And he went out before the army that came to Shomeron and said to them, “**See, because** אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** of your fathers was *displeased* with Yahudah, **He** has **given** them into

your **hand** and you have *slain* them in a *rage* that reaches up to the **heavens**.

¹⁰“And **now** you are planning to make the children of Yahudah and Yerushalayim your male and female slaves, but are you not also *guilty* before אַיָּאֵל your **Elohim**?

¹¹“**Now** therefore, **listen** to me and **return** the captives whom you have taken captive from your brothers, for the *heat* of the *wrath* of אַיָּאֵל is upon you.”

¹²And some of the heads of the children of Ephrayim: Azaryahu son of Yehoḥanan, Berekyahu son of Meshillēmoth and Yehizqiyahu son of Shallum and Amasa son of Hadlai, stood up *against* those who came from the army,

¹³and said to them, “**Do not** bring the captives here, to bring on us *guilt* before אַיָּאֵל. Are you planning to add to our *sins* and to our *guilt*? For our *guilt* is great and *burning* is the *wrath* on Yisra'el.”

¹⁴And the armed men left the captives and the spoil before the leaders and **all** the assembly.

¹⁵And the men who were designated by name rose up and took the captives and from the spoil they put on **all** the naked among them, dressed them and gave them sandals and gave them food and drink and **anointed** them and let **all** the weak ones ride on donkeys and brought them to their brothers at Yeriho, the city of palm trees, then returned to Shomeron.

¹⁶At that **time** Sovereign Aḥaz **sent** to the sovereigns of Ashshur to help him.

¹⁷For the Edomites had **come** again and *smote* Yahudah and took away captives.

¹⁸And the Philistines invaded the cities of the low country and of the South of Yahudah and captured Bēyth Shemesh and Ayalon and Geḏeroth and Soḳo with its villages and Timnah with its villages and Gimzo with its villages and dwelt there.

¹⁹For אַיָּאֵל had brought Yahudah low **because** of Aḥaz sovereign of Yisra'el, for he brought about a lack of restraint in

Yahudāh and trespassed *against* אַיָּאֵל.

²⁰And Tiglath-Pileser the sovereign of Ashshur came *against* him and *distressed* him and *did not* help him,

²¹though Ahaz had taken some of the treasures from the House of אַיָּאֵל, from the house of the sovereign and from the leaders and he gave it to the sovereign of Ashshur, but he *did not* help him.

²²And in the **time** of his *distress* Sovereign Ahaz trespassed even more *against* אַיָּאֵל – this Sovereign Ahaz –

²³and he slaughtered to the *mighty ones* of Damascus, those smiting him, saying, “**Because** the *mighty ones* of the sovereigns of Aram help them,

I offer to them and they help me.” **But** they were to **cause** him and **all** Yisra’ēl to *stumble*.

²⁴And Ahaz gathered the utensils of the House of **Elohim** and *cut* in pieces the utensils of the House of **Elohim** and shut the **doors** of the House of אַיָּאֵל and made for himself altars in **every** corner of Yerushalayim.

²⁵And in **every** city, even the cities of Yahudāh, he made *high places* to burn incense to other *mighty ones* and *provoked* אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** of his fathers.

²⁶And the rest of his acts and **all** his ways, from **first** to **last**, **see**, they are **written** in the **book** of the sovereigns of Yahudāh and Yisra’ēl.

²⁷So Ahaz slept with his fathers and they buried him in the city, in Yerushalayim, but they *did not* bring him into the tombs of the sovereigns of Yisra’ēl. And Hizqiyahu his son reigned in his place.

29 Hizqiyahu began to **reign** when he was twenty-five years old and he reigned twenty-nine years in Yerushalayim. And his mother’s name was Abiyah the daughter of Zekaryahu.

²And he did what was **right** in the eyes of אַיָּאֵל, **according** to **all** that his father Dawid did.

³In the **first** year of his reign, in the **first** month, he opened the **doors** of the

House of אַיָּאֵל and repaired them,

⁴and brought in the priests and the Lēwites and gathered them in the **open** place to the east.

⁵And he said to them, “**Listen** to me, O Lēwites! **Now** set yourselves apart, set-apart the **House** of אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** of your fathers and remove the *uncleanness* from the set-apart place.

⁶“For our fathers have *trespassed* and have done *evil* in the eyes of אַיָּאֵל our **Elohim** and have *forsaken* **Him** and have turned their faces away from the **Dwelling Place** of אַיָּאֵל and have **given** their backs.

⁷“And they have shut the **doors** of the porch and put out the lamps and they have not *burned* incense or offered burnt offerings in the set-apart place to the **Elohim** of Yisra’ēl.

⁸“Therefore the *wrath* of אַיָּאֵל fell upon Yahudāh and Yerushalayim and **He** has **given** them up for a *trembling*, for an *astonishment* and for a *hissing*, as you **see** with your eyes.

⁹“And **see**, **because** of this our fathers have fallen by the *sword*. And our sons, daughters and our wives are in captivity for this.

¹⁰“**Now** it is in my **heart** to make a **covenant** with אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** of Yisra’ēl, so that the *heat* of **His** *wrath* turns away from us.

¹¹“My sons, *do not* be slack, for אַיָּאֵל has **chosen** you to **stand** before **Him**, to **serve** **Him** and to be attendants for **Him** and burn incense.”

¹²And the Lēwites rose up: Maḥath son of Amasai and Yo’ēl son of Azaryahu, of the sons of the Qehathites; and of the sons of Merari, Qish son of Abdi and Azaryahu son of Yehallel’ēl; and of the Gēreshonites, Yo’ah son of Zimmaḥ and Ēden son of Yo’ah;

¹³and of the sons of Elitsaphan, Shimri and Ye’i’ēl; and of the sons of Asaph, Zekaryahu and Mattanyahu;

¹⁴and of the sons of Hēman, Yehi’ēl and Shim’i; and of the sons of Yeḏuthun, Shemayah and Uzzi’ēl.

¹⁵And they gathered their brothers and set themselves apart and went **according**

to the **command** of the sovereign, at the **words** of אַיָּאָל, to **cleanse** the House of אַיָּאָל.

¹⁶And the priests came into the inner part of the House of אַיָּאָל to **cleanse** it and brought out **all** the *uncleanness* they **found** in the Hēkal of אַיָּאָל to the courtyard of the House of אַיָּאָל. **Then** the Lēwites received it to take it outside to the wadi Qidron.

¹⁷And they began to set-apart on the **first day of the first month** and on the eighth **day of the month** they came to the porch of אַיָּאָל. And they set-apart the House of אַיָּאָל in eight days and on the sixteenth **day of the first month** they had **finished**.

¹⁸**Then** they came in to Sovereign Hizqiyahu and said, “We have **cleansed all** the House of אַיָּאָל and the altar of burnt offerings with **all** its utensils and the table of the showbread with **all** its utensils.

¹⁹“And **all** the utensils which Sovereign Aḥaz in his **reign** had pushed aside, when he trespassed, we have prepared and set-apart. And **see**, they are before the altar of אַיָּאָל.”

²⁰And Sovereign Hizqiyahu rose up early and gathered the heads of the city and went up to the House of אַיָּאָל.

²¹And they brought seven bulls and seven rams and seven lambs and seven male goats for a *sin* offering for the reign, for the set-apart place and for Yahudāh. And he said to the priests, the sons of Aharon, to offer them on the altar of אַיָּאָל.

²²So they slaughtered the bulls and the priests received the **blood** and sprinkled it on the altar. And they slaughtered the rams and sprinkled the **blood** on the altar. And they slaughtered the lambs and sprinkled the **blood** on the altar.

²³And they brought out the male goats of the *sin* offering before the sovereign and the **assembly** and they laid their hands on them,

²⁴and the priests slaughtered them and with their **blood** made a *sin* offering on the altar, to make an atonement for **all** Yisra’ēl, for the sovereign said that the

burnt offering and the *sin* offering is for **all** Yisra’ēl.

²⁵And he **appointed** the Lēwites in the House of אַיָּאָל with cymbals, with harps and with lyres, **according** to the **command** of Dawiḏ and of Gaḏ, **seer** of the sovereign and of Nathan the **prophet**, for the **command** was by the **hand** of אַיָּאָל, by the **hand** of **His prophets**.

²⁶And the Lēwites stood with the instruments of Dawiḏ and the priests with the trumpets.

²⁷And Hizqiyahu gave the order to offer the burnt offering on the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the singing unto אַיָּאָל began, with the trumpets and with the instruments of Dawiḏ sovereign of Yisra’ēl.

²⁸And **all** the assembly were bowing and the singers singing and the trumpeters blowing – **all** this until the burnt offering was completed.

²⁹And at the completion of the offering, the sovereign and **all** who were present with him bowed and worshipped.

³⁰And Sovereign Hizqiyahu and the rulers ordered the Lēwites to sing **praise** to אַיָּאָל with the **words** of Dawiḏ and of Asaph the **seer**. And they sang praises with **gladness** and they bowed their heads and worshipped.

³¹And Hizqiyahu responded and said, “**Now** that you have ordained yourselves to אַיָּאָל, **come** near and bring slaughterings and thank offerings into the **House of אַיָּאָל**.” And the assembly brought in slaughterings and thank offerings and **all** those whose **hearts** were so moved brought burnt offerings.

³²And the number of the burnt offerings which the assembly brought was seventy bulls, one hundred rams, two hundred lambs – **all** these for a burnt offering to אַיָּאָל.

³³And the set-apart gifts were six hundred bulls and three thousand sheep.

³⁴Only, the priests were too few and were *unable* to skin **all** the burnt offerings, so their brothers the Lēwites helped them until the **work** was **completed** and until the other priests

had set themselves apart, for the Lēwites were more **upright of heart** to set themselves apart, than the priests.

³⁵And there were also many burnt offerings, with the fat of the **peace** offerings and with the drink offerings for **every** burnt offering. Thus the service of the House of אַזַּאֵל was re-established.

³⁶And Hizqiyahu and **all** the people rejoiced that **Elohim** had prepared the people, **because** the matter came about so **suddenly**.

30 And Hizqiyahu **sent** to **all** Yisra'el and Yahudāh and he also **wrote** letters to Ephrayim and Menashsheh, to **come** to the House of אַזַּאֵל at Yerushalayim, to perform the **Passover** to אַזַּאֵל **Elohim** of Yisra'el.

²**But** the sovereign and his leaders and **all** the assembly in Yerushalayim had taken counsel to perform the **Passover** in the second month.

³For they were **unable** to perform it at its **time**, **because** not enough priests had set themselves apart and the people had not gathered at Yerushalayim.

⁴And the matter was **right in the eyes** of the sovereign and **in the eyes** of **all** the assembly.

⁵And they settled the matter, to send a **call** to **all** Yisra'el, from Be'ersheba to Dan, to **come** to perform a **Passover** to אַזַּאֵל **Elohim** of Yisra'el at Yerushalayim, since they had not done it for a long **time**, as it is **written**.

⁶And the runners went to **all** Yisra'el and Yahudāh with the letters from the sovereign and his leaders and spoke **according** to the **command** of the sovereign, "Children of Yisra'el, **turn back** to אַזַּאֵל **Elohim** of Abraham, Yitshaq and Yisra'el, so that **He** returns to the **remnant** of you who have **escaped** from the **hand** of the sovereigns of Ashshur.

⁷"And **do not** be like your fathers and be like your brothers, who **trespassed against** אַזַּאֵל **Elohim** of their fathers, so that **He** gave them up to **ruin**, as you

see.

⁸"**Now do not** stiffen your neck, like your fathers, stretch forth the **hand** to אַזַּאֵל and **come** to **His** set-apart place, which **He** has set-apart **forever** and **serve** אַזַּאֵל your **Elohim**, so that **His burning wrath** turns away from you.

⁹"For **if** you **turn back** to אַזַּאֵל, your brothers and your children **shall be** shown **compassion** by their captors, even to **return** to this land. For אַזַּאֵל your **Elohim** shows **favour** and **compassion** and **does not** turn **His** face from you **if** you **turn back** to **Him**."

¹⁰And the runners passed from city to city throughout the land of Ephrayim and Menashsheh, as far as Zebulun. **But** they were laughing at them and **mocking** them.

¹¹Some from Asher and Menashsheh and from Zebulun, however, humbled themselves and came to Yerushalayim.

¹²Also the **hand** of **Elohim** was on Yahudāh to give them one **heart** to do the **command** of the sovereign and the rulers, at the **Word** of אַזַּאֵל.

¹³And many people, a **very great assembly**, gathered at Yerushalayim to perform the **Festival of Unleavened Bread** in the second month.

¹⁴And they rose up and **removed** the altars that were in Yerushalayim and they **removed all** the incense altars and threw them into the wadi Qidron.

¹⁵**Then** they slaughtered the **Passover** on the fourteenth **day** of the second month. And the priests and the Lēwites were ashamed and set themselves apart and brought the burnt offerings to the House of אַזַּאֵל.

¹⁶And they stood in their place **according** to their right-ruling. According to the **Torah** of Mosheh, the man of **Elohim**, the priests sprinkled the **blood** from the **hand** of the Lēwites.

¹⁷For many in the assembly had not set themselves apart. Therefore the Lēwites were over the slaughter of the **Passover** for everyone who was not **clean**, to set them apart to אַזַּאֵל.

¹⁸For many of the people, many from Ephrayim and Menashsheh, Yissaskar

and Zebulun, had not been cleansed, yet they ate the **Passover** *contrary* to what was **written**. *But* Hizqiyahu prayed for them, saying, “**אָזַל** who is **good**, provide **atonement** for everyone

¹⁹who has prepared his **heart to seek Elohim**, **אָזַל Elohim** of his fathers, though he is not **cleansed according to the cleansing of the set-apart place**.”

²⁰And **אָזַל** listened to Hizqiyahu and **healed** the people.

²¹And the children of Yisra’el who were in Yerushalayim performed the **Festival of Unleavened Bread seven days** with **great joy**. And the Lēwites and the priests **praised אָזַל** day by day, with instruments of **praise** before **אָזַל**.

²²And Hizqiyahu spoke to the **heart of all** the Lēwites, those having **good understanding** concerning **אָזַל**. So they ate what was appointed, **seven days**, slaughtering **peace** offerings and making confession to **אָזַל Elohim** of their fathers.

²³And **all** the assembly took counsel to perform another seven days and they performed it another seven days with joy.

²⁴For Hizqiyahu sovereign of Yahudāh presented to the assembly a thousand bulls and seven thousand sheep and the rulers presented to the assembly a thousand bulls and ten thousand sheep. And a **great** number of priests set themselves apart.

²⁵And **all** the assembly of Yahudāh rejoiced and the priests and Lēwites and **all** the assembly who had **come** from Yisra’el and the sojourners who came from the land of Yisra’el and those who dwelt in Yahudāh.

²⁶And there came to be **great joy** in Yerushalayim, for since the days of Shelomoh son of Dawid, the sovereign of Yisra’el, the like of this had not been in Yerushalayim.

²⁷And the priests, the Lēwites, rose and **blessed** the people and their **voice** was **heard**. And their prayer came up to **His** set-apart dwelling place, to the **heavens**.

31 And at the completion of **all** this, **all** Yisra’el who were present went out to the cities of Yahudāh and broke down the *pillars* and *cut down* the Ashērīm and tore down the *high places* and the altars, from **all** Yahudāh and Binyamin and in Ephrayim and Menashsheh, even to completion. *Then all* the children of Yisra’el returned to their own cities, each to his possession.

²And Hizqiyahu **appointed** the divisions of the priests and of the Lēwites **according** to their divisions, each **according** to his service of the priests and Lēwites for burnt offerings and **peace** offerings, to **serve** and to give thanks and to **praise** in the gates of the camp of **אָזַל**.

³And the sovereign **appointed** a portion of his possessions for the burnt offerings, for the morning and **evening** burnt offerings and the burnt offerings for the **Sabbaths** and for the **New Moons** and for the **appointed times**, as it is **written** in the **Torah** of **אָזַל**.

⁴And he said to the people, those who dwelt in Yerushalayim, to give the portion for the priests and the Lēwites, so that they are strengthened in the **Torah** of **אָזַל**.

⁵And as the **word** spread, the children of Yisra’el brought large quantities of the **first-fruits** of grain and **wine** and oil and honey and of **all** the increase of the field. And they brought in the tithe of **all**, a large amount.

⁶And the children of Yisra’el and Yahudāh, those who dwelt in the cities of Yahudāh, brought the tithe of cattle and sheep. Even the tithe of set-apart gifts which were set-apart to **אָזַל** their **Elohim** were brought in and they gave heaps.

⁷In the third month they began to pile up the heaps and they **finished** in the seventh month.

⁸And Hizqiyahu and the leaders came and **saw** the heaps and they **blessed אָזַל** and **His** people Yisra’el.

⁹And Hizqiyahu asked the priests and the Lēwites about the heaps.

¹⁰And Azaryahu the chief priest, from the house of Tsaḏoq, answered him and said, “Since they began to bring the offerings into the House of אַזָּאָל, we have had enough to eat and have plenty left, for אַזָּאָל has **blessed His** people. And this **great** amount is left over.”

¹¹And Hizqiyahu ordered them to **prepare** rooms in the House of אַזָּאָל and they prepared them.

¹²**Then** they brought in the contribution and the tithes and the set-apart gifts, trustworthily. And Konanyahu the Lēwite was leader over them and Shim'i his brother was the next.

¹³And Yehi'ēl and Azazyahu and Naḥath and Asah'ēl and Yerimoth and Yozaḅaḏ and Eli'ēl and Yismaḳyahu and Maḥath and Benayahu were overseers under the **hand** of Konanyahu and Shim'i his brother, by order of Hizqiyahu the sovereign and Azaryahu the ruler of the House of **Elohim**.

¹⁴And Qorē son of Yimnah the Lēwite, the keeper of the East Gate, was over the voluntary offerings to **Elohim**, to distribute the offerings of אַזָּאָל and the most set-apart gifts.

¹⁵And under his **hand** were Ĕden and Minyamin and Yēshua and Shemayahu, Amaryahu and Sheḳanyahu, in the cities of the priests, to distribute trustworthily to their brothers by divisions, to the **great** as well as the small.

¹⁶Besides those males from three years old and up who were **written** in the genealogy, they distributed to everyone who entered the **House of אַזָּאָל** his daily portion for the **work** of his service, by his division,

¹⁷and to the priests who were **written** in the genealogy **according** to their father's house and to the Lēwites from twenty years old upward, by their duties in their divisions,

¹⁸and to **all** listed in the genealogy, their *little* ones and their wives, their sons and daughters, **all** the company of them. For in their trustworthiness they set themselves apart in set-apartness.

¹⁹And for the sons of Aharon the priests, who were in the fields of the

open land of their cities, in each and **every** city, there were men who were called by name to distribute portions to **all** the males among the priests and to **all** who were listed by genealogies among the Lēwites.

²⁰And Hizqiyahu did this in **all** Yahudāh and he did what was **good** and what was **right** and what was **true** before אַזָּאָל his **Elohim**.

²¹And in **every work** that he began in the service of the House of **Elohim**, in the **Torah** and in the **command**, to **seek** his **Elohim**, with **all his heart**, he did and prospered.

32 After these matters and this **trust** worthiness, Sanḥērib sovereign of Ashshur came. And he entered Yahudāh and encamped *against* the cities of defence and said to *break* them **open** to himself.

²And Hizqiyahu **saw** that Sanḥērib had come and his face set to *fight against* Yerushalayim,

³and he took counsel with his rulers and mighty men to stop the water from the springs which were outside the city. And they helped him.

⁴And many people were gathered and they *stopped* **all** the springs and the stream that ran through the land, saying, “**Why** should the sovereigns of Ashshur **come** and find much water?”

⁵And he strengthened himself and built up **all** the wall that was *broken* and **raised** it up to the towers and outside of it another wall and strengthened Millo, the City of Dawiḏ and made large numbers of weapons and shields.

⁶And he **appointed** battle officers over the people and gathered them to him in the **open** space at the city gate and spoke to their **heart**, saying,

⁷“**Be strong and courageous**, do not be *afraid* nor be *cast* down before the sovereign of Ashshur, nor before **all** the army that is with him. For with us there are more than with him.

⁸“With him is an arm of *flesh*, but with us is אַזָּאָל our **Elohim**, to help us

and to *fight* our battles.” And the people leaned on the **words** of Hizqiyahu sovereign of Yahudāh.

⁹After this Sanhēriḇ the sovereign of Ashshur **sent** his servants to Yerushalayim – but he himself and **all** his **power** with him *against* Lakish – to Hizqiyahu sovereign of Yahudāh and to **all** Yahudāh who were in Yerushalayim, saying,

¹⁰“Thus said Sanhēriḇ the sovereign of Ashshur, ‘On what are you **trusting**, that you remain in Yerushalayim under siege?’

¹¹‘Is Hizqiyahu not persuading you to give yourselves over to *die* by *scarcity of food* and by thirst, saying, “**אֵלֹהִים** our **Elohim shall deliver** us from the **hand** of the sovereign of Ashshur”?’

¹²‘Has not Hizqiyahu himself taken away **His** *high places* and **His** altars and ordered Yahudāh and Yerushalayim, saying, “Bow yourselves before one altar and burn incense on it”?’

¹³**Do** you not **know** what I and my fathers have done to **all** the peoples of other lands? Were the *mighty ones* of the nations of those lands in any **way** able to **deliver** their lands out of my **hand**?

¹⁴**Who** was there among **all** the *mighty ones* of those nations that my fathers put under the **ban** that could **deliver** his people from my **hand**, that your **Elohim** should be able to **deliver** you from my **hand**?

¹⁵And **now**, *do not* let Hizqiyahu *deceive* you or persuade you like this and *do not* **believe** him; for no *mighty one* of any nation or **reign** was able to **deliver** his people from my **hand** or the **hand** of my fathers – much less your **Elohim** to **deliver** you from my **hand!**”

¹⁶And his servants spoke even more *against* **אֵלֹהִים** **Elohim** and *against* **His** servant Hizqiyahu.

¹⁷And he **wrote** letters to *reproach* **אֵלֹהִים** **Elohim** of Yisra`el and to **speak against** **Him**, saying, “As the *mighty ones* of the nations of other lands have not **delivered** their people from my **hand**, so the **Elohim** of Hizqiyahu **shall** not **deliver** **His** people from my **hand**.”

¹⁸**Then** they called out with a loud **voice** in the **language** of Yahudāh to the people of Yerushalayim who were on the wall, to frighten them and to *trouble* them, **in order** to capture the city.

¹⁹And they spoke *against* the **Elohim** of Yerushalayim, as *against* the *mighty ones* of the people of the earth, the **work** of men’s hands.

²⁰And Sovereign Hizqiyahu and the **prophet** Yeshayahu, son of Amots, prayed about this and *cried out* to the **heavens**.

²¹And **אֵלֹהִים** **sent** a messenger who *cut down* **every** mighty brave one, both the leader and the commander in the camp of the sovereign of Ashshur and he returned shamefaced to his own land and went into the house of his *mighty one* and there some of his own offspring **caused** him to *fall* by the *sword*.

²²Thus **אֵלֹהִים** **saved** Hizqiyahu and the inhabitants of Yerushalayim from the **hand** of Sanhēriḇ the sovereign of Ashshur and from the **hand** of **all** others and guided them on **every** side.

²³And many brought gifts to **אֵלֹהִים** at Yerushalayim and presents to Hizqiyahu sovereign of Yahudāh and he was exalted *in the eyes* of **all** nations thereafter.

²⁴In those days Hizqiyahu was *sick* and **near death** and he prayed to **אֵלֹהִים**. And **He** spoke to him and **appointed** a **sign** for him.

²⁵However, Hizqiyahu *did not* **repay** **according** to the **good** done to him, for his **heart** was lifted up, therefore *wrath* came upon him and upon Yahudāh and Yerushalayim.

²⁶**Then** Hizqiyahu humbled himself for the pride of his **heart**, he and the inhabitants of Yerushalayim, so that the *wrath* of **אֵלֹהִים** *did not* **come** upon them in the days of Hizqiyahu.

²⁷And Hizqiyahu had much riches and esteem. And he made himself treasuries for silver and for gold and for **precious** stones and for spices and for shields and for **all** desirable utensils;

²⁸and storehouses for the harvest of grain and **wine** and oil and stalls for **all**

kinds of livestock and folds for flocks.

²⁹And he made cities for himself and possessions of **great** numbers of flocks and herds, for **Elohim** gave him much property.

³⁰And Hizqiyahu himself had *stopped* the upper outlet of the waters of Gihon and directed them to the west side of the City of Dawid. And Hizqiyahu prospered in **all** his work.

³¹However with the envoys of the princes of Babel, whom they **sent** to **ask** him about the **wonder** that was done in the land, **Elohim** left him, **in order** to try him, **to know all** that was in his **heart**.

³²And the rest of the acts of Hizqiyahu and his **kindness**, **see**, they are **written** in the **vision** of Yeshayahu the **prophet**, son of Amots, in the **book** of the sovereigns of Yahudah and Yisra'el.

³³So Hizqiyahu slept with his fathers and they buried him in the upper tombs of the sons of Dawid. And **all** Yahudah and the inhabitants of Yerushalayim esteemed him at his *death*. And Menashsheh his son reigned in his place.

33 Menashsheh was twelve years old when he began to reign and he reigned fifty-five years in Yerushalayim.

²**But** he did *evil in the eyes of* אַיָּאֵל, **according to the abominations** of the *gentiles* whom אַיָּאֵל dispossessed from before the children of Yisra'el.

³For again he rebuilt the *high places* which Hizqiyahu his father had broken down and **raised** up altars for the Ba'als and made Asherim and bowed himself to **all** the host of the heavens and **served** them.

⁴And he built altars in the House of אַיָּאֵל, of which אַיָּאֵל had said, "In Yerushalayim is **My Name, forever**."

⁵And he built altars for **all** the host of the heavens in the two courtyards of the House of אַיָּאֵל.

⁶And he made his sons pass through the *fire* in the Valley of the **Son** of Hinnom and *practised magic* and used divination and **witchcraft** and consulted

mediums and spiritists. **He** did much *evil in the eyes* of אַיָּאֵל, to **provoke Him**.

⁷And he placed a *carved image* of the *idol* which he had made, in the House of **Elohim**, of which **Elohim** had said to Dawid and to Shelomoh his son, "In this house and in Yerushalayim, which I have **chosen** out of **all** the tribes of Yisra'el, I put **My Name forever**,

⁸and no more **shall** I remove the foot of Yisra'el from the soil which I have **appointed** for your fathers – only if they **guard** to do **all** that I have **commanded** them, **according to all the Torah** and **the laws and the right-rulings** by the **hand** of Mosheh."

⁹Thus Menashsheh led Yahudah and the inhabitants of Yerushalayim *astray*, to do more *evil* than the *gentiles* whom אַיָּאֵל had **destroyed** before the children of Yisra'el.

¹⁰And אַיָּאֵל spoke to Menashsheh and to his people, but they *did not listen*.

¹¹Therefore אַיָּאֵל brought upon them the commanders of the army of the sovereign of Ashshur, who captured Menashsheh with hooks, *bound* him with bronze shackles and made him go to Babel.

¹²And when he was in *distress*, he sought the face of אַיָּאֵל his **Elohim** and humbled himself greatly before the **Elohim** of his fathers,

¹³and prayed to **Him**. And **He** was moved by his entreaty and **heard** his supplication and brought him back to Yerushalayim into his reign. And Menashsheh **knew** that אַיָּאֵל was **Elohim**.

¹⁴And after this he built a wall outside the City of Dawid on the west of Gihon, in the wadi and as far as the entrance of the Fish Gate and it went round Ophel and he made it exceedingly high. And he put army commanders in **all** the walled cities of Yahudah.

¹⁵And he removed the foreign *mighty ones* and the *idol* from the House of אַיָּאֵל and **all** the altars that he had built in the mount of the House of אַיָּאֵל and in Yerushalayim and he threw them out of the city.

¹⁶And he built the altar of אַזְבֵּחַ and brought **peace** offerings and thank offerings on it and ordered Yahuḏah to **serve** אֱלֹהִים **Elohim** of Yisra'el.

¹⁷**But** the people were still offering on the *high places*, though only to אֱלֹהִים their **Elohim**.

¹⁸And the rest of the acts of Menashsheh, his prayer to his **Elohim** and the **words** of the **seers** who spoke to him in the **Name** of אֱלֹהִים **Elohim** of Yisra'el, **see**, they are **written** in the **book** of the sovereigns of Yisra'el.

¹⁹And his prayer and his entreaty and **all** his *sin* and his *trespass* and the places where he built *high places* and set up the Ashērim and the *carved images*, before he was humbled, **see**, they are **written** among the **words** of the seers.

²⁰So Menashsheh slept with his fathers and they buried him in his own house. And his son Amon reigned in his place.

²¹Amon was twenty-two years old when he began to reign and he reigned two years in Yerushalayim.

²²**But** he did *evil in the eyes* of אֱלֹהִים, as his father Menashsheh had done. And Amon offered to **all** the *carved images* which his father Menashsheh had made and **served** them.

²³And he *did not* humble himself before אֱלֹהִים, as his father Menashsheh had humbled himself, for Amon trespassed more and more.

²⁴And his servants *conspired against* him and *killed* him in his own house.

²⁵**But** the people of the land *smote* **all** those who had *conspired against* Sovereign Amon and the people of the land set Yoshiyahu to **reign** in his place.

34 Yoshiyahu was eight years old when he began to reign and he reigned thirty-one years in Yerushalayim.

²And he did what was **right** in the eyes of אֱלֹהִים and walked in the **ways** of his father Dawiḏ and *did not* turn aside, **right** or left.

³And in the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to **seek** the **Elohim** of his father Dawiḏ.

And in the twelfth year he began to **cleanse** Yahuḏah and Yerushalayim from the *high places* and the Ashērim and the *carved images* and the *moulded* images.

⁴And they broke down the altars of the Ba'als in his presence and the **sun-pillars** which were above them he *cut down*.

And the Ashērim and the *carved images* and the *moulded images* he smashed and ground them up and strewed it on the *graves* of those who had offered to them.

⁵And he *burned* the bones of the priests on their altars and **cleansed** Yahuḏah and Yerushalayim,

⁶and in the cities of Menashsheh and Ephrayim and Shim'on, as far as Naphtali, in their ruins **all** around.

⁷And he broke down the altars and the Ashērim and ground the *carved images* into dust and *cut down* **all** the **sun-pillars** throughout **all** the land of Yisra'el and returned to Yerushalayim.

⁸In the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had **cleansed** the land and the House, he **sent** Shaphan son of Atsalyahu, Ma'asēyahu the head of the city and Yo'ah son of Yo'ahaz the recorder, to repair the House of אֱלֹהִים his **Elohim**.

⁹And they went to Hilqiyahu the high priest and they gave the silver that was brought into the House of **Elohim**, which the Lēwites who kept the **doors** had gathered from the **hand** of Menashsheh and Ephrayim and from **all** the **remnant** of Yisra'el and from **all** Yahuḏah and Binyamin and which they had brought back to Yerushalayim, ¹⁰and they gave it in the **hand** of the workmen, those **appointed** over the House of אֱלֹהִים. And they gave it to the workmen who worked in the House of אֱלֹהִים, to repair and strengthen the house.

¹¹And they gave it to the craftsmen and to the builders, to buy hewn stone and timber for couplings and for beams for the houses which the sovereigns of Yahuḏah had **destroyed**.

¹²And the men did the **work** trustworthily. And over them were **appointed** Yaḥath and Obadyahu the

Lēwites, of the sons of Merari and Zekaryah and Meshullam, of the sons of the Qehathites, to oversee; and of the Lēwites, **all** of whom were skilled in instruments of song,

¹³and over the *burden* bearers and overseers of **all** who did **work** in any **kind** of service. And of the Lēwites were scribes and officers and gatekeepers.

¹⁴And when they brought out the silver that was brought into the House of אַיָּאֵל, Hilqiyahu the priest **found** the **Book** of the **Torah** of אַיָּאֵל **given** by Mosheh.

¹⁵*Then* Hilqiyahu responded and said to Shaphan the scribe, “I have **found** the **Book** of the **Torah** in the House of אַיָּאֵל.” And Hilqiyahu gave the **book** to Shaphan.

¹⁶And Shaphan brought the **book** to the sovereign and brought the sovereign **word**, saying, “All that has been **given** into the **hand** of your servants, they are doing.

¹⁷“And they have **poured out** the silver that was **found** in the House of אַיָּאֵל and have **given** it into the **hand** of those **appointed** and the workmen.”

¹⁸And Shaphan the scribe informed the sovereign, saying, “Hilqiyahu the priest has **given** me a **book**.” And Shaphan **read** it before the sovereign.

¹⁹And it came to be, when the sovereign heard the **words** of the **Torah**, that he tore his garments.

²⁰And the sovereign **commanded** Hilqiyahu, Ahiqam son of Shaphan and Abdon son of Mikah and Shaphan the scribe and Asayah a servant of the sovereign, saying,

²¹“Go, **inquire** of אַיָּאֵל for me and for him who is left in Yisra’ēl and in Yahudāh, concerning the **words** of the **book** that is found. For **great** is the *wrath* of אַיָּאֵל that is **poured out** on us, **because** our fathers have not **guarded** the **Word** of אַיָּאֵל, to do **according** to **all** that is **written** in this **book**.”

²²*Then* Hilqiyahu and those of the sovereign went to Huldah the **prophethess**, the wife of Shallum son

of Toqhath, son of Hasrah, keeper of the wardrobe, who was dwelling in Yerushalayim in the Second Quarter. And they spoke to her about this.

²³And she said to them, “Thus said אַיָּאֵל Elohim of Yisra’ēl, ‘Say to the man who **sent** you to **Me**,

²⁴“Thus said אַיָּאֵל, ‘**See**, I am bringing *evil* on this place and on its inhabitants, **all** the *curses* that are **written** in the **book** which they have **read** before the sovereign of Yahudāh,

²⁵**because** they have *forsaken Me* and *burned* incense to other *mighty ones*, to **provoke Me** with **all** the **works** of their hands. Therefore **My wrath** is **poured out** on this place and is not *quenched*.’ ”

²⁶“And to the sovereign of Yahudāh, who **sent** you to **inquire** of אַיָּאֵל, say this, ‘Thus said אַיָּאֵל Elohim of Yisra’ēl, whose **words** you have **heard**,

²⁷“**Because** your **heart** was tender and you humbled yourself before Elohim when you **heard His words** *against* this place and *against* its inhabitants and you humbled yourself before **Me** and you tore your garments and wept before **Me**, I also have **heard**,” declares אַיָּאֵל.

²⁸“**See**, I am gathering you to your fathers and you **shall be** gathered to your grave in peace, so that your eyes would not **see all** the *evil* that I am bringing on this place and its inhabitants.” ” So they brought back **word** to the sovereign.

²⁹And the sovereign **sent** and gathered **all** the elders of Yahudāh and Yerushalayim.

³⁰And the sovereign went up to the House of אַיָּאֵל with **all** the men of Yahudāh and the inhabitants of Yerushalayim and the priests and the Lēwites and **all** the people, both **great** and small. And he **read** in their **hearing** **all** the **words** of the **Book** of the **Covenant** which had been **found** in the House of אַיָּאֵל.

³¹And the sovereign stood in his place and made a **covenant** before אַיָּאֵל, to **follow** אַיָּאֵל and to **guard His** **commands** and **His** **witnesses** and **His** **laws**, with **all** his **heart** and **all** his

being, to do the **words** of the **covenant** that were **written** in this **book**.

³²And he made **stand all** who were present in Yerushalayim and Binyamin. And the inhabitants of Yerushalayim did **according** to the **covenant** of **Elohim**, the **Elohim** of their fathers.

³³And Yoshiyahu removed **all** the **abominations** from **all** the lands that belonged to the children of Yisra'el and made **all** who were present in Yisra'el **diligently serve** אַיָּאֵל their **Elohim**. All his days they *did not* turn away from **following** אַיָּאֵל **Elohim** of their fathers.

35 Yoshiyahu performed a **Passover** to אַיָּאֵל in Yerushalayim and they slaughtered the **Passover** on the fourteenth **day** of the **first** month.

²And he set the priests in their duties and strengthened them for the service of the House of אַיָּאֵל,

³and said to the Lēwites who were **teaching all** Yisra'el, who were set-apart to אַיָּאֵל, “Put the set-apart ark in the house which Shelomoh son of Dawid, sovereign of Yisra'el, built. It is no longer to be a *burden* on your shoulders. **Now serve** אַיָּאֵל your **Elohim** and **His** people Yisra'el,

⁴and **prepare** by the fathers' houses, **according** to your divisions, by the **writing** of Dawid sovereign of Yisra'el and by the **writing** of Shelomoh his son.

⁵And **stand** in the set-apart place by the divisions of the fathers' houses of your brothers the lay people and the portion of the father's house of the Lēwites.

⁶“And slaughter the **Passover** and set yourselves apart and **prepare** for your brothers, to do **according** to the **Word** of אַיָּאֵל by the **hand** of Mosheh.”

⁷And Yoshiyahu gave the lay people lambs and young goats from the flock, **all** for **Passover** offerings for everyone present, to the number of thirty thousand and three thousand cattle – these were from the sovereign's possessions.

⁸And his leaders contributed a

voluntary offering to the people, to the priests and to the Lēwites. Hilqiyah and Zekaryahu and Yehi'el, leaders of the House of **Elohim**, gave to the priests for the **Passover** offerings two thousand six hundred and three hundred cattle;

⁹and Konanyahu, his brothers Shemayahu and Nethan'e'l and Hashabyahu and Ye'i'el and Yozabad, chiefs of the Lēwites, gave to the Lēwites for **Passover** offerings five thousand and five hundred cattle.

¹⁰And the service was prepared and the priests stood in their places and the Lēwites in their divisions, **according** to the **command** of the sovereign,

¹¹and they slaughtered the **Passover**. And the priests sprinkled out of their hands, while the Lēwites were skinning.

¹²And they removed the burnt offerings to give them to the divisions of the fathers' houses of the lay people, to bring to אַיָּאֵל, as it is **written** in the **Book** of Mosheh and the **same** with the cattle.

¹³So they roasted the **Passover** offerings with *fire* **according** to the right-ruling and they boiled the set-apart offerings in pots and in cauldrons and in bowls and brought them **speedily** to **all** the lay people.

¹⁴And afterward they prepared for themselves and for the priests, **because** the priests, the sons of Aharon, were offering burnt offerings and fat until night. So the Lēwites prepared for themselves and for the priests, the sons of Aharon.

¹⁵And the singers, the sons of Asaph, were in their places, **according** to the **command** of Dawid and Asaph and Hēman and Yeduthun the **seer** of the sovereign. And the gatekeepers at each gate *did not* have to leave their position, **because** their brothers the Lēwites prepared for them.

¹⁶And **all** the service of אַיָּאֵל was prepared that day, to perform the **Passover** and to offer burnt offerings on the altar of אַיָּאֵל, **according** to the **command** of Sovereign Yoshiyahu.

¹⁷And the children of Yisra'el who were

present performed the **Passover** at that **time**, and the **Festival of Unleavened Bread** for seven days.

¹⁸There had not been a **Passover** performed in Yisra'el like it since the days of Shemu'el the **prophet**. And none of the sovereigns of Yisra'el had performed such a **Passover** as Yoshiyahu performed, with the priests and the Lēwites and **all** Yahudāh and Yisra'el who were present and the inhabitants of Yerushalayim.

¹⁹In the eighteenth year of the **reign** of Yoshiyahu this **Passover** was performed.

²⁰After **all** this, when Yoshiyahu had prepared the House, Neḳo sovereign of Mitsrayim came up to *fight against* Karkemish by the Euphrates. And Yoshiyahu went out *against* him.

²¹And he **sent** messengers to him, saying, "*What* have I to do with you, sovereign of Yahudāh? I am not **coming against** you this day, but *against* the house with which I am fighting, for **Elohim commanded** me to make haste. Leave **Elohim** alone, who is with me, lest **He destroy** you."

²²However, Yoshiyahu *would not* turn his face from him, but disguised himself to *fight against* him and *did not listen* to the **words** of Neḳo from the **mouth** of **Elohim** and came to *fight* in the Valley of Meḡiddo.

²³And the archers shot at Sovereign Yoshiyahu. And the sovereign said to his servants, "Take me away, for I am severely wounded."

²⁴And his servants took him out of that chariot and put him in the second chariot that he had and they brought him to Yerushalayim. And he died and was buried in one of the tombs of his fathers. And **all** Yahudāh and Yerushalayim were *mourning* for Yoshiyahu.

²⁵And Yirmeyahu lamented for Yoshiyahu. And to this day **all** the singing men and the singing women **speak** of Yoshiyahu in their lamentations and made it a **law** in Yisra'el. And **see**, they are **written** in the Laments.

²⁶And the rest of the acts of Yoshiyahu

and his **kindness**, according to what was **written** in the **Torah** of אַיָּאָל, ²⁷and his acts from the **first** to the **last**, **see**, they are **written** in the **book** of the sovereigns of Yisra'el and Yahudāh.

36 And the people of the land took Yeho'ahaz son of Yoshiyahu and set him up to **reign** in his father's place in Yerushalayim.

²Yeho'ahaz was twenty-three years old when he began to reign and he reigned three months in Yerushalayim.

³And the sovereign of Mitsrayim turned him aside in Yerushalayim and imposed on the land a levy of one hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold.

⁴And the sovereign of Mitsrayim made his brother Elyaqim sovereign over Yahudāh and Yerushalayim and *changed* his **Name** to Yehoyaqim. And Neko took Yeho'ahaz his brother and brought him to Mitsrayim.

⁵Yehoyaqim was twenty-five years old when he began to reign and he reigned eleven years in Yerushalayim. And he did *evil in the eyes* of אַיָּאָל his **Elohim**.

⁶Nebukadnetsar sovereign of Babel came up *against* him and *bound* him in bronze shackles to take him away to Babel.

⁷And Nebukadnetsar brought some of the utensils from the House of אַיָּאָל to Babel and put them in his hēkal at Babel.

⁸And the rest of the acts of Yehoyaqim, the **abominations** which he did and what was **found against** him, **see**, they are **written** in the **book** of the sovereigns of Yisra'el and Yahudāh. **Then** Yehoyakin his son reigned.

⁹Yehoyakin was eight years old when he began to reign and he reigned in Yerushalayim three months and ten days. He did *evil in the eyes* of אַיָּאָל.

¹⁰And at the turn of the year Sovereign Nebukadnetsar **sent** and brought him to Babel, with the valuable utensils from the House of אַיָּאָל

and made Tsidiqiyahu, Yehoyaqim's brother, sovereign over Yahuḏah and Yerushalayim.

¹¹Tsidiqiyahu was twenty-one years old when he began to reign and he reigned eleven years in Yerushalayim.

¹²He did *evil in the eyes* of אַיָּאָל his Elohim. He *did not* humble himself before Yirmeyahu the prophet, who spoke from the **mouth** of אַיָּאָל.

¹³He also *rebelled against* Sovereign Nebukadnetstsar, who had made him swear by Elohim, but he stiffened his neck and *hardened his heart against* turning to אַיָּאָל Elohim of Yisra'el.

¹⁴Also, **all** the heads of the priests and the people trespassed more and more, **according to all the abominations** of the *gentiles* and they *defiled* the House of אַיָּאָל which He had set-apart in Yerushalayim.

¹⁵And אַיָּאָל Elohim of their fathers **sent** to them, by His messengers, rising up early and sending them, for He had **compassion** on His people and on His dwelling place.

¹⁶**But** they were *mocking* the messengers of Elohim and *despising His words* and *scoffing at His prophets*, until the *wrath* of אַיָּאָל arose *against His people*, until there was **no healing**.

¹⁷Therefore He brought *against* them the sovereign of the Chaldeans and he slew their young men with the *sword* in the House of their set-apart place and had no **compassion** on young man or maiden, on the aged or the weak –

He gave all into his **hand**.

¹⁸And **all** the utensils from the House of Elohim, **great** and small and the treasures of the House of אַיָּאָל and the treasures of the sovereign and of his leaders, **all** these he brought to Babel.

¹⁹And they *burned* the House of Elohim and broke down the wall of Yerushalayim and *burned all* its palaces with *fire* and **destroyed all** its valuable utensils.

²⁰And those who **escaped** from the *sword* he exiled to Babel, where they became servants to him and his sons

until the **reign** of the **reign** of Persia,

²¹**in order** to fill the **Word** of אַיָּאָל by the **mouth** of Yirmeyahu, until the land had **enjoyed** her **Sabbaths**. As long as she *lay waste* she kept **Sabbath**, until seventy years were completed.

²²And in the **first** year of Koresh sovereign of Persia, **in order** to **accomplish** the **Word** of אַיָּאָל by the **mouth** of Yirmeyahu, אַיָּאָל stirred up the spirit of Koresh sovereign of Persia, so that he called out in **all** his reign and also put it in **writing**, saying,

²³“Thus said Koresh sovereign of Persia, ‘אַיָּאָל Elohim of the heavens has **given** me **all** the reigns of the earth. And He has **commanded** me to build Him a house in Yerushalayim, which is in Yahuḏah. *whoever* is among you of **all His people**, אַיָּאָל his Elohim be with him and let him go up!’”