**The Bible Reading Plan**

**Creation and Fall**

Genesis 1, God creates in 6 days and rested on the seventh.

Genesis 2, God’s creation of Adam & Eve and his plans to work with them.

Genesis 3, Adam & Eve rebel against God and are banished from the Garden.

Genesis 4, Cain kills Abel and leaves the Lord’s presence to settle in the land of Nod. Seth is born to Adam & Eve

Genesis 5, From Adam to Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Genesis 6, The evil intentions of man and the troubled heart of God. The cleansing of the earth with the flood.

Genesis 7, Noah, and his family to escape the flood waters in the ark when it rains 40 days and 40 nights.

Genesis 8, The waters recede, and Noah sends out the dove. All living beings leave the ark and Noah builds alter.

Genesis 9, God gives Noah rule over the land and creatures and blesses them. God makes a covenant with Noah.

Genesis 10, The genealogies of Japheth, Ham, and Shem.

Genesis 11, The unified efforts of the survivors to build a city and a tower that would reach up to the heavens.

**The Covenant with Abraham**

Genesis 12, God promises to bless Abraham and give the land of the Canaanites to Abraham’s descendants.

Genesis 13, Abraham and Lot part company. God promises to give Abraham’s descendants the land of Canaan.

Genesis 14, Abraham rescues Lot, and Melchizedek, the priest of God, blesses Abraham.

Genesis 15, The Covenant promise. Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as Righteousness.

Genesis 16, Hagar becomes pregnant with Ishmael, and there is tension between her and Sarah.

Genesis 17, God remembers Abraham and promises him a son at the age of 99. Covenant of circumcision.

Genesis 18, The Lord appeared to Abraham and promises him a child. Abraham pleads for Sodom and Gomorrah.

Genesis 19, Sodom and Gomorrah are destroyed, but Lot flees with his daughters who eventually have his children.

Genesis 20, Abimelek takes Sarah for himself, but God rescues her. Abimelek returns Sarah to Abraham with gifts.

Genesis 21, Isaac was born when Abraham was 100 years old. Hagar leaves with Ishmael. Treaty with Abimelek.

Genesis 22, Abraham is tested when he is asked to sacrifice Isaac

Genesis 23, Sarah dies at 127 of age, and Abraham buys land in Machpelah from Ephron the Hittite to bury his wife.

Genesis 24, Abraham’s senior servant finds a wife for Isaac. Rebekah agrees to marry Isaac and leaves her family.

Genesis 25, Abraham dies at 175 years. Rebekah births to two nations and is told that the younger will be blessed

Genesis 26, Abraham’s obedience credited as the reason for his blessing. Isaac receives God’s blessing and prospers

Genesis 27, With the help of Rebekah, Jacob takes Esau’s blessing. Esau plans to kill Jacob, so Jacob flees

Genesis 28, Jacob obeys Isaac and goes to find a wife from Laban’s daughters. God reaffirms his covenant at Bethel.

Genesis 29, Jacob meets Rachael. Laban tricks Jacob and he marries Leah, and then Rachael. Leah has Reuben.

Genesis 30, Jacob’s family grows and his flocks and herds increase.

Genesis 31, Laban becomes jealous of Jacob, so Jacob flees for Canaan with his family and livestock.

Genesis 32, Jacob prepares to return home, but fears being reunited with Esau. Jacob wrestles with God at Peniel and receives his blessing.

Genesis 33, After peacefully being received by Esau, Jacob arrives in Canaan where he buys a plot of land.

Genesis 34: The hearts of the Canaanites are revealed when they rape Dinah, the daughter of Jacob.

Genesis 35: Jacob returns to Bethel where he encounters God. God blesses Jacob and changes his name to Israel.

Genesis 36: Jacob and Esau part company, and Esau settles in the hill country of Seir with his family, the Edomites.

Genesis 37: Jacob’s son Joseph has dreams about the future. Joseph’s brothers plan to kill him but sell him instead.

Genesis 38: Judah and Tamar, his daughter-in-law, have twin sons, Perez and Zerah

Genesis 39: Joseph enters the service of Potiphar. Potiphar’s wife lies about Joseph, and he is imprisoned.

Genesis 40: Potiphar’s cupbearer and baker also get thrown into prison where they have dreams. Joseph accurately interprets the dreams.

Genesis :41 Pharaoh has a dream that only Joseph could interpret. Joseph is put in charge of the whole land of Egypt at the age of 30. For seven years, they collect the abundance of the land as they prepare for the drought.

Genesis 42. Jacob sends his sons to Egypt to buy grain, but they are recognized by Joseph. Joseph tests them by putting Simeon into prison and demands that they return with Benjamin.

Genesis 43: When the drought continues, Jacob sends his sons to buy more grain. Judah promises the safety of Benjamin and they return to Egypt. Joseph has a feast prepared for him and all the brothers.

Genesis 44: Joseph’s brothers are tested again. Benjamin is found to have Joseph’s cup. Judah pleads for his brother’s life and agrees to trade his life for Benjamin’s.

Genesis 45: Joseph reveals his identity to his brothers. He sent them back to Canaan to get Israel and the rest of the family to return to Egypt where they would receive the best of the land.

Genesis 46: On the way back to Egypt, God again meets with Israel and promises a blessing. Israel and his offspring arrive in Goshen where he is reunited with Joseph.

Genesis 47: As the famine continued, Joseph continues to sell grain making Egypt wealthy, while the people are reduced to servitude.

Genesis 48: Joseph brings his sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, to Israel for their blessing, and Israel blesses the younger.

Genesis 49: Knowing he is about to die, Israel blesses his sons, and gives each a prophecy regarding their future.

Genesis 50: Joseph takes Jacob’s body back to Canaan for burial. Joseph then returned to Egypt where he continued to provide for his brothers and their families. Genesis ends with the promise leaving the Israelites to wait for God.

**The Exodus from Egypt**

Exodus 1: The Egyptians come to resent the Israelites and work them ruthlessly. Instructions are given to throw every male newborn into the Nile.

Exodus 2: Moses is born and raised by Pharoah’s daughter as her son. Later, Moses kills an Egyptian and flees to Midian where he marries Zipporah, Jethro’s daughter.

Exodus 3: God appears to Moses from the burning bush and sends him back to Egypt to rescue the Israelites.

Exodus 4: God gives signs to Moses to convince Pharoah, but Moses asks God to send someone else. God agrees to let Aaron accompany Moses and they return to Egypt to meet with the Israelite Elders.

Exodus 5: Moses and Aaron meet Pharoah for the first time. Pharoah stops supplying straw for the bricks, but they demand the same quota of bricks. Distressed, Moses pleads on behalf of the people.

Exodus 6: God promises to free the Israelites despite the oppression that they are facing, but the Israelites no longer listen to Moses. Moses blames his faltering lips for his inability to obey.

Exodus 7: Pharoah requests a miraculous sign, so Aaron throws down his staff and it becomes a snake. Pharoah is not convinced, so God changes the water of the Nile into blood.

Exodus 8: Pharoah’s stubborn heart brings about the plagues of frogs and gnats for all of Egypt. Stubbornly, Pharoah changes his mind and so God sends the plague of flies, but only on the Egyptians.

Exodus 9: Again, the Lord sends plagues on the livestock, festering boils on the people, and destructive hailstorms over the land of the Egyptians, but the Israelites did not loose anything. Still, Pharoah hardened their hearts.

Exodus 10: Because of Pharoah’s stubborn heart, God sends swarms of locusts to consume what was left after the hailstorm. The plague of darkness comes after the hailstorm, but Pharoah refuses to release the Israelites.

Exodus 11: The final plague on Egypt will be the death of every firstborn, man and animal alike.

Exodus 12: Moses receives instruction about the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. In one night, the plague that brings judgement and death in Egypt will bring freedom and hope to the people of God.

Exodus 13: The consecration of the firstborn becomes a reminder of the exodus, “like a sign on your hand and a symbol on your forehead.” The Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night.

Exodus 14: The Egyptian army pursued the Israelites into the wilderness and trapped them by the sea. The Lord led the people through the sea on dry ground, but the Egyptian army died when they followed.

Exodus 15: Moses and Miriam sing joyfully to the Lord as they celebrate God’s mighty acts and provisions. After providing water for them to drink, “The Lord issued a ruling and instruction for them and put them to the test.”

Exodus 16: Because of their hunger, the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron. Then the Lord supplied manna and quail for them but tested them to see if they would follow his instruction.

Exodus 17: When the Israelites ran out of water, they again began to grumble. According to God’s instruction, Moses struck the rock at Horeb, and water came out of it, enough to supply the entire community. The Lord helps Joshua defend the Israelites from the Amalekites attack.

Exodus 18: Jethro comes to visit Moses and gives him advice on how to govern. Moses listened to hi father-in-law and he chose capable leaders to help him lead.

Exodus 19: The Israelites camp next to Mount Sinai as they prepare to encounter God. On the third day, the Lord descended on the mountain in fire and the whole mountain trembled violently.

**The Covenant at Mount Sinai**

Exodus 20: **The Ten Commandments:** The Lord spoke to the Israelite assembly from heaven, but when they saw and heard, the trembled in fear. And so, they pleaded with Moses to their spokesperson. Moses approached the thick darkness alone to receive God’s law.

Exodus 21: God begins his instruction with relational laws as he begins to teach them how to live as a community.

Exodus 22: Next, God gives instruction on personal property and social responsibility, teaching how to live in the presence of God who is compassionate.

Exodus 23: Life in this community of God also includes laws of justice and mercy, and rules about the Sabbath. They are also to celebrate God’s provisions three times every year. God promises to send his angel ahead of the Israelites into the promised land, to conquer the nations

Exodus 24: Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu along with the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel. After this, Moses went up the mountain to receive the tablets of stone.

Exodus 25: The Lord receives offerings from the Israelites, and he reveals to them his plans to tabernacle (dwell) among them. God then gives specific instructions about the construction of each of the articles beginning with the Ark, a table, and a lampstand overlayed with pure gold.

Exodus 26: Next, Moses receives instructions of how to build the tabernacle and how to set up and arrange all of the pieces. Follow this link to see a replica of the Tabernacle, or do a search under, “The Tabernacle of Israel” <https://i.pinimg.com/736x/51/e1/8a/51e18a1ccc3c0e9099bc68ba4a88c47b.jpg>

Exodus 27: Then Moses receives instructions for the Alter of Burnt Offering along with its utensils. The courtyard around the tabernacle is enclosed with curtains measuring approximately 75’ x 150’, with the golden lampstand providing light every night.

Exodus 28: Special priestly garments are made for Aaron and his sons including: a breast piece, an ephod, a robe, a woven tunic, a turban and a sash. <https://www.bing.com/images/search?q=priestly+garments+for+aaron&qpvt=priestly+garments+for+aaron&tsc=ImageHoverTitle&form=IGRE&first=1>

Exodus 29: God gives instruction for the consecration of the priests which includes burnt offerings, sin offerings, and wave offerings. Also given are the instructions for regular daily burnt offerings for morning and evening.

Exodus 30: Every year, they are instructed to collect atonement money from each member of the Jews 20 years and over as a ransom for their lives. Also included are the instruction for a wash basin and Alter of incense, and a recipe for anointing oil and fragrant incense.

Exodus 31: Bezalel is chosen by God, equipped and filled with the Spirit of God for the task of making all of the articles, along with others who will help. A sign between the Israelites and their God will be the Sabbath which they are to keep. When God had finished speaking to Moses, he gave him the two stone tablets of the covenant law.

Exodus 32: The Israelites rebel against God by making a golden calf and sacrificing to it. God’s anger burns against them, and he threatens to destroy them, but Moses pleads for the descendants of Abraham. The Levites kill 3000 with the sword the Lord also struck the people with a plague.

Exodus 33: The Israelites are instructed to go to Canaan as God’s anger continues to burn against them. But God still meets Moses in the tent of meeting. Moses makes the request, “Now show me your glory,” and the Lord passes while Mosses is in the cleft of the rock.

Exodus 34: Moses chiseled out two new tablets of stone and went back up Mount Sinai for 40 days and 40 nights to receive instructions for the covenant. When Moses returned from the Lord’s presence, his face was radiant.

Exodus 35: Moses introduces Sabbath regulations, and then starts accepting offerings for the construction of the tabernacle. Bezalel is chosen and he is filled with the Spirit of God, equipping him with artistic skills. Along with him, Oholiab is gifted with the ability to teach others.

Exodus 36: Bezalel, Oholiab and all the other skilled workers get organized while the Israelites begin to bring offerings as supplies for everything that will be needed. The construction begins with the Tabernacle.

Exodus 37: Construction continues with the ark of the covenant, the table, the lampstand, and the alter of incense.

Exodus 38: The project continues with the alter of burnt offerings with it’s utensils, the basin for washing, and the courtyard.

Exodus 39: After completing all of the articles, the Israelites begin on the priestly garments, including Ephod and the Breastpiece, along with the other priestly garments. With the articles and clothing complete, Moses comes to inspect all of the work.

Exodus 40: After approving all of the work of the Israelites, Moses assembles the tabernacle, just as the Lord had commanded. A cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple.

Leviticus 1: God gives instruction to Moses for burnt offerings, which are for the atonement of the people. These offerings can be from the herd, flock, or bird.

Leviticus 2: Instruction for the grain offerings, the finest milled flour, or baked loaves made without yeast.

Leviticus 3: Instruction for the fellowship offerings from the herd, flock, or goats.

Leviticus 4: Special Instructions for the sin offerings of unintentional sin committed by the priest, fellow Israelites, leaders, or any member of the community.

Leviticus 5: How to make atonement for sins that were committed unintentionally.

Leviticus 6: How to make atonement for intentional sins including instructions for making restitution.

Leviticus 7: Regulations for guilt offerings which anyone could present, and anyone who was ceremonially clean could eat of it, but the consumption of the fat and blood was strictly forbidden. The right thigh of the fellowship offering belongs to Aaron and his sons.

Leviticus 8: Moses ordains Aaron and his sons, cleansing them with blood. After the ordination, Aaron and his sons remained at the entrance of the tent of meeting for 7 days.

Leviticus 9: Aaron and his sons begin their ministry by offering sacrifices to the Lord. Then the glory of the Lord appeared to all the people and fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed the burnt offering and fat portions on the alter. When the people saw it, they shouted for joy and fell face down.

Leviticus 10: Aaron’s sons, Nadab and Abihu offered unauthorized fire before the Lord, so they died before the Lord.

Leviticus 11: The Lord continues to give instruction to the Israelites in regard to clean and unclean foods, cooking utensils, and articles.

Leviticus 12: Purification rituals for woman after childbirth, including the prescribed offerings for ceremonial cleanliness. For those who could not afford a lamb, they could offer two doves or two pigeons. (Instructions followed by Mary after the birth of Jesus in Luke 2:24)

Leviticus 13: The Lord gives instruction for how to identify defiling skin diseases, and the separation time during the time of healing. Also included are instructions for identifying spreading molds in articles of clothing or fabrics.

Leviticus 14: Instruction for cleansing after a defiling skin disease and the sacrifices offered upon reentry into the community, and the priest is to make atonement for them. Also, the instruction for identifying defiling molds found in a house and the cleansing of the house.

Leviticus 15: Instructions concerning bodily discharges causing uncleanness for both men and women.

Leviticus 16: After the sin of Aaron’s sons, The Lord gives instruction for making atonement with 2 goats and a bull. They are to cast lots for the goats, one for the Lord and the other is the scapegoat. This scapegoat is taken out into the dessert and released carrying on it the all the sins of the people to a remote place.

Leviticus 17: All ox, lamb or goat that are sacrificed must be sacrificed at the entrance of the tent of meeting, and not to any of the goat idols around them. And again, the blood of an animal holds its life and must not be eaten.

Leviticus 18: The land where God was leading the Israelites was filled with sinful practices and unlawful sexual relations. The Lord warns the Israelites that they are not allowed to live like the nations around them, either those in Egypt or Canaan.

Leviticus 19: The Lord God continues to give instructions that teach honesty, integrity, transparency, and respect.

Leviticus 20: Further warnings against sacrificing children to Molek, and about unlawful sexual. These were the practices of the nations around them, and this is why God abhorred them.

Leviticus 21: A priest must live above reproach, as one set apart for the Lord, and they must not intermarry with other nations. From Aaron’s sons, only those without deformities may offer sacrifices to the Lord.

Leviticus 22: Also, none of Aaron’s sons who are ceremonially unclean may come near the sacred offerings. No one outside the priest’s family may eat the sacred offerings. All offerings made to the Lord are to be free from defects.

Leviticus 23: Appointed Festivals: The Sabbath day of Rest, The Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread, Offering the Firstfruits, The Festival of Weeks, The Festival of Trumpets, The Day of Atonement, and The Festival of Tabernacles.

Leviticus 24: Clear olive oil is to be brought as fuel for the gold lampstand tended by Aaron. In addition, 12 loaves of bread baked with the finest flour are to be presented on the gold table each sabbath. The name of the Lord must be respected. Anybody who blasphemes the name of the Lord is to be put to death.

Leviticus 25: When the Israelites enter the promised land, the land must have a year of sabbath rest. After seven cycles of seven, and the fiftieth year is the year of Jubilee. The land must always go back to the original owner on the year of Jubilee, and any Israelites who have sold themselves as slaves are free.

Leviticus 26: The Lord promises blessings of abundant crops, timely rains, and peace for the Israelites if they obey. But if they do not obey, the Lord will punish their disobedience. The consequences of rebellion and the rejection is extensive, but the chapter concludes with the promise of God’s faithfulness.

Leviticus 27: The book on Leviticus concludes with a call to personal faithfulness. If you have made a vow to the Lord, keep your promise. This includes instruction for redeeming what belongs to the Lord, weather that is people, land, housing, land, or livestock.

**The Wilderness**

Numbers 1: Now a full two years from the time that the Israelites left Egypt, Moses is instructed to take a census. The total number of men twenty years and older is 603,550 not counting the Levites and the priests, who are instructed to camp around the tabernacle and care for it.

Numbers 2: The Lord arranges the tribes with Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun on the east, Reuben, Simeon and Gad on the south, Ephraim, Manasseh, and Benjamin on the west, and Dan, Asher, and Naphtali on the north. The Levite camp is set at the center with the tent of meeting.

Numbers 3: God claims the Levites as his own in place of every firstborn male from among the tribes. They are to assist Aaron and his sons in the work of the tabernacle. Then God assigns each clan of the Levites specific duties for the care of all the articles of the tabernacle.

Numbers 4: The process of packing, moving, and caring for the tabernacle, the tent of meeting, the courtyard, the furnishings are split between the clans of Levi, under the direction of Aaron and his sons.

Numbers 5: The Camp where the Lord dwells is to be kept pure, so all of those who a ceremonially unclean must be sent outside the camp. Then the Lord gives instruction for making restitution for any wrongs that are committed, including the test for the unfaithful wife.

Numbers 6: If a man or woman wants to make a special vow of dedication to the Lord as a Nazarite, they must abstain from wine, keep themselves “clean” and let their hair grow long. God also gives Moses the priestly blessing.

Numbers 7: The leaders of Israel made a special offering of 6 covered carts and 12 oxen to be given to the Levites as their work required. When the alter was anointed, the tribal leaders each took one day to bring offerings to the Lord as they presented silver plates, bowls, flour as grain offerings, and animals.

Numbers 8: After arranging the lampstands, Moses prepares the Levites for service with a ceremonial cleansing and purification. All of the Levites have been gifted to Aaron for the work of the temple and the were to serve from the time they were 20 years old until their retirement at the age of 50.

Numbers 9: The Israelites prepare to celebrate the Passover. God’s presence was witnessed as a cloud that settled over the tabernacle and looked like fire by night. The cloud also lifted and lead the Israelites through the dessert.

Numbers 10: God instructs Moses to make two trumpets that are to be used for communicating, so that the Israelites movements can be orderly. Then, when the cloud lifted, the Israelites set out as an organized group, just over two years after they left Egypt.

Numbers 11: After traveling for three days, the Israelites complained of their hardships and their diet of manna. Moses makes a plea to the Lord and the work of leading the people is divided among 70 capable leaders. Then the Lord made a strong wind that carried in quail and the Israelites feasted on them, but the Lord was angry with them and struck them with a plague.

Numbers 12: Miriam and Aaron began to oppose Moses because he had taken a Cushite wife. The Lord was very angry with both of them and inflicted Miriam with skin disease that turned her white. Moses prayed for them, and God healed Miriam.

Numbers 13: Twelve of tribal leaders head into Canaan to explore the region. After 40 days of exploring the land, they returned to Moses. The report indicates a rich land flowing with milk and honey, but it is well occupied and fortified. Most of the explorers spread a bad report and the Israelites are gripped in fear.

Numbers 14: The Israelites weep and make plans to choose a new leader that will take them back to Egypt. Joshua and Caleb plead with the people to be strong and find God’s favor in obedience, but the assembly threaten to stone them. In his anger, God gives the Israelites what the wanted, opportunity to die in the wilderness instead of in the promised land. Disappointed with themselves, certain Israelites decide to march into the promised land and fight without the Lord’s blessing, but are badly defeated.

Numbers 15: Instructions for supplementary offerings and offerings for unintentional sins. Anyone who sins defiantly must be cut off from his people, because they have despised the Lord’s word. The Israelites are told to make tassels on the corners of their garments as reminders to obey all of the commands of the Lord.

Numbers 16: A group of well-known community leaders oppose Moses and Aaron. Fire came out from the Lord and consumed the men and the leaders were swallowed up by the earth. When the rest of the Israelites blame Moses and Aaron for killing the leaders, Moses realized that a plague had begun and he instructed Aaron to make atonement for the people. Still 14,700 people died because of their acts of rebellion.

Numbers 17: To bring an end to all of the grumbling, the Lord asks Moses to bring a staff for each tribal member, 12 in all into the tent of meeting. In the morning, Aaron’s staff had not only sprouted and budded, but had blossomed, and produced almonds.

Numbers 18: The Lord renews his promise to Aaron and his sons as priests, along with all the Levites as workers, but from then on, the Israelites are no longer allowed near the tent of meeting.

Numbers 19: The Lord gives the Israelites instruction for making the water of cleansing. Anyone who comes into contact with the dead must be cleansed or they will be cut off from the community.

Numbers 20: The Lord instructs Moses to speak to the rock at Meribah which would supply water for the people, but Moses was angry and struck the rock twice. For this reason, Moses was not allowed to enter into the promised land, and Aaron dies.

Numbers 21: Again, the Israelites grumble against God and against Moses, so the Lord sent venomous snakes among them. So Moses made a bronze snake and put it on a pole so that people who looked to it could live. As they travel through the desert, the Lord again supplies water, and the Israelites rejoice. Israel’s military campaign begins.

Numbers 22: Balak, king of Moab hires Balaam to put a curse on the Israelites, but God speaks to Balaam and tells him not to curse them. Balak sends another delegation to hire Balaam, and God instructs him to go with them. Balaam’s donkey speaks, and Ballam sees the angel of the Lord.

Numbers 23: Balaam meets Balak, and they build 7 alters. Balaam receives his first word from God, but it is a blessing instead of a curse. Balak takes Balaam to a second place and requests a curse, but again, he receives a blessing.

Numbers 24: The Spirit of God came on Balaam, and he uttered a third blessing over Israel. Balak’s anger burned against Balaam, but as he is leaving, he utters his fourth oracle “A star will come out of Jacob.” (Matthew 2:2) After speaking seven oracles, Balaam returns home.

Numbers 25: The Israelite men sinned with Moabite women and the Lord’s anger burned against them and 24’000 of them died in a plague. Phinehas proves his loyalty to God and is rewarded for his obedience with a lasting priesthood.

Numbers 26: The Lord commands Moses to take the second census, counting all the men who are twenty years old or more. This was in preparation for the land allotments of the promised land for each tribe, except for the Levites.

Numbers 27: Joshua is commissioned to lead Israel after Moses is told that he will be gathered to his people.

Numbers 28: Knowing that the death of Moses is near, the Lord instructs him to review the commands, beginning with the offerings made to the Lord.

Numbers 29: Instructions for the festival of trumpets, the day of atonement, and the festival of tabernacles.

Numbers 30:2 When a man makes a vow to the Lord or takes an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he must not break his word, but must do everything he said.

Numbers 31: The Israelites are sent into battle against the Midianites and they are victorious. They bring back with them the spoils of war which are cleansed by Eleazar. The spoils of war are then divided according to the instructions given to Moses.

Numbers 32: The tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh request land east of the Jordan as their inheritance. Moses agrees to their request when the promise to lead the battle into the promised land.

Numbers 33: Moses recounts Israel’s journey through the wilderness which began in Egypt and ended by the Jordan river facing Jericho. Here, the Lord reminds Moses that the Israelites must completely cleanse the land. God warns them that anything left in the land will be a snare and a trap for them.

Numbers 34: God gives the Israelites the land across the Jordan, as their inheritance and informs them of the boundaries. The Land itself is divided by Eleazar and Joshua, along with 12 tribal leaders.

Numbers 35: The Levites are given towns and pasturelands instead of land allotments, and six of these towns become cities of refuge for those who have unintentionally killed someone. Life is special and bloodshed pollutes the land for which there is no atonement.

Numbers 36. All land allotments must stay within the ancestral tribe for which they are given. Women who hold a land title must then marry within their tribe.

**Deuteronomy, Section 1-11:**

Deuteronomy 1: With all of the Israelites camped east of the Jordan, Moses addresses them with a retelling of their journey which began when Moses appointed leaders to help govern. The first generation rebelled against God when they sent spies into the promised land, and so Deuteronomy is a call to obedience for the second generation, the children who will see what their parents rejected.

Deuteronomy 2: After 38 years in the wilderness, the disobedient generation has died in the wilderness, which is exactly what they asked for. In God’s faithfulness to his covenant promise, he prepares to lead their children into the land he promised their forefathers.

Deuteronomy 3: Moses receives instructions for the boundaries of the land east of the Jordan and he pleads with God for the opportunity to cross the Jordan and see the promised land, but his request is denied.

Deuteronomy 4: Moses reminds this generation to be careful and to watch themselves carefully. The Lords commands are a special gift to the Israelites who have been tested, and given sign and wonders are to take this call seriously.

Deuteronomy 5: Moses reminds the Israelites of the Ten Commandments which were proclaimed to them by the Lord and given on stone tablets.

Deuteronomy 6: The central part of section 1 which includes the Shema, the Hebrew prayer: “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all of your strength.”

Deuteronomy 7: The Lord has chosen the Israelites to cleanse the land, and inherit it as their possession, as he promised. This is a sign of God’s faithfulness, but it is conditional on their obedience. If they obey, God promises to bless them so that they can prosper in the land.

Deuteronomy 8: For forty years, the Lord had led the Israelites thought the wilderness to humble and to test them, in order to see what was in their heart, just as a father disciplines his children. The blessings of God can be there’s if they remain humble, but if they rebel, they will be destroyed, just like the nations before them.

Deuteronomy 9: Moses reminds the Israelites that God will lead them into the promised land to destroy other nations, but it is not because of their righteousness. He reminds them of all of their own rebellion with the golden calf and the prayers offered on their behalf.

Deuteronomy 10: The first stone tablets were broken by Moses, but God graciously replaced them for Moses who placed them into the ark which was cared for by the Levites. So Moses tells the Israelites to fear the Lord, and to serve him alone.

Deuteronomy 11: Section one concludes with Moses telling the Israelites, “See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse—the blessing if you obey the commands of the Lord your God that I am giving you today; the curse if you disobey the commands of the Lord your God and turn away from the way that I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known.

Deuteronomy 12: Section two now begins with a focus on life inside the promised land by addressing the topic of proper worship at a prescribed location, following the instruction given by God.

Deuteronomy 13: Worship of all other gods is strictly forbidden, and those inciting the rebellion must be put to death. These too are ways in which God is testing the loyalty of his people when they enter the promised land.

Deuteronomy 14: Instructions about clean and unclean foods, along with the instruction for the tithe and offerings. In addition to the regular tithe, the Israelites must set aside a tithe for the Levites, the needy and the fatherless, so that they will be cared for.

Deuteronomy 15: God commands the Israelites to be openhanded towards those who are poor and needy, canceling depts every seven years, and even freeing slaves every seven years, being generous as the Lord had been generous.

Deuteronomy 16: Reminders to celebrate the Passover, the Festival of Weeks, and the Festival of Tabernacles as instructed by the Lord. Live in the land with honesty and integrity by appointing judges that do not show partiality.

Deuteronomy 17: All decisions in the courts must be made on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Cases to difficult are brought before the judge or the priest to decide. The future king of Israel must also live in humility, not amassing wealth for himself, but trusting in God and learning his decrees.

**Deuteronomy 18**: “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. For this is what you asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, ‘Let us not hear the voice of the Lord our God nor see this fire anymore, or we will die.’”

Deuteronomy 19: Further instructions about establishing cities of refuge, so that innocent blood will not be shed in the land along with introduction to reverse prosecution.

Deuteronomy 20: Moses reminds the Israelites to be brave as they go to war, remembering that the Lord is going with them. For the cities living at a distance, they should first attempt a treaty of peace before going to war with them.

Deuteronomy 21: Instructions for making atonement for unsolved murder, for marriage of captive women, dealing with rebellious sons, and the burial of those convicted so as not to desecrate the land.

Deuteronomy 22: Reflect the compassionate heart of God to your neighbor and fellow Israelite and live in honest relationships with your wife and her parents.

Deuteronomy 23: “Do not despise the Egyptian, because you resided as foreigners in their country. The third generation of children born to them may enter the assembly of God.” The Lord teaches compassion to those once thought to be enemies.

Deuteronomy 24: Further instruction about marriage and living with fellow Israelites in honesty, integrity, compassion, and generosity.

Deuteronomy 25: If disputes arise, seek the counsel of a trustworthy judge. “For the Lord your God detests anyone who does these things, anyone who deals dishonestly.”

Deuteronomy 26: Section 2 of Deuteronomy closes with a reminder to be thankful to God when they receive the riches of the promised land. This is done by being generous with the Levites, the foreigner, the fatherless, and the widow. This new generous way of living will set the Israelites apart from the other nations.

Deuteronomy 27: Section 3 begins with a reminder to keep the words of the law, and to have them written clearly on an alter made of fieldstones. Then all of the Israelites must recite in a loud voice the curses of anyone who rebels against the law of God.

Deuteronomy 28: If the Israelite nation obeys these laws, and live in humility, generosity, compassion, and love, they will receive the blessing of God, but if they disobey, they will bring about a curse on themselves, and this curse will be all encompassing.

Deuteronomy 29: These are the terms of the covenant that the Israelites have been given. This includes another plea to follow all the commands of this law, and a reminder that this blessing only apply to the obedient. Abandoning this covenant will surely bring about the Lord’s anger.

Deuteronomy 30: Even when all of the curses fall on them, the Lord will remain faithful and will remember them. Then the Lord will again delight in them, if they obey and keep his commands, and turn to the Lord with all their heart.

Deuteronomy 31: At 120 years of age, Moses prepares for his death and hands authority over to Joshua who will lead the people into the promised land. Moses wrote the book of the law and gave it to the priests and ordered that it should be read every seven years to the entire Israelite nation, “So they can listen and learn to fear the Lord your God and follow carefully all the words of this law.”

Deuteronomy 32: Even after all these warning, Moses predicts Israel’s rebellion against God, and so he teaches them a song, which they will remember. This song will be a witness against them, that they have not followed the Lord’s commands. Moses final plea concerning the law of the Lord; “**They are not just idle words for you—they are your life**.”

Deuteronomy 33: Moses’ farewell to the people of God. “Blessed are you, Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the Lord? He is your shield and helper and your glorious sword. Your enemies will cower before you, and you will tread on their heights.”

Deuteronomy 34: The Moses climbed Mount Nebo where God let him see the entire promised land, even though he would not enter. The Israelites now give their devotion to Joshua who was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him.

**The Promised Land**

Joshua 1: The Lord speaks to Joshua, “As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land, I swore to their ancestors to give them.” The Israelite nation commit themselves to follow Joshua the way they followed Moses.

Joshua 2: Joshua sends two spies into Jericho where they meet Rahab. Believing that her land will be conquered by the Israelites because of their great God, she agrees to help the spies in exchange for the life of her family. The two Israelite spies agree, and Rahab marks her house with a scarlet cord.

Joshua 3: The Levitical priests enter the Jordan River with the ark of the covenant and its waters stop flowing, though they are at flood stage, and the Israelites cross the Jordan on dry ground.

Joshua 4: Each of the twelve tribal leaders pick up a stone from the center of the Jordan River to set up as a memorial of the event. When the Israelite men armed for battle had crossed the Jordan, it went back to flood stage, and so God exalted Joshua in the sight of al of Israel.

Joshua 5: The Nations heard how the Israelites had crossed the Jordan during flood stage, and so the melted in fear. Now in the promised land, the Israelite males that had been born in the wilderness now get circumcision. After the men were healed, they celebrated Passover from the produce of the promised land, and this marked the end of the manna that had fallen from heaven. Joshua meets the commander of the Lord’s army on holy ground.

Joshua 6: The Lord instructs the army of the march around Jericho, and they do so for six consecutive days. On the seventh day, the march around the city seven times and the walls collapse while they shout. The army rushes in and takes the city, but the rescue Rahab and her household per the promise made.

Joshua 7: Achan secretly took some of the devoted things and hid them in his tent. When some of men go out to fight, they are beaten and chased back. Joshua tore his clothes and pleads with the Lord who makes him aware that there is sin in the camp. Joshua confronted Achan in his sin, and it is confirmed with devoted articles in his tent. Achan and all who belong to him are stoned and buried under a pile of rocks.

Joshua 8: On the command of the Lord, the Israelites set an ambush behind Ai and march out against them again. The king of Ai marched out against the Israelites, but this time, the Israelites come from behind and set the city on fire, and all of the men of Ai were caught in the middle and killed by the Israelite army.

Joshua 9: The people of Gibeon heard what the God had given the Israelites their land, so they resorted to a ruse, lying to Joshua about their origins. They made a treaty of peace but realized that they were part of the promised land. The Israelites agree to keep the treaty, and the Gibeonites agree to be general laborers for the nation.

Joshua 10: Adoni-Zedek, king of Jerusalem rallies four other kings to go to war against the Gibeonites. In distress, the Gibeonites send word to Joshua who marched all night with his troops to come to the rescue. The Lord gave the Israelites the victory, raining large hailstones on the enemies, and **holding the sun in the middle of the** sky for the battle.

Joshua 11: The kings of the north form an alliance and march out against the Israelite army, but God promised victory to Joshua. The Israelite army marched out against them at the waters of Merom and attacked them, and God gave them the victory, just as he had promised. Then the land had rest from war.

Joshua 12: Chapter 12 recounts all of the defeated kings, both by Moses on the east side of the Jordan, and the west side through Joshua.

Joshua 13: By now, Joshua is old, so God gives instruction for the distribution of the land starting with the land east of the Jordan.

Joshua 14: By now, Caleb was 85 years old, but God had kept him healthy and strong. And so Joshua gave Caleb the hill country of Hebron as his inheritance.

Joshua 15: Joshua continues to divide the promised land beginning with Judah, which includes Jerusalem, and the hill country of Hebron where Caleb settled, though Judah did not completely dislodge the Jebusites living in Jerusalem.

Joshua 16: The land allotments for Ephraim and Manasseh who also failed to dislodge Canaanites living in Gezer.

Joshua 17: The land allotment for Manasseh included the land for Zelophehad’s daughters, because he had no sons. The tribe of Manasseh also failed to drive out all of the Canaanites living in their inherited land.

Joshua 18: Joshua questions the Israelite tribes as to why they have failed to claim all of the land. There were still seven tribes that had not received their inheritance at this point. Joshua sends out a delegation who went out to survey the land. He then cast lots for the land beginning with Benjamin.

Joshua 19: The second allotment went to Simeon, which was taken from the land of Judah who had more than they needed. This was followed by the allotment for Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, Dan, and a section of land for Joshua in the hill country of Ephraim.

Joshua 20: The Lord reminds Joshua to designate cities of refuge for those who have accidentally or unintentionally killed somebody.

Joshua 21: The Levites receive towns and pasturelands for their flocks and herds, instead of land allotments. With all of the promises that the Lord had made to the Israelites fulfilled, they were given rest on every side.

Joshua 22: After helping the Israelites conquer the land west of the Jordan, the Reubenites, Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh return to the east side of the Jordan with the great wealth and plunder they have received. On the way back, they erect an imposing alter by the Jordan which was given the name, “A witness between us—That the Lord is God.”

Joshua 23: In his old age, Joshua bids farewell to the Israelites reminding them that God has been faithful. Likewise, they need to remain faithful to the covenant. If they are not faithful, they will quickly perish from the good land that the Lord has provided.

Joshua 24:15, “But if serving the Lord seems undesirable for you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” And all of the Israelites commit themselves also to the service of the Lord.

Judges 1: Judah and the Simeonites attack the Canaanites and took Jerusalem, but pockets of people remain in the lands.

Judges 2: The angel of the Lord confronts the Israelites about their lack of obedience in cleansing the land, and when they heard this, they wept aloud. The people returned to take possession of the land, and Joshua dies at 110 years. When that generation died, they did evil in the eyes of the Lord and worshipped other gods. The Lord raised up judges to help the people.

Judges 3: The Lord left nations around the Israelites to test their obedience, to see if they would obey his commands given through Moses, but the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord. Othniel becomes the first judge to lead the people back to the Lord, followed by Ehud, and Shamgar.

Judges 4: Deborah was a prophet and was leading Israel, and she instructed Barak to go to war and free the Israelites from Sisera. But Barak agreed to go only if Deborah accompanied him. Because of this request, Deborah receives the honor of the victory. Sisera went to seek refuge inside the tent of Jael, but after he fell asleep, she killed him with her tent peg.

Judges 5: Deborah and Barak sing a song of praise to the Lord who has given them victory over their enemies, and they enjoyed peace for forty years.

Judges 6: The Midianites ravaged the land and so impoverished the Israelites that they cried to the Lord for help. The angel of the Lord met with Gideon and said, “The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.” Gideon is unsure but the Lord encourages Gideon, “Am I not sending you?” Gideon makes another excuse, and the Lord promises to be with him. Unconvinced, Gideon asks for a sign, and the Lord graciously agrees. Then the Lord instructs Gideon to cut down the Asherah pole and sacrifice a bull using it as firewood, but in his fear, Gideon did so at night. When the other eastern peoples came to wage war on the Israelites, Gideon rallied the tribes for war but asks for another sign with a wet fleece left outside. Not convinced, he asks for another sign, this time, a dry fleece left outside.

Judges 7: The Lord knows that the Israelites will claim the victory as their own and so he reduces the army down from 22,000 to 300 men. Gideon and his three hundred men blew their trumpets and smashed their empty jars. Seeing torches all around them, the Midianite army panicked, turned on each other, and ran.

Judges 8: Gideon pursue the Midianites with his 300 men and they are triumphant. Gideon receives gold for his victory which he makes into an ephod and displayed in his town. This too became a snare for the Israelites who worshiped it. As soon as Gideon died, the Israelite nation again prostituted themselves to the Baals.

Judges 9: Abimelech, son of Gideon, convinces the citizens of Shechem to let him rule over them and he abuses the funds and kills sons of Gideon, all except for Jotham. Jotham makes a plea with the people to act justly, and to remember Gideon, but his plea is ignored. Abimelech and the citizens of Shechem turn on each other and eventually Abimelech has an upper milestone dropped on his head.

Judges 10: Again, the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and the Lord became angry with them, and he sold them into the hands of the Philistines and the Ammonites. They cried out to the Lord for help, but the Lord did not rescue them. Then the Israelites repented, and the Lord could bear their misery no longer.

Judges 11: Jephthah, the son of Gilead was a mighty warrior, but he was driven out by his half-brothers. Later, when the Ammonites attacked Gilead, they came back and asked Jephthah to lead them. Jephthah agrees and responds to the king of the Ammonites with a long letter, but the king of Ammon paid no attention. Jephthah made a vow to the Lord in exchange for the victory of the Ammonites, to make a sacrifice of what came out of his tent. When Jephthah returns home, his daughter comes out of the tent, and it appears that Jephthah keeps his vow.

Judges 12: The Ephraimites are angry with Jephthah for not calling on them for help when he and his men went to war against the Ammonites and so they turn on Jephthah and the rest of the Gileadites, but Jephthah and his men are victorious and capture the fords of the Jordan.

Judges 13: Samson is born to Manoah and his wife as one who will deliver the Israelites from the Philistines. Samson is to be a Nazirite from the womb, never cutting his hair or taking fermented drink. Manoah prays for instruction on raising the boy and the angel of the Lord appears a second time. After preparing a burnt offering for the Lord, Manoah and his wife witness the Angel of the Lord ascend in the flame of the sacrifice.

Judges 14: Samson finds a Philistine woman and insists that his father arranges a marriage for them. Samson creates a riddle for the attendants of the feast which they cannot solve. Eventually, Samson’s wife pleads for the answer to the riddle and secretly gives it to the Philistines. Samson returned home to his parents and wife is given to one of those attending the feast.

Judges 15: Later, Samson went to go visit his wife and discovers that she has been given to another in marriage. In an attempt to get even, Samson burns the crops of the Philistines by tying torches to the tails of foxes. In anger, the Philistines burned Samson’s wife and her father. After striking down some of the Philistines, Samson hides in a cave, and later avenges himself with a donkey’s jawbone by killing a thousand men.

Judges 16: Samson falls in love with Delilah and the Philistines offer her silver in exchange for the secret of his strength. Three times, Delilah attempts to discover the secret of Samson’s strength, but he hides it from her. Eventually, Samson reveal the secret and she cuts his hair. Samson is captured and brought back to be a prisoner, but when he is placed between two supporting columns, his strength returns, and he kills the leaders of the Philistines.

Judges 17: Micah and his mother collaborate to make a idol and appoint a priest for it. “In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.” Then Micah hires a young Levite as a priest for in his house and he understands this as this as a blessing.

Judges 18: “In those days, Israel had no king.” Five Danites come to Micah’s house and discover his idol and priest. Later, they take the idol Micah made and the convince the priest to join them. They capture a city called Laish and rename it Dan and settle in it.

Judges 19: (Chapter 19 begins with, “In those days, Israel had no king,” and its a graphic warning of the sinfulness of man apart from God) A Levite was travelling with his concubine, and he was looking for a place to spend the night. He refused to spend the night with those who were not Israelites but pushed on to the city of Gibeah where an old man provided shelter. The men of the city raped the man’s concubine until she was lifeless. On arriving home. the man took her body, separated it into twelve parts and distributed it into each of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Judges 20: Then all of the Israelites came together as one to purge the evil from among. They sent for the men living in Gibeah, but the Benjamites rallied their troops together to defend the men of Gibeah. But the Lord gave the success to the Israelite tribes who defeated their Benjamite brothers in battle.

Judges 21: With the tribe of Benjamin killed in battle, the remaining tribes gather before the Lord to lament, for they have vowed not to give their daughters in marriage to the few Benjamite men that are left. The Israelites organize a plan to provide wives to the Benjamites without breaking their vows and they succeed. “In those days, Israel had no king, and everyone did as they saw fit.”

**The Rise and Fall of Israel’s Kingdom**

Ruth 1: Naomi and her family move to Moab to escape a famine in Bethlehem. Naomi’s husband dies and her two sons marry Moabite woman. Eventually, her sons also die leaving only Naomi and her two daughters-in-law. Hearing that the famine is over, Naomi makes plans returns to Bethlehem. Ruth is totally committed to God and her mother-in-law and returns to Bethlehem with Naomi.

Ruth 2: Ruth begins gleaning in the field of Boaz who takes notice of her. When Boaz discovers that Ruth has left her parents and her homeland to care for Naomi and to seek refuge under the care of the God of Israel, he makes special provisions for her. Naomi realizes that Boaz is a guardian-redeemer for her family

Ruth 3: Naomi instructs Ruth to go and lay at the feet of Boaz while wearing her best cloths and perfume, and then ask him to fulfill his obligation to be her guardian redeemer. Boaz promises that he will marry her, but he is second in line to fulfill this legal role.

Ruth 4: In the morning, Boaz meets the guardian redeemer and asks him about Naomi and the land that belongs to her. After hearing that redeeming this land comes with a legal obligation of marriage to Ruth, he declines. Boaz marries Ruth and they have a son named Obed, and so Ruth found her place in the lineage of David.

1 Samuel 1: Hannah, the wife of Elkanah was unable to bear children, and so she made a vow to the Lord. If the Lord would allow her to have a son, she would return him for the service of the Lord. In the course of time, Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son who she named Samuel. When he was weaned, she brought him to Eli, the priest to serve in the house of the Lord.

1 Samuel 2: Hannah prays before the Lord and rejoices in his blessings. She leaves her young son with Eli the priest and returns home. As Samuel grew and served, he observed the wicked deeds of Eli’s sons. Eli spoke to his sons, but they paid no attention. A man of the Lord appeared before to Eli and prophesied against his family, because they had acted wickedly.

1 Samuel 3: One night, as Samuel was lying down, the Lord called him. Thinking it was Eli, Samuel ran to him. Eli sent him back to bed not knowing it was the Lord. This happened three times before Eli realized what was happening. The next time the Lord called, Samuel said, “speak, for your servant is listening.” And God spoke to Samuel and blessed him as a prophet.

1 Samuel 4: All Israel recognized Samuel as a prophet. The Israelites went out to fight against the Philistines and there were great casualties for them. Eli’s sons were among those killed, just as prophesied, and the Ark of the Covenant was captured by the Philistines. When Eli heard that the ark had been captured, he fell from his chair and died.

1 Samuel 5: The Philistines bring the ark of God back into the city of Ashdod, with their god, Dagon. In the morning, Dagon was found fallen, face down before the ark of God and the people of Ashdod were stricken with tumors. The ark was moved to Gath, and God afflicted its people with tumors. They sent the ark of God to Ekron, but the people panicked as disease and death broke out.

1 Samuel 6: The Philistines fear the Lord and make plans to return the Ark on a new cart, together with a guilt offering of gold. The cows that were yoked to the cart pulled it safely back to the Israelites who rejoiced upon its return. They used the wood of the cart and the cows to make a sacrifice at Beth Shemesh where the cart had stopped.

1 Samuel 7: Samuel calls for complete devotion as the Israelites return to the Lord, riding themselves of their foreign gods. The Israelites assembled confessed their lack of dedication. On seeing this, the Philistines prepared to attack the assembly. Samuel cried out to the Lord on Israel’s behalf and the Lord heard him. The Lord thundered before the Philistines and gave the Israelites success in battle. Samuel continued as Israel’s leader and based out of Ramah.

1 Samuel 8: Israel gathers before Samuel and requests a king. This displeased Samuel, so he took the matter to the Lord in prayer. The Lord replies to Samuel, “It is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king.” Samuel warns the people of the consequences of their request, but they insist that they want to be like the other nations.

1 Samuel 9: Saul and his servant are out looking for their fathers’ lost donkeys, they come to the vicinity of Samuel and decide to inquire of him. Now the Lord had spoken to Samuel, and he was expecting Saul. When Saul stepped forward and asked for the seer, Samuel invites him in and they eat together.

1 Samuel 10: Samuel took a flask of olive oil and poured it over Saul’s head and prophesied over him, that he would receive the Spirit of the Lord, that he himself would prophesy, and that he would be changed. As Saul turned to leave Samuel, his heart was changed. Samuel summoned the Israelites in Mizpah and there revealed Saul as king.

1 Samuel 11: The Ammonites come out against Jabesh Gilead, and Saul hears of it. He sends out word into all of Israel and they come forward as one to defend the city of Jabesh. Saul separated the men into three groups and the struck down the Ammonites. Samuel called the people together at Gilgal where they renewed Saul’s kingship.

1 Samuel 12: Samuel appears before the Israelites as an old man and asks them to stand as witnesses for his innocence. With the Lord as their king, the Israelites have asked for an earthly king, and Samuel reveals to them the sinfulness of this request. The Israelites see their failure and ask Samuel to pray for them. Samuel reminds the crowd of the importance of following the Lord with complete devotion.

1 Samuel 13: Saul attacked one of the Philistine outposts and this aggravated the Philistines. They came out against Israel in full force and many of the Israelites fled. Saul remained at Gilgal waiting for Samuel to offer the sacrifices, but his patience ran out and he offered the sacrifices without Samuel. Because Saul failed to keep the commands, the Lord has chosen another, a man after God’s own heart to rule his people. (The Philistines controlled all of the metal work in those days, and would not allow the Israelites to own metal weapons)

1 Samuel 14: Saul’s son, Johnathan took his armor bearer into one of the outposts camps of the Philistines and attacked them. Then a great panic sent by God that struck the Philistines. Then Saul and his men entered the battle, and seeing the Philistines on the run, the rest of the Israelites took up the pursuit. After Saul had commanded the Israelites to abstain from food, his son Johnathan ate some honey. Saul was angry and wanted to put Johnathan to death, but the Israelite men saved him.

1 Samuel 15: The Lord instructs Saul to attack the Amalekites and totally destroy them along with everything that belongs to them. But Saul and his army spared Agag and the best possessions of the Amalekites. When Samuel confronts Saul and reminds him of the command of the Lord. The Saul confessed that he was scared of his own army and he let them keep the best herds and flocks. Because Saul had rejected the word of the Lord, God had rejected him as king.

1 Samuel 16: The Lord instructs Samuel to fill his horn with oil and go to Bethlehem to anoint one of Jesse’s sons as the new king. Samuel is told not to look at the outward appearance while assessing the sons of Jesse, because God is looking at the heart. When the brothers come out, the Lord selects David and the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully on him. The Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul.

1 Samuel 17: The Philistines had gathered their forces and came out to fight the Israelites with their champion, Goliath. He was a giant of a man and the Israelites feared him. David went to the battle lines to deliver food for his brothers when he heard the taunt of Goliath. His comments were heard and reported to Saul who agreed to let David fight. David defeats Goliath for the battle belongs to the Lord.

1 Samuel 18: When David is returns, he meets Jonathan and the become best friends. Later, when David returns from battle, the woman praise his success and this makes Saul angry. “All Israel and Judah loved David, because he led them in their campaigns.” (16) Saul hoped that David would die in battle with the Philistines, so he offered David his daughter in marriage for 100 enemy foreskins, and David brought back 200.

1 Samuel 19: Then Saul told his attendants to kill David, but Jonathan spoke well of David, so Saul took an oath that David would not be put to death. After another military victory over the Philistines, Saul’s jealousy flared and he tried to kill him with his spear. David escaped to his home, but Saul sent men to kill him. Michal let David down through a window and he escaped. David finds safety with Samuel.

1 Samuel 20: Jonathan is not aware of Saul’s determination to kill David, but when David confronts him, Jonathan make a covenant to protect David’s life and David reaffirms his covenant with Jonathan. David was expected before Saul for a meal, but when David failed to show up, Saul attempted to kill Jonathan because he had sided with David.

1 Samuel 21: David flees and meets up with the priest, Ahimelek. David takes the consecrated bread. Ahimelek has been storing Goliath’s sword and he gives it to David as well. Then David fled to Gath and acted like a madman so that he wouldn’t be discovered.

1 Samuel 22: David fled Gath and stayed in the cave at Adullam where 400 men rallied around him. Saul finds out that Ahimelek, the priest had given David provisions. He then orders that Ahimelek be killed, along with all the other priests and their families. Abiather escaped and joined David’s men .

1 Samuel 23: David was told that the Philistines were fighting against the people of Keilah. The Lord promised David victory over the Philistines, so he went and defended the people of Keilah. Again, Saul learns that David is in the region of Keilah, but David and his men escape. Saul pursues David again, but is forced to retreat when the Philistines start raiding the undefended land.

1 Samuel 24: With Saul again in pursuit of David, he walks into a cave to relive himself and David cuts off the corner of Saul’s robe, but lets Saul go. David confronted Saul while holding the corner of his robe, and Saul realized that his life had been spared, and so he returned home without harming David.

1 Samuel 25: Samuel died and all Israel mourned for him. David was in the desert of Paran and he had defended Nabal’s property, but when he asked Nabal for some provisions, Nabal insulted David’s men and sent them away empty handed. Nabal’s wife, Abigail heard of it and loaded donkeys with provisions for David and his men. David received the provisions from Abigail and she returned home. When Nabal learned of this, his heart failed him and he died. David then took Abigail as his wife.

1 Samuel 26: Saul continues to pursue David, and David learned of it. During the night, David and Abishai crept into Saul’s camp. Though Abishai wanted to kill Saul, David kept him from doing so. Instead, the took the spear and water jug of Saul and left. Then, from a distance away, David calls out to Adner and questions his ability to protect the king. Saul recognizes that his life was spared, and he stops pursuing David.

1 Samuel 27: David and his men flea from Saul and settle among the Philistines in the town of Gath. Achish, the ruler of Gath and the leader of the Philistines believed that David would remain loyal to him, because he had become obnoxious to the Israelites.

1 Samuel 28: The Philistines gather to war against Israel, and David and his men are conscripted to fight with the Philistine army. When Saul saw the Philistine army he was afraid and began looking for ways to consult the Lord, but the Lord did not answer Saul. In desperation, Saul found a woman who was a medium, a spiritist, and she consulted Samuel. Samuel told Saul that his army would be defeated by the Philistines, and that he would loose his life in the battle.

1 Samuel 29: As the Philistines gather their troops to go into battle, the question David’s loyalty to the Philistine army. Certain that he will again side with Saul and the Israelite’s during battle, they send him and his men home.

1 Samuel 30: When David and his fighting men return from the battle lines, they realize that raiding parties of the Amalekites have burned there homes and taken their families as captives. After consulting the Lord, David and his men pursue the raiding parties and recover all their families, as well as the plunder.

1 Samuel 31: Meanwhile, the fighting between the Philistines and the Israelites had already begun. That day, Saul and his three sons died in the battle, and the remaining Israelites fled. With the towns of the Israelites empty, the Philistines expand their territory.

2 Samuel 1: One of the men of Saul’s camp escaped and fled to Ziglag to report to David. When David and his men learned that Saul and his son Jonathan had died in the battle, the mourned for them. David wrote a lament concerning Saul, the first king of Israel along with his son Jonathan who had fallen in battle.

2 Samuel 2: David and his men went up to Hebron where the people anointed David king over the tribe of Judah. Ish-Bosheth was one of Saul’s sons, and Adner and his men had made him king. When David and his men met up with Adner and his men, fighting broke out and there were many casualties, mostly Saul’s men.

2 Samuel 3: War between the house of Saul and the house of David lasted a long time. David and his army grew stronger, while the house of Saul grew weaker. After some accusations are made against him by Ish-Bosheth, Adner allies with David and promises to help bring all of Israel under David’s kinship. When Joab learns of it, he calls Adner back and murders him to avenge his brother’s death.

2 Samuel 4: When Israel learned that Adner had died, Ish-Bosheth lost courage and Israel became alarmed. While Ish-Bosheth was sleeping, two men came and into his bedroom and killed him. They were proud of the murder and delivered the news to David. David gave orders and had them killed.

2 Samuel 5: The elders of Israel come together at Hebron and David made a covenant with them. There they anointed David king over all Israel, and this 7 ½ years after Judah had recognized David as their king. David and his men marched up against the Jebusites and captured their city, Jerusalem, calling it the City of David. After settling in Jerusalem, a palace was built for David.

2 Samuel 6: David gathers his men, and they escort the ark of God to Jerusalem. When the oxen pulling the ark stumbled, Uzzah reached out his hand to stabilize the cart, and he died for his irreverent act. In fear, David brought the ark to Obed-Edom for three months. Finding out that God was blessing the house of Obed, David continued his efforts of bringing the ark of God to Jerusalem, where it was sheltered in a tent.

2 Samuel 7: With the ark of God sheltered by a tent, and David living in a house of cedar, David makes plans to build a house for the ark. Nathan the prophet gives David the blessing, but that same night, the Lord spoke to him with a message. **“The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you.” The Lord promises David a successor with a kingdom that will never end.** Nathan reported to David the entire revelation and David responds in praise.

2 Samuel 8: David continues to conquer kingdoms and capture resources, making other nations subject to him and bringing him tribute. With all of the tribute, all of the gold, silver and bronze, King David dedicated these articles to the Lord. David’s fame continued to grow.

2 Samuel 9: David desired to show kindness to any of Saul’s descendants and learns of Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan. When Mephibosheth is brought before David and is given the king’s blessing. He stayed in Jerusalem and ate at David’s table with the royal house.

2 Samuel 10: When the king of the Ammonites died, David sent a delegation to express his sympathy, but the Ammonite men were suspicious of the delegation and greatly humiliated them. When the Ammonites realized that they had become obnoxious to the Israelites, they hired solders and prepared for battle. Israel’s army defeated them and they became subject to Israel.

2 Samuel 11: In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, the Israelite army destroyed the Ammonites, but David remained in Jerusalem. David discovers a beautiful woman, the wife of Uriah, and he sends for her. When she discovers that she is pregnant, she sends word to David. Unable to cover his sin, David sends Uriah to his death. When David realized that Uriah was dead, he sent for Bathsheba and took her as his wife.

2 Samuel 12: Nathan the prophet appeared before David and told him of a great misfortune, a rich man who took from the poor because of his greed. David was enraged! A rich man who takes no pity on the poor deserves to die! Then Nathan tells David that he is the rich man who has had no mercy on the poor. The Lord had taken away David’s sin, but the consequences remained. Along with these would be the death of the son born to him through Bathsheba. David and Bathsheba have another son whom they name Solomon, and the Lord loved him.

2 Samuel 13: David’s son Amnon fell in love with Tamar, the sister of Absalom and became obsessed with her. Absalom had devised a plan: he pretended to be sick in bed and requested that Tamar wait on him. When she had prepared a meal, she came to his bedroom to serve him, where he overpowered her and raped her. After that, Amnon hated Tamar and sent her away weeping. When Absalom found out about it, he plotted his revenge and killed Amnon. Then Absalom fled.

2 Samuel 14: Joab found a woman from Tekoa and gave her a heart-warming story to deliver to the king, for he knew that David longed to see Absalom again. When David has heard the woman, he realizes that Joab is behind the drama. Moved by Joab’s request, David agrees to allow Absalom to return to Jerusalem, but refuses to see him face to face for years.

2 Samuel 15: Absalom gained a following in Jerusalem with his promises for justice, and he stole the hearts of the people of Israel. Absalom went to Hebron and had men proclaim in loud voices, Absalom is king of Hebron, and so the conspiracy gained strength. When David heard of it, he and his household fled Jerusalem. Hushai stays in Jerusalem as David’s confidant.

2 Samuel 16: As David and his men leave Jerusalem, they are met by the Ziba, the steward of Mephibosheth who brings provisions. After they receive the blessing of Ziba, they continue on their way and receive the cursing of Shimei, who pelted David and all of the king’s officials with stones. David allows him to curse, hoping that the Lord will see his misery and restore his blessings. Meanwhile, Absalom listens to the advice of Hushai and Ahithophel to determine his course.

2 Samuel 17: Ahithophel recommends pursuing David, striking him down and bringing back the people in safety. Hushai recommends caution, as David and his men are valiant fighters and could bring about a costly defeat. Instead, Hushai recommends that Absalom let all of Israel be gathered to him and establish his strength. Absalom and his men decide to follow the advice of Hushai, but Hushai has sent a delegation to David warning him not to return to Jerusalem. Realizing the word is out, Absalom pursues David.

2 Samuel 18: David’s army marched out against Israel inflicting heavy casualties. Absalom was riding his mule and his long hair was caught in an oak tree. Joab found Absalom hanging from the tree by his hair and killed him. When David heard of it, he wept for his son.

2 Samuel 19: While David is weeping for Absalom, Joab confronts him. David’s army is humiliated, for it appears to them that David loved Absalom more than those who were trying to save his life. David addressed his army while the Israelite army fled. The Israelite agree to receive David as their king and he returns, escorted by many who meet him at the Jordan.

2 Samuel 20: Sheba, son of Bikri sounded a trumpet and divided the house of Israel. The men of Israel deserted David while the men of Judah stayed by their king. Joab gathers his troops and pursues Sheba. They eventually surround the city where Sheba has taken refuge, but the people of the city recognize him as a rebel and follow agree to kill Sheba.

2 Samuel 21: After a three year famine, David sought the face of the Lord. The Lord reveals Saul’s unfaithfulness to the Gibeonites as the reason for the drought, so David gives seven of Saul’s descendants to them and they are killed for the wrong committed. In a close encounter with death, David no longer fights against the Philistines.

2 Samuel 22: David recounts all of the times when the Lord has kept him safe, and he rejoiced to the words of a song.

2 Samuel 23: Captures the last words of David and lists his Mighty Warriors.

2 Samuel 24: David gave orders to go and take a census in Israel and Judah, so that he could know how many fighting men there were. The Lord’s anger burned against Israel and thousands died as a result. When David obeyed and went and built an alter to the Lord, then the Lord heard his prayers and the plague stopped.

1 Kings 1: When David was very old, his son Adonijah put himself forward as king. He conferred with Joab, Abiathar the priest, and others and celebrated. When Bathsheba learned of it, she approached King David who had promised the throne to Solomon. David promises the throne to Solomon and makes immediate arrangements for Solomon to be anointed as king and seated on his throne. The news reaches Adonijah and his allies who are gripped with fear.

1 Kings 2: David gives his last instruction to Solomon before he dies, including a plea to remain faithful to the Lord. When Adonijah requests Abishag as his wife, (Abishag was the very beautiful girl who looked after David in his last years) Solomon had him put to death along with Joab. Abiathar was removed from the priesthood and replaced with Zadok, and Benaiah became the commander of the army. The kingdom was now firmly established in Solomon’s hands.

1 Kings 3: Solomon made an alliance with the Pharoah of Egypt and married his daughter. The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream an allows him to make a request. Solomon asks the Lord for a discerning heart to govern the people of Israel. The Lord was pleased with Solomons request and blesses him with wisdom, wealth and honor. When the Israelites hear of his wise rulings, the held him in awe, recognizing that he had given the wisdom of God to administer justice.

1 Kings 4: Solomon ruled over all Israel, and provisions were brought to him from the district governors. The people ate, they drank, and they were happy. As Solomon ruled the kingdoms, they brought him tribute, and the finest daily provisions. Solomon’s wisdom is recognized by all, and they marvel at his insights.

1 Kings 5: Hiram, king of Tyre sent envoys to Solomon, because he had always been on good terms with David. Solomon replied and revealed his plans to build a temple for his God. He asks Hiram for his help with the timbers and agrees to send men to work alongside the Sidonians. Hiram is pleased with the request and the two make a treaty. Thousands of men are conscripted and sent off to Lebanon and the quarry as they begin gathering supplies for building the temple.

1 Kings 6: In the four hundred and eightieth year after the Israelites came out of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomons reign, he began building the temple made of stone, cedar beams, and carvings overlaid with Gold. Again, the Lord promised to fulfil the promises made to David if Solomon remained faithful. In all, Solomon spent seven years building the Temple.

1 Kings 7: Solomon spent 13 years building his palace, and he also made a palace for Pharoah’s daughter whom he had married. Solomon sent for Huram, who cast the furnishings for the temple of bronze, including the bronze Sea which stood on top of twelve bulls, the four hundred pomegranates and more. Solomon also made all the furnishings that were in the temple gold, the golden alter, table, lampstand, basins, wick trimers and more. All these items were brought into the temple when completed, along with all of the articles that David had dedicated to the Lord.

1 Kings 8: King Solomon summoned the Israelite elders, and the Levites were instructed to bring the ark of God with its furnishings to the temple. It was placed in the Most Holy Place and put underneath the wings of the cherubim. When the priests left the Holy Place, the glory of the Lord filled the temple. Solomon prayed a prayer of dedication for the temple and then prayed for the house of Israel. They dedicated the temple and celebrated the Lord’s provisions.

1 Kings 9: The Lord appeared to Solomon a second time, as he had appeared to him at Gibeon. The Lord promises to bless Solomon if he remains faithful as David had done but will cut off Israel from the land he had given them if they are unfaithful. Solomon conscripted men for his building projects—to serve as slave labor, those who the Israelites could not exterminate.

1 Kings 10: The queen of Sheba came to test the wisdom of Solomon and he answered all of he questions, nothing was too hard for him. The queen is overwhelmed and brings gifts of gold and spices to Solomon, and his riches and resources continue to grow. Solomon also continued to accumulate horses and chariots which were imported from Egypt.

1 Kings 11: King Solomon loved many foreign women and intermarried with other nations. As Solomon grew older, his wives turned his heart after other gods Solomon did evil in the eyes of the Lord, though He had appeared to him twice. So, God was angry with Solomon and raised adversaries against him. Also, God sent word to Jeroboam, and promised him the opportunity to rule over the ten northern tribes if he remained faithful as David had been. Meanwhile, Solomon died, and his son Rehoboam succeeded him as king.

1 Kings 12: The nation of Israel came to Rehoboam and requested favourable conditions. Rehoboam requests the advice of the elders who advise him to give the people a favourable answer, but he rejects their advice. So, the king answered the people harshly and they rebelled against the house of David. Then Israel made Jeroboam king who quickly responds in fear and builds high places and shrines.

1 Kings 13: A man of God prophesies against Jeroboam and his alter. Jeroboam’s hand shrivels and the alter splits as a sign against him. While the man of God is returning home, he is lied to by a prophet and returns to Bethel, against the instruction he received from the Lord. The man of God dies by a lion and is buried by the prophet who lied to him, but Jeroboam remains unchanged.

1 Kings 14: Jeroboam’s son becomes ill and he sends his wife to inquire of Ahijah the prophet. Ahijah receives a word from the Lord who has judged the house of Jeroboam for their sin. Meanwhile, Rehoboam was king in Judah also broke covenant with the Lord, and the king of Egypt attacked Jerusalem and he carried off the treasure of the temple and the treasures of the royal palace. There was war between the house of Jeroboam and Rehoboam.

1 Kings 15: Abijah, son of Rehoboam became king of Judah, but was unfaithful as well. For David’s sake, the Lord was gracious to Abijah and gave him a son to succeed him as king. And Asa did right in the eyes of the Lord, and his heart was fully committed. There was fighting between the house of Asa and the house of Israel. Nadab became king of Israel, but only for two years before Baasha, who became king after him. Both did evil in the eyes of the Lord.

1 Kings 16: Judgment falls on the house of Baasha and his son, Elah succeeds him as king. He only reigned in Israel for two years before being killed by Zimri, who killed of the entire house of Baasha for the sins the had caused Israel to commit. Omri conspired against Zimri and became king of Israel and he reigned for 12 years. But Omri did evil in the eyes of the Lord, like that of Jeroboam. After him, Ahab became king and married Jezebel, and they introduced Baal worship in Samaria.

1 Kings 17: Elijah came to Ahab and said, “As the Lord, the God of Israel lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.” Then he went east of the Jordan where the ravens brought him food. When the stream dried up, Elijah went to Zarephath and stayed with a widow and her son where God miraculously supplied for them during the famine. When the widow’s son dies, Elijah prays for him and his life returns to him.

1 Kings 18: In the third year of the famine, the word of the Lord came to Elijah, “Go and present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the land.” Elijah sends Ahab to gather the prophets of Baal and to meet him on Mount Carmel. The prophets of Baal call out to him, but there is silence. When Elijah calls on the Lord, the God of Israel, Fire falls from heaven and burned up the sacrifice, including the wood and stones. The prophets of Baal are put to death and Elijah begins to pray for rain.

1 Kings 19: Ahab told his wife Jezebel everything that Elijah had done to the prophets of Baal, and she is furious. Knowing his life is in immediate danger, Elijah flees. Eventually exhausted from running, Elijah prays for his life to end, “I have had enough, Lord.” There, the angel of the Lord met him and gave him bread and water. Strengthened by the food, Elijah traveled 40 days and 40 nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. The Lord spoke with Elijah and told him to anoint Hazael as king over Aram, Jehu king over Israel, and Elisha as the next prophet.

1 Kings 20: Ben-Hadad and his army, along with 32 kings marched out against Ahab, the king of Israel. A prophet came to Ahab with a promise from the Lord guaranteeing them victory. The Israelite army drives attacks them and drives them back, but in spring, Ben-Hadad muster his army and attacks again. Thinking that Israel’s God is only capable of helping the Israelites in the hills, they plan a battle in the valley. God makes himself known when he gives the Israelites another victory. But Ahab makes a treaty with Ben-Hadad and sets him free, failing to follow the instruction of the Lord.

1 Kings 21: Some time later, Ahab had his eye on a vineyard that was close to his palace, but Naboth, the owner refused to sell it to him. Ahab’s wife, Jezebel, made false accusations about Naboth and had him killed. Then he gave instruction for Ahab to go and claim the land. Then the Lord sent Elijah to Ahab, and confronted him regarding his sin, but Ahab humbled himself. God was compassionate to Ahab and spared his life.

1 Kings 22: Ahab, king of Israel and Jehoshaphat, king of Judah make plans to reclaim Ramoth Gilead, but Jehoshaphat insists that they first inquire of the Lord. As the prophets gather, they all promise victory, but Jehoshaphat is not convinced. Micaiah is brought before them and he prophecies king Ahab’s death, but the people refuse to listen. Ahab and Jehoshaphat go into battle and Ahab dies, along with many others, in accordance with the word of the Lord. Jehoshaphat did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and was at peace with the king of Israel.

2 Kings 1: Ahaziah became king of Israel after Ahab, but when he fell and injured himself, he sends his men to inquire about his future by Baal-Zebub. Elijah meets the delegation and tells them to go back and tell Ahaziah that he will die. Ahaz is surprised to find the delegation back so soon but realizes they have talked to Elijah. Ahaziah sends for Elijah, but fire falls from heaven and consumes the captain and his men two times. The third delegation pleads Elijah for their lives, and Elijah returns with them. So Ahaziah died in his bed, according to the word of Elijah, and Joram succeeded him as king.

2 Kings 2: Elijah is traveling with Elisha by his side. Elijah tells Elisha to stay behind as he travels to Bethel, but Elisha refuses to leave the side of Elijah. Next, Elijah travels to Jericho, but Elisha still remains with him. Finally, they move on to the Jordan where Elijah and Elisha are separated by a chariot and horses of fire, and Elijah is taken to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha claimed the cloak of Elijah and separates the water of the Jordan with it. Men set out to search for Elijah, but he is never found.

2 Kings 3: Joram, son of Ahab became king in Israel. He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, though he got rid of the sacred stones that his father had made. When Ahab died, the king of Moab rebelled and refused to pay tribute. Joram, King of Israel, along with Jehoshaphat king of Judah and the king of Edom set out to fight against the Moabites. After a seven-day march, they ran out of water and decided to seek the council of Elisha. Then God provided water without rain and the victory was given to the king of Israel and Judah.

2 Kings 4: As Elisha begins his ministry, the Spirit of the Lord is evident on him as he provides for a widow of a righteous man. As Elisha is traveling, he meets a Shunammite woman who is barren. Elisha promises her a son and she conceives, but later, her son dies. Elisha stretched out his body over the boy, and life returned to the boy. When Elisha returned to Gilgal, food was prepared during a famine, but the stew was not safe for consumption. Elisha added flour and it was safe after that. On another occasion, Elisha miraculously fed a hundred men with twenty loaves of bread and had some left over.

2 Kings 5: Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram, and he was a valiant solder, but he had leprosy. Then he met Elisha who told him to go wash seven times in the Jordan river, and then he would be cleansed. Naaman was angry with Elisha’s response, but when Naaman’s servant convinces him to go into the Jordan, he is healed. Naaman came back to Elisha and begged for forgiveness and offered him many gifts, but Elisha refused and sent him away in peace. Gehazi, the servant of Elisha chased after Naaman and excepted two talents of silver and two sets of cloths secretly and hid them from Elisha. Then, Naaman’s leprosy found Gehazi and his skin became white as snow.

2 Kings 6: The company of prophets begins to build a place to meet, the ax head falls into the water. When Elisha heard of it, he cut a stick and threw it into the water and the ax head began to float. The king of Aram is angry with Elisha, for he has guided the footsteps of the Israel and kept them safe from battle. He sent a delegation to capture Elisha, but when they surround the city, Elisha prays and the whole company becomes blind. Then he led the blind men into the center of Samaria, surrounded by Israel’s army. Then Elisha prayed again, and their eyes were open. Upon Elisha’s instruction, they made a feast for them and sent them home in peace. Then, the king of Aram marched out and built a siege around Samaria and caused a great famine inside of it’s walls.

2 Kings 7: Then, Elisha promises affordable provisions for those inside Samaria by the next day, but the officer doesn’t believe it. At dusk, several men walk out to the Aramean camp and find it deserted, with all of the supplies left behind. Then they send word to the king who has the information confirmed. Then the people went out and plundered the camp of the Arameans and found food, just as Elisha had promised. The officer who refused to believe is trampled in the gate and never tastes any of the bounty.

2 Kings 8: Ben-Hadad became sick and sent Hazael to Elisha to make an inquiry about his illness. Elisha told Hazael that Ben-Hadad would recover from the illness, but that he would die regardless. Then Elisha began to weep as he became aware that Hazael would be the killer of the king and murder many Israelites. Surprised by the news, Hazael returns, and does exactly what Elisha had prophesied, he kills Ben-Hadad to succeed him as king. Meanwhile, Jehoshaphat became king of Judah, and he did evil in the eyes of the Lord.

2 Kings 9: Elisha gives instruction to have Jehu anointed king over Israel. While he is being anointed, he receives a command from the Lord to destroy the house of Ahab, in accordance with the word of the Lord. As soon as the fellow officers of Jehu heard it, they took off their cloaks and blew their trumpets shouting, Jehu is king over Israel. Jehu kills Joram and Ahaziah, and when he went to Jezreel, he gave instruction to have Jezebel thrown out of her window. She died from the fall and dogs devoured her flesh, according to the word spoken through Elijah.

2 Kings 10: Jehu killed everyone in Jezreel who remained of the house of Ahab, as well as all his chief men, his close friends and his priests, leaving him no survivors. Then Jehu planned a great sacrifice for Baal as a trap. When all had gathered, Jehu sent his men in and the killed all who worshiped Baal, destroyed the sacred stones and tore down the temple. Yet Jehu did not end the worship of the golden calves at Dan and Bethel. When Jehu died, his son Jehoahaz succeeded him as king.

2 Kings 11: When Athaliah saw that her son Ahaziah was dead, she proceeded to kill the royal family, but Joash was hidden from her. For 6 years, Athaliah ruled in the land. The Jehoiada brought out the king’s son and had him crowned while the people cheered, long live the king. After Athaliah was put to death, Jehoiada made a covenant with the people. At this, they tore down the temple of Baal and smashed the alters. Joash was seven years old when he began his reign.

2 Kings 12: Joash did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, all the years that Jehoiada instructed him. Joash collecting money in a chest placed beside the alter for the temple repairs. When they saw that there was a large amount of money in the chest, they counted it and paid it to the masons and the stone cutters. They did not require an accounting from them because they were completely honest.

2 Kings 13: Jehoahaz, son of Jehu became king of Israel, but he did evil in the eyes of the Lord. When he died, his son Jehoash succeeded him as king, but he also did evil in the eyes of the Lord. Elisha was ill and about to die, and Jehoash came ad wept over him. Elisha gave instruction to shoot an arrow out of his window, and Jehoash obeyed. Then Elisha promised him three victories over their enemies.

2 Kings 14: In the second year of Jehoash, Amaziah became king of Judah and he reigned in Jerusalem for 29 years. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, but he failed to remove the high places. Amaziah went to war against Jehoash and was defeated. Jehoash broke down the walls of Jerusalem and took the gold and silver in the temple treasuries. When Jehoash died, his son Jeroboam II succeeded him as king, and he also did evil in the eyes of the Lord.

2 Kings 15: Azariah was king in Judah, and he reigned in Jerusalem for 52 years. He did what was right before the Lord, but when he was afflicted with Leprosy, his son Jotham took charge of the palace. Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, and Pekah successively reigned in Israel, but all did evil in the eyes of the Lord. During the reign of Pekah, Jotham became king over Judah, and he did what was right in the Lord.

2 Kings 16: Ahaz became king over Judah, but he did evil in the eyes of the Lord following the ways of the kings of Israel. Ahaz became the vassal of the king of Assyria and when he traveled there, he found an alter which he liked. He made a sketch of it, sent it back to Uriah the priest and had a replica built where he began offering sacrificing.

2 Kings 17: Hoshea became king of Israel, but he was a traitor and had failed to pay tribute to the Assyrians. So the king of Assyria invaded the entire land of Israel, marched out against Samaria and laid siege to it. He captured Samaria and deported the Israelites to Assyria. The Lord allowed this because the Israelites had rejected the covenant and had sinned. Now the king of Assyria brought back foreigners and had them resettle Samaria and it’s towns. When lions attack the new residents, they send word back to the king of Assyria, we don’t know what the god of this country requires. So the King of Assyria sent back one of the priests who had been exiled to teach the new residents of Samaria how to worship God.

2 Kings 18: Hezekiah became king of Judah and he reigned in Jerusalem for 29 years. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord as his father David had done. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah. In the fourteenth year of Hezekiah, the king of Assyria marched out against the fortified cities of Judah and captured them. He then set his sights on Jerusalem and threatened Hezekiah and all of the people.

2 Kings 19: When Hezekiah heard this, he tore his cloths and went into the temple of the Lord with his officials. Then Isaiah told Hezekiah: “Do not be afraid of what you have heard.” God protected Jerusalem when the angel of the Lord killed off thousands of Assyrians. So the king of Assyria broke camp and retreated.

2 Kings 20: In those days, Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. Isaiah came to Hezekiah and told him to put his house in order, for he was going to die, but Hezekiah prayed. Isaiah returned to Hezekiah and told him that the Lord had heard his prayers and would extend his life for 15 years. Hezekiah shows all of the treasures of Jerusalem to the king of Babylon who came in peace. Then Isaiah prophecies that all the treasures of Jerusalem will be carried off by the king of Babylon.

2 Kings 21: After Hezekiah had died, Manasseh his son succeeded him as king, but he did evil in the eyes of the Lord. He erected alters to Baal and made an Asherah pole which he put into the temple of the Lord. Then the Lord decreed disaster against Jerusalem, so that everything they had would be looted and plundered. When Manasseh died, his son succeeded him as king and followed the sinful practices of his father.

2 Kings 22: Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. In the 18th year of his reign, Josiah gave orders to repair the temple of the Lord. Then Hilkiah found the Book of the Law and it was read in the presence of the king. When king Josiah heard the words written in the book, he tore his robes and wept for the rebellion of his people.

2 Kings 23: The Josiah read the words from the Book of the Law to the people. When they heard it, they all pledged themselves to the covenant, to follow the Lord with all their heart and soul. The Josiah went through Judea, clearing and destroying all the images and alters used for pagan worship. They again celebrated the Passover which had not been observed from the time of the judges.

2 Kings 24: During the reign of Jehoiakim, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon invaded the land of Judah. Jehoiachin became king of Jerusalem, and he did evil in the eyes of the Lord. At that time, Nebuchadnezzar advanced on Jerusalem and took control, taking all of the gold and silver from the temple. He also took the fighting men along with the artisans and skilled workers and deported them to Babylon.

2 Kings 25: Zedekiah had been put in place as king over Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, but in the 9th year of his reign, he rebelled. The Nebuchadnezzar took his entire army and built siege works against Jerusalem. After months, the famine in Jerusalem became severe and the people fled. Nebuchadnezzar returned to Jerusalem and set the city on fire, the temple of the Lord, the royal palace, the important buildings, and breaking down the walls around the city. All of the articles made by Solomon for the temple were carried off to Babylon, and so Judah went into captivity, away from her land.

**The Prophets Before The Exile**

Isaiah 1: A vision is given to Isaiah the prophet during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. A plea from the Lord to turn from the evil practices and pursue righteousness, to stop bringing sacrifices while their hands are full of blood. A plea to take up the cause of the fatherless, hear the case of the widow, and to defend the oppressed. If the continue in their rebellion, they will be devoured by the sword.

Isaiah 2: Even though judgement was coming against Judah, there was still hope for the future. “In the last days, the mountain of the Lord’s temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.” In the interim, the arrogance of man will be brought low, and human pride humbled.

Isaiah 3: The resources of Jerusalem and Judah will be stripped from them, both food and water will be taken. Peace will give way to division as people turn on each other. Wow to them, for they have brought disaster upon themselves. The Lord takes his place in court; he rises to judge his people.

Isaiah 4: In that day, the branch of the Lord will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land will be the pride and glory of the survivors of Israel. Those who are left in Zion, who remain in Jerusalem, will be called holy, all who are recorded among the living in Jerusalem.

Isaiah 5: The song of the vineyard: The nation of Israel is likened to a vineyard, which the Lord cared for and sheltered. But when he came to look for fruit in its fields, it yielded only bad fruit. What more could have been done for this vineyard? But because it failed to yield good fruit, judgement has come. “Surely the great house will become desolate.” (Matthew 23:38) “For they have rejected the Law of the Lord and spurned the word of the Holy on of Israel.”

Isaiah 6: During the year that King Uzziah died, Isaiah saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. And the seraphim, saying: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is filled with his glory.” Then the voice of the Lord came, “Whom shall I send and who will go for us.” Isaiah takes this message to the people, “Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing but never perceiving.” (Matthew 13:15)

Isaiah 7: During the reign of Ahaz, The Lord spoke to Ahaz and called him to ask for a sign, but Ahaz refused. But the Lord offered the sign regardless, “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel.” In that day, the Lord’s judgement will come, and the Assyrians will ravage the land.

Isaiah 8: God had spoken against Israel. The wealth of Damascus and the plunder of Samaria will be carried off by the king of Assyria. Prepare for battle, and devise your plan, but it will not stand. “The Lord almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread.”

Isaiah 9: The darkness turns to light. “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; of those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.” “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing it and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.”

Isaiah 10: “In that day the remnant of Israel, the survivors of Jacob, will no longer rely on him who struck them down but will truly rely on the Lord, the Holy One of Israel. A remnant will return, a remnant of Jacob will return to the Mighty God. Though your people be like the sand of the sea, Israel, only a remnant will remain. Destruction has been decreed, overwhelming and righteous.”

Isaiah 11: “A shoot will come from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of council and might, the Spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord—and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.”

Isaiah 12: In that day you will say: “I will praise you Lord. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord himself is my strength and my defence; he has become my salvation.”

Isaiah 13: A prophecy that Isaiah saw: “The Lord almighty is mustering an army for war.” “See, I will stir up against them the Medes, who do not care for silver and have no delight in Gold. Their bows will strike down the young men; they will have no mercy on infants, nor will they look with compassion on children. Babylon, the jewel of kingdoms, the pride and glory of the Babylonians, will be overthrown by God like Sodom and Gomorrah.

Isaiah 14: “The Lord will have compassion on Jacob; once again he will choose Israel and will settle them in their own land.”

But about Babylon, “I will rise up against them, declares the Lord almighty. I will wipe out Babylon’s name and survivors, her offspring and her descendants, declares the Lord.”

And about the Philistines: “Do not rejoice, all you Philistines, that the rod that struck you is broken; from the root of that snake will spring a viper, its fruit will be a darting venomous snake.”

Isaiah 15: A prophecy against Moab: AR in Moab is ruined, destroyed in a night! Kir in Moab is ruined, destroyed in a night! Dibon goes up to its temple, to its high places to weep; Moab wails over Nebo and Medeba. Every head is shaved, and every beard is cut off.

Isaiah 16: “We have heard of Moab’s pride—how great is her arrogance! Of her conceit, her pride and her insolence; but her boasts are empty. Therefore, the Moabites wail, they wail together with Moab.” “Within three years, as a servant bound by contract would count them, Moab’s splendor and all her many people will be despised, and her survivors will be very few and feeble.”

Isaiah 17: A prophecy against Damascus: “See, Damascus will no longer be a city but will become a heap of ruins.” “In that day people will look to their Maker and turn their eyes to the Holy One of Israel. They will look to their alters, the work of their hands, and they will have no regard for the Asherah poles and the incense alters their fingers have made.”

Isaiah 18: “Woe to the land of whirring wings along the rivers of Cush, which send envoys by sea in papyrus boats over the water. Go, swift messengers, to the people tall and smooth skinned, to a people feared far and wide, and aggressive nation of strange speech, whose land is divided by rivers.”

Isaiah 19: “A prophecy against Egypt: See, the Lord rides on a swift cloud and is coming to Egypt. The Idols of Egypt tremble before him, and the hearts of the Egyptians melt with fear.” “In that day, the Egyptians will become weaklings. They will shudder with fear at the uplifted hand that the Lord almighty raises against them. And the Land of Judah will bring terror to the Egyptians; everyone to whom Judah is mentioned will be terrified, because of what the Lord Almighty is planning against them.”

Isaiah 20: “Those who trusted in Cush and boasted in Egypt will be dismayed and put to shame. In that day, the people who live on the coast will say, ‘see what has happened to those we relied on, those we fled to for help and deliverance from the king of Assyria! How then can we escape?’”

Isaiah 21: “Day after day, my lord I stand at the watchtower; every night I stay at my post. Look here comes a man in a chariot with a team of horses. And he gives back the answer: ‘Babylon has fallen, has fallen! All the images of its gods lie shattered on the ground!’” A prophecy against Edom and Arabia.

Isaiah 22: A prophecy against Jerusalem: “The Lord, the Lord Almighty, called you on that day to weep and to wail, to tear out your hair and put on sackcloth. But see, there is joy and revelry, slaughtering of cattle and the killing of sheep, eating of meat and drinking of wine! ‘Let us eat and drink,’ you say, ‘for tomorrow we die!’ The Lord almighty has revealed this in my hearing: ‘Till your dying day this sin will not be atoned for,’ says the Lord, the Lord Almighty.”

Isaiah 23: “A prophecy against Tyre: Wail you ships of Tarshish! For Tyre is destroyed and left without house or harbour.” “Who planned this against Tyre, the bestower of crowns, whose merchants are princes, whose are renowned in the earth? The Lord Almighty planned it, to bring down her pride in all her splendor and to humble all who are renowned on the earth.”

Isaiah 24: “See, the Lord is going to lay waste the earth and devastate it; and he will ruin it’s face and scatter its inhabitants—it will be the same for priests as for people, for the servant as for the master, for the mistress as for the servant, for the seller as for the buyer, for borrower as for lender, for debtor as for creditor. The earth will be completely laid waste and totally plundered. The Lord has spoken his word.” “The earth is defiled by its people; they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore, a curse consumes the earth; its people must bear their guilt.”

Isaiah 25: “On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all people, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken.”

Isaiah 26: “In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: We have a strong city; God makes salvation its walls and ramparts. Open the gates that the righteous nation may enter, the nation that keeps faith. You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal.”

Isaiah 27: “In that day, the lord will punish with his sword—his fierce, great and powerful sword—Leviathan the gliding serpent, Leviathan the coiling serpent; he will slay the monster of the sea.” “In that day the Lord will thresh from the flowing Euphrates to the Wadi of Egypt, and you, Israel, will be gathered up one by one. And in that day a great trumpet will sound. Those who were perishing in Assyria and those who were exiled to Egypt will come and worship the Lord on the holy mountain in Jerusalem.”

Isaiah 28: “So this is what the Sovereign Lord says: See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who relies on it will never be stricken with panic. I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line; hail will sweep away your refuge, the lie, and water will overflow your hiding place.”

Isaiah 29: “The Lord says: ‘These people come near me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me, Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught. Therefore once more will I astound these people with wonder upon wonder; the wisdom of the wise will perish, the intelligence of the intelligent will vanish.”

Isaiah 30: “Woe to the obstinate children, declares the Lord, to those who carry out plans that are not mine, forming an alliance, but not by my Spirit, heaping sin upon sin; who go down to Egypt without consulting me; who look for help to Pharoah’s protection, to Egypt’s shade for refuge.” “Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore, he will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who ait for him!”

Isaiah 31: “Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, who rely on horses, who trust in the multitude of their chariots, and in the great strength of their horsemen, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel or seek help from the Lord.” “Return, you Israelites, to the One you have so greatly revolted against. For in that day every one of you will reject the idols of silver and gold your sinful hands have made.”

Isaiah 32: “See, a king will reign in righteousness and rulers will rule with justice. Each one will be like a shelter from the wind and a refuge from the storm, like streams of water in the desert, and the shadow of a great rock in a thirsty land. Then the eyes of those who see will no longer be closed, and the ears of those who hear will listen. The fearful heart will know and understand, and the stammering tongue will be fluent and clear.”

Isaiah 33: “The Lord is exalted, for he dwells on high; he will fill Zion with his justice and righteousness. He will be the sure foundation for our times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; **the fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure.”**

Isaiah 34: “Come near, you nations, and listen; pay attention you peoples! Let the earth hear, and all that is in it, the world and all that comes out of it! The Lord is angry with all nations; his wrath is on all their armies. He will totally destroy them, he will give them over to the slaughter.”

Isaiah 35: “And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, and those the Lord has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.”

Isaiah 36: (See also 2 Kings 18) The king of Assyria marched out against Judah and stopped at aqueduct of the Upper Pool and urged the people to surrender to the Assyrian army. “Do not let Hezekiah deceive you when he says, ‘The Lord will deliver us.’ Have the gods of any nations ever delivered their lands from the hand of the king of Assyria?” “How then can the Lord deliver Jerusalem from my hand?”

Isaiah 37: (See 2 Kings 19) “Isaiah said to them, ‘This is what the Lord says: Do not be afraid of what you have heard—those words with which the underlings of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me. Listen! When he hears a certain report, I will make him want to return to his own country, and there I will have him cut down with the sword.’” The Lord saved Jerusalem as he had promised and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp, so the king of Assyria broke camp and withdrew.

Isaiah 38: (See 2 Kings 20) Hezekiah became ill, and Isaiah came to him and said, put your house in order, you are going to die. But Hezekiah turned his face to the Lord and wept bitterly. The Lord heard the prayers of Hezekiah and added fifteen years to his life.

Isaiah 39: (See 2 Kings 22:12) Then the king of Babylon heard of Hezekiah’s recovery, he sent a letter and gifts, and Hezekiah received the gifts and showed them all that was in the storehouses and all the wealth of Jerusalem. Then Isaiah questioned Hezekiah, “What did they see in your palace?” Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah; “The time will surely come when everything in your palace, and all that your predecessors have stored up will be carried off to Babylon.”

Isaiah 40: Comfort for God’s people: “A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall be made level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

Isaiah 41: “Tell us you idols, what is going to happen. Tell us what the former things were, so that we may consider them and know their final outcome. Or, declare to us the final outcome, tell us what the future holds, so that we may know that you are gods. Do something good or bad, so that we will be dismayed and filled with fear. But you are less than nothing and your works are utterly worthless; whoever chooses you is detestable.

Isaiah 42: “Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or cry out or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not faulter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on the earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope.”

Isaiah 43: “I even I, am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and remember your sins no more. Review the past for me, let us argue the matter together; state the case for your innocence. Your first father sinned; those I sent to teach you rebelled against me. So I disgraced the dignitaries of your temple; I consigned Jacob to destruction and Israel to scorn.”

Isaiah 44: “But now listen, Jacob, my servant, Israel whom I have chosen. This is what the Lord says—he who made you, who formed you from the womb.” “I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. They will spring up like grass in the meadow, like poplar trees by flowing streams. Some will say, ‘I belong to the Lord;’ others will call themselves by the name of Jacob; still others will write on their hands, ‘The Lord’s,’ and will take the name of Israel.”

Isaiah 45: “This is what the Lord says—the Holy One of Israel, and it’s Maker: Concerning things to come, do you question me about my children, or give me orders about the work of my hands? It is I who created the earth and mankind on it. My own hands stretched out the heavens; I marshalled the starry hosts. I will raise up **Cyrus** in my righteousness: I will make all his ways straight. **He will rebuild my city and set my exiles free**, but not for a price or reward, says the Lord Almighty.”

Isaiah 46: Remember this and keep it in mind, take it to heart, you rebels. Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, ‘My purposes will stand, and I will do all I please.’”

Isaiah 47: “Go down, sit in the dust, Virgin daughter Babylon; sit on the ground without a throne, queen city of the Babylonians.” “Keep on, then, with your magic spell and with your many sorceries, which you have laboured at since childhood. Perhaps you will succeed, perhaps you will cause terror. All the council you have received has only worn you out. Let the astrologers come forward, those stargazers who make predictions month by month, let them save you from what is coming upon you.”

Isaiah 48: “This is what the Lord says—your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the ways you should go. If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river, your well-being like the waves of the sea.” “Leave Babylon, flee from the Babylonians! Announce this with shouts of joy and proclaim it.”

Isaiah 49: “But Zion said, “The Lord has forsaken me, the Lord has forgotten me. Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me, Your children hasten back, and those who laid you waste depart from you.

Isaiah 50: The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed. The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears, I have not been rebellious, I have not turned away. I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.”

Isaiah 51: “Those the Lord rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away. I, even I, am the one who comforts you. Who are you that you fear mere mortals, human beings that are but grass, that you forget the Lord your Maker, who stretches out the heavens and who lays the foundations of the earth.”

Isaiah 52: “See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted. Just as there were many who were appalled at him—his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness—so he will sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouth because of him. For what they were not told, they will not see, and what they have not heard, they will understand.”

Isaiah 53: “Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.”

Isaiah 54: “To me this is like the days of Noah, when I swore that the waters of Noah would never again cover the earth. So now I have sworn not to be angry with you, never to rebuke you again. Though the mountains be shaken and the hills removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed, says the Lord who has compassion on you.”

Isaiah 55: “Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are my ways your ways, declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Isaiah 56: “And foreigners who bind themselves to the Lord to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it, and who hold fast to my covenant—these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will accepted on my alter; for my house will be called a house of prayer for the nations.”

Isaiah 57: The righteous perish, and no one takes it to heart; the devout are taken away, and no one understands that the righteous are taken away to be spared of evil. Those who walk uprightly enter into his peace; they find rest as they lie in death.”

Isaiah 58: “Yet on the day of fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers.” “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?”

Isaiah 59: Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ears too dull to hear.” “The redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins, declares the Lord. As for me, this is my covenant with them, says the Lord. My Spirit, who is on you, will not depart from you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will always be on your lips, on the lips of your children and on the lips of their descendants—from this time on and forever, says the Lord.”

Isaiah 60: “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.” “No longer will violence be heard in your land, nor ruin or destruction within your borders, but you will call your walls Salvation and your gates Praise.”

Isaiah 61: “The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion.”

Isaiah 62: “Pass through, pass through the gates! Prepare the way for the people. Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones. Raise the banner for the nations. The Lord has made a proclamation to the ends of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, See your Savior Comes! See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. They will be called Holy People, the Redeemed of the Lord.”

Isaiah 63: “Who is this, robed in splendor, striding forward in the greatness of his strength? It is I, proclaiming victory, mighty to save. Why are your garments red, like those of one treading the winepress? I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me. I trampled them in my anger and trod them down in my wrath; their blood spattered my garments and stained all of my clothing. It was for me the day of vengeance; the year for me to redeem had come. I looked, but there was no one to help, I was appalled but no one gave support; so my own arm achieved salvation for me, and my own wrath sustained me.” “Yet you rebelled and grieved the Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them.”

Isaiah 64: “Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be angry beyond measure, Lord; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look on us we pray, for we are all your people. Your sacred cities have become a wasteland; even Zion is a wasteland, Jerusalem a desolation. Our Holy and glorious temple, where our ancestors praised you, has been burned with fire, and all that we treasured lies in ruins.”

Isaiah 65: “I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, Here I am, here I am. All day long I held out my hands to an obstinate people, who walk in ways not good, pursuing their own imagination—a people who continually provoke me to my very face, offering sacrifices in gardens and burning incense on alters of brick; who sit among graves and spend their nights keeping secret vigil; who eat the flesh of pigs, and whose pots hold broth of impure meat; who say, Keep away, don’t come near me, for I am too sacred for you! Such people are smoke in my nostrils, a fire that keeps burning all day long.”

Isaiah 66: “This is what the Lord says: Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be? Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being? declares the Lord. These are the ones I look on with favour: those who are humble and contrite in sprit, and who tremble at my word.” “As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me, declares the Lord, so will your descendants endure. From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all mankind will come and bow down before me, says the Lord. And they will go out and look on the dead bodies of those who rebelled against me; the worms that eat them will not die, the fire that burns them will not be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind”

Hosea 1: “When the Lord began to speak through Hosea, the Lord said to him, Go, marry a promiscuous woman, and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the Lord. So he married Gomer, daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.” Gomer had three children, the first was called Jezreel, because God would soon punish, the second was called Lo-Ruhamah, which means “not loved,” and the third was called Lo-Ammi, which means “not my people.”

Hosea 2: Israel’s unfaithfulness is likened to that of a promiscuous woman who has chased after other lovers. The Lord will punish her for Israel for their unfaithfulness, but the Lord will respond. “I will plant her for myself in the land; I will show my love to the one called ‘Not my loved one,’ I will say to those called ‘not my people,’ ‘You are my people;’ and they will say, ‘You are my God.’”

Hosea 3: “The Lord said to me, Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is adulterous. Love he as the Lord loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes. So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a lethek of Barley. Then I told her, You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will behave the same way towards you.”

Hosea 4: “Hear the word of the Lord, you Israelites, because the Lord has a charge to bring against you who live in the land: There is no faithfulness, no love, no acknowledgement of God in the land. There is only cursing, lying and murder, stealing and adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed.” “Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.”

Hosea 5: “Hear this, you priests! Pay attention, you Israelites! Listen royal house! This judgement is against you: You have been a snare at Mizpah, a net spread out on Tabor. The rebels are knee-deep in slaughter. I will disciple all of them.” “Their deeds do not permit them to return to their God. A spirit of prostitution is in their heart; they do not acknowledge the Lord.”

Hosea 6: “What can I do with you Ephraim? What can I do with you Judah? Your love is like the morning mist, like the early dew that disappears. Therefore I cut you to pieces with my prophets, I kill you with the words of my mouth—then my judgements go forth like the sun. For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgements of God rather than burnt offerings.

Hosea 7: “Israel’s arrogance testifies against him, but despite all of this he does not return to the Lord his God or search for him.” “I long to redeem them but they speak about me falsely. They do not cry out to me from their hearts but wail on their beds. They slash themselves, appealing to their gods for grain and new wine, but they turn away from me.”

Hosea 8: “Put the trumpet on your lips! An eagle is over the house of the Lord because the people have broken my covenant and rebelled against my law.” “Though they offer sacrifices as gifts to me, and though they eat the meat, the Lord is not pleased with them. Now he will remember their wickedness and punish their sins: They will return to Egypt.”

Hosea 9: “The days of punishment are coming, the days of reckoning are at hand. Let Israel know this.” “Because of all their wickedness at Gilgal, I hated them there. Because of their sinful deeds I will drive them out of my house. I will no longer love them; all of their leaders are rebellious.”

Hosea 10: “Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit unfailing love, and break up the unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, until he comes and showers his righteousness on you. But you have planted wickedness, you have reaped evil, you have eaten the fruit of deception.”

Hosea 11: “My heart is changed within me; all my compassion is aroused. I will not carry out my fierce anger, nor will I devastate Ephraim again. For I am God, and not a man—the Holy One among you. I will not come against their cities. They will follow the Lord; he will roar like a lion. When he roars, his children will come trembling from the west.”

Hosea 12: “But you must return to your God; maintain love and justice, and wait for your God always.” “I have been the Lord your God, ever since you came out of Egypt; I will make you live in tents again, as in the days of your appointed festivals.”

Hosea 13: “But I have been the Lord your God ever since you came out of Egypt. You shall acknowledge no God but me, no Savior except me. I cared for you in the wilderness, in the land of burning heat. When I fed them, they were satisfied, they became proud; then they forgot me.”

Hosea 14: Return, Israel, to the Lord your God. Your sins have been your downfall! Take words with you and return to the Lord. Say to him: ‘Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously, that we may offer the fruit of our lips.’” “Who is wise? Let them realize these things. Who is discerning? Let them understand. The ways of the Lord are right; the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them.”

Amos 1: “This is what the Lord says: For three sins of Gaza, even for four, I will not relent. Because she took captive whole communities and sold them to Edom, I will send fire on the walls of Gaza that will consume her fortresses. I will destroy the king of Ashdod and the one who holds the scepter in Ashkelon. I will turn my hand against Ekron, till the last of the Philistines are dead, says the Lord.”

Amos 2: “This is what the Lord says: For three sins of Judah, even for four, I will not relent. Because they have rejected the law of the Lord and have not kept his decrees, because they have been led astray by false gods, the gods their ancestors followed, I will send fire on Judah that will consume the fortresses of Jerusalem.”

Amos 3: “You only have I chosen of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your sins.” “I will tear down the winter house along with the summer house; the houses adorned with ivory will be destroyed and the mansions will be demolished, says the Lord.”

Amos 4: “I gave you empty stomachs in every city and lack of bread in every town, yet you have not returned to me, declares the Lord. I also withheld rain from you when the harvest was still three months away. I sent rain on one town but withheld it from another. One field had rain; another one had none and dried up. People stagger from town to town for water, but did not get enough to drink, yet you have not returned to me, declares the Lord.”

Amos 5: “There are those who hate the one who upholds justice in court and detest the one who tells the truth. You levy a straw tax on the poor and impose a tax on their grain. Therefore, though you have built stone mansions, you will not live in them; though you have planted lush vineyards, you will not drink their wine. For I know how many are your offenses and how great your sins.”

Amos 6: “Woe to you who are complacent in Zion.” “You strum away on your harps like David and improvise on musical instruments. You drink wine by the bowlful and use the finest lotions, but you do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph. Therefore, you will be among the first to go into exile; your feasting and lounging will never end.”

Amos 7: “The land cannot bear all his words. For this is what Amos is saying: Jeroboam will die by the sword, and Israel will surely go into exile, away from their native land. Then Amaziah said to Amos, ‘Get out, you seer. Go back to the land of Judah. Earn your bread there and do your prophesying there. Don’t prophecy anymore at Bethel, because this is the king’s sanctuary and the temple of the kingdom.’”

Amos 8: “This is what the Sovereign Lord showed me: A basket of ripe fruit. ‘What do you see, Amos?’ He asked. ‘A basket of ripe fruit,’ I answered. Then the Lord said to me, ‘The time is ripe for my people Israel; I will not spare them any longer.”

Amos 9: “Yet I will not totally destroy the descendants of Jacob, declares the Lord.” “And I will bring my people Israel back from exile. They will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit.”

Obadiah: “On the day you stood aloof while strangers carried off his wealth and foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem, you are like one of them. You should not gloat over your brother in the day of his misfortune, nor rejoice over the people of Judah in the day of their destruction nor boast so much in the day of their trouble.” “There will be no survivors from Esau. The LORD has spoken.”

Jonah 1: The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai. ‘Go into the city of Nineveh and preach against it, because it’s wickedness has come up before me. But Jonah ran from the LORD and headed for Tarshish.” Then, a violent storm came and Jonah was thrown overboard, where a huge fish swallowed Jonah.

Jonah 2: From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God. He said, “In my distress, I called to the Lord, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead, I called for help, and you listened to my cry.” “When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, Lord, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple.” Then the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

Jonah 3: “Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I will give you.” “Jonah began by going a day’s journey into the city, proclaiming, ‘Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.’ The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least put on sackcloth.” “When God what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction that he had threatened.”

Jonah 4: “But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord, ‘Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is why I tried to forestall fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.”

Micah 1: The word of the Lord that came to Micah of Moresheth during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah—the vision he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem. “All her idols will be broken to pieces; all her temple gifts will be burned with fire; I will destroy all her images. Since she gathered her gifts from the wages of prostitution, as the wages of prostitution they will again be used.”

Micah 2: Woe to those who plan iniquity, to those who plot evil on their beds! At morning’s light they carry it out because it is in their power to do it. They covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them. They defraud people of their homes, and rob them of their inheritance. Therefore, the Lord says: ‘I am planning disaster against this people, from which you cannot save yourselves.”

Micah 3: “Then I said, ‘Listen you leaders of Jacob, you rulers of Israel. Should you not embrace justice, you who hate good and love evil; who tear the skin from my people’s flesh strip off their skin and break their bones in pieces; who chop them up like meat for the pan, like flesh for the pot? Then they will cry out to the Lord, but he will not answer them. At that time, he will hide his face from them because of the evil they have done.”

Micah 4: “In the last days the mountain of the Lord’s temple will be established as the highest mountain; it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. Many nations will come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.’”

Micah 5 “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will rule over Israel, who’s origins are from of old, from ancient times.” “I will uproot from among you your Asherah poles when I demolish your cities. I will take vengeance in anger and wrath on the nations that have not obeyed.”

Micah 6: “With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

Micah 7: “The day God visits has now come, the day your watchman sounds the alarm. Now is the time of your confusion. Do not trust a neighbor; put no confidence in a friend. Even with a woman who lies in your embrace guard the words of your lips. For a son dishonors his father, and a daughter rises up against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—A man’s enemies are the members of his own household.”

Nahum 1: “The LORD has given a command concerning you, Nineveh: ‘You will have no descendants to bear your name. I will destroy the images and idols that are in the temple of your gods. I will prepare your grave, for you are veil.’ Look, there on the mountains, the feet of one who brings good news, who proclaims peace! Celebrate your festivals, Judah, and fulfill your vows. No more will the wicked invade you; they will be completely destroyed.”

Nahum 2: “The Lord will restore the splendor of Jacob like the splendor of Israel, though the destroyers have laid them waste and have ruined their vines.” “I am against you, declares the LORD Almighty, I will burn up your chariots in the smoke, and the sword will devour your young lions. I will leave you no prey on the earth. The voices of your messengers will no longer be heard.”

Nahum 3: “King of Assyria, your shepherds slumber; your nobles lie down to rest. Your people are scattered on the mountains with no one to gather them. Nothing can heal you; your wound is fatal. All who hear the news about you will clap their hands at your fall, for who has not felt your endless cruelty.”

Habakkuk 1: “Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife and conflict abounds. Therefore, the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous so that justice is perverted.” “Look at the nations and watch—and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.”

Habakkuk 2: “Then the LORD replied: ‘write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay. See, the enemy is puffed up; his desires are not upright—but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness.”

Habakkuk 3: “Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior.”

Zephaniah 1: “I will sweep away everything from the face of the earth, declares the LORD.” “I will stretch out my hand against Judah and all who live in Jerusalem. I will destroy ever remnant of Baal worship in this place.” “Be silent before the Sovereign LORD, for the day of the LORD is near.”

Zephaniah 2: “Gather together, gather yourselves together, you shameful nation, before the decree takes affect and that day passes like windblown chaff, before the LORD’s fierce anger comes upon you, before the day of the LORD’s wrath comes upon you. Seek the LORD all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD’s anger.”

Zephaniah 3: “Woe to the city of oppressors, rebellious and defiled! She obeys no one, she accepts no correction. She does not trust in the LORD, she does not draw near to her God. Her officials within her are roaring lions; her rulers are evening wolves, they leave nothing for the morning.”

**The Wisdom of Israel**

Job 1: “In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was job. This man was blameless and upright; He feared God and shunned evil.” He had seven sons and three daughters and owned great numbers of sheep, camels, oxen, and donkeys. Satan presents himself before God and challenges God to strip Job of his wealth so that his faith will be tested, and God allows it. But even after Job has lost all of his blessings, he refuses to charge God of wrongdoing.

Job 2: Again, Satan comes before God as they discuss the faithfulness of Job. Satan credits Job’s faithfulness to his health and God allows Satan to afflict Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. His afflictions were so great that he was almost unrecognizable. Three friends of Job arrive to comfort him, and they sit with him speechless for seven days.

Job 3: “After this, Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. He said, ‘May the day of my birth perish, and the night that said, a boy is conceived. That day, may it turn to darkness; may God above not care about it; may no light shine on it.’”

Job 4: “The Eliphaz the Temanite replied: ‘If someone ventures a word with you, will you be impatient? But who can keep from speaking?” “Consider now: Who being innocent has ever perished? Where were the upright ever destroyed? As I observe, those who plow evil and those who sow trouble reap it.”

Job 5: “But if I were you, I would appeal to God; I would lay my cause before him. He preforms wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted.” “Blessed is the one whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.” “We have examined this, and it is true. So hear it and apply it to yourself.”

Job 6: “Then Job Replied: If only my anguish could be weighed and all my misery be placed on the scales! It would surely outweigh the sand of the sea—no wonder my words have been impetuous.” “Teach me and I will be quiet; show me where I have been wrong. How painful are honest words!”

Job 7: Do not mortals have hard service on earth? Are not their days like those of hired laborers?” “What is mankind that you make so much of them, that you give them so much attention, that you examine them every morning and test them every moment?”

Job 8: “Then Bildad the Shuhite replied: How long will you say such things? Your words are blustering winds. Does God pervert justice? Does the Almighty pervert what is right? When your children sinned, he gave them over to the penalty of their sin.” “Surely God does not reject one who is blameless or strengthen the hands of the evildoers.”

Job 9: “Then Job replied: Indeed, I know that all this is true. But how can mere mortals prove their innocence before God? Though they wished to dispute with him, they could not answer him one time out of a thousand. His wisdom is profound, his power is vast. Who has resisted him and come out unscathed?” “How then can I dispute with him? How can I find words to argue with him? Though I were innocent, I could not answer him.”

Job 10: “I loathe my very life; therefore, I will give free reign to my complaint and speak out in the bitterness of my soul. I say to God: Do not declare me guilty but tell me what charges you have against me. Does it please you to oppress me, to spurn the work of your hands, while you smile on the plans of the wicked?”

Job 11: Then Zophar the Naamathite replied: Are all these words to go unanswered? Is this talker to be vindicated? Will your idle talk reduce others to silence? Will no one rebuke you when you mock? You say to God, ‘My beliefs are flawless, and I am pure in your sight.’” “Can you fathom the mysteries of God? Can you probe the limits of the Almighty?”

Job 12: “Then Job replied: Doubtless you are the only people that matter, and wisdom will die with you! But I have a mind as well as you: I am not inferior to you. Who does not know all these things?” “In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind.”

Job 13: “My eyes have seen all this, my ears have heard and understood it. What you know, I also know; I am not inferior to you. But I desire to speak to the Almighty and to argue my case with God. You however, smear me with lies; you are worthless physicians, all of you!”

Job 14: “Mortals, born of woman, are of few days and full of trouble. They spring up like flowers and wither away; Like fleeting shadows, they do not endure. Do you fix your eye on them? Will you bring them before you for judgement? Who can bring what is pure from the impure?”

Job 15: “Then Eliphaz the Temanite replied: Would a wise person answer with empty notions or fill their belly with the hot east wind?” “Do you listen in on God’s council? Do you have a monopoly on wisdom? What do you know that we do not know? What insights do you have that we do not have?”

Job 16: “The Job replied: I have heard many things like these; you are miserable comforters, all of you! Will your long-winded speech never end? What ails you that you keep on arguing? I also could speak like you, if I were in your place; I could make fine speeches against you and shake my head at you. But my mouth would encourage you; comfort from my lips would bring you relief.”

Job 17: “Give me O God, the pledge you demand. Who else will put up security for me?” “God has made me a byword to everyone, a man in whose face people spit. My eyes have grown dim with grief; my whole frame is but a shadow. The upright are appalled at this; the innocent are aroused against the ungodly. Nevertheless, the righteous will hold to their ways, and those who clean hands will grow stronger.”

Job 18: “The Bildad the Shuhite replied: When will you end these speeches? Be sensible, and then we can talk. Why are we regarded as cattle and considered stupid in your sight?” “The lamp of the wicked man is snuffed out. The flame of his fire stops burning. The light in his tent becomes dark; the lamp beside him goes out.” “Surely such is the dwelling of an evil man; such is the place of one who does not know God.”

Job 19: “Then Job replied: How long will you torment me and crush me with your words? Ten times now you have reproached me; shamelessly you attack me. If it is true that I have gone astray, my error remains my concern alone. If indeed you would exalt yourself above me and use my humiliation against me, then know that God has wronged me and has drawn his net around me.”

Job 20: “Then Zophar the Naamathite replied: My troubled thoughts prompt me top answer because I am greatly disturbed. I hear a rebuke that dishonors me, and my understanding inspires me to reply. Surely you know how it has been from of old, ever since mankind was placed on the earth, that the mirth of the wicked is brief, the joy of the godless lasts but a moment.”

Job 21: “The Job replied: Listen carefully to my words; let this be the consolation that you give me. Bear with me while I speak, and after I have spoken, mock on. Is my complaint directed at a human being? Why should I not be impatient?” “Can anyone teach knowledge to God, since he judges even the highest?” “So how can you council me with your nonsense? Nothing is left of your answer but falsehood!”

Job 22: “The Eliphaz the Temanite replied: Can a man be of benefit to God? Can even a wise person benefit him? What pleasure would it give the Almighty if you were righteous? What would he gain if you were blameless? Is it for your piety that he rebukes you and brings charges against you? Is not your wickedness great? Are not and your sins endless?”

Job 23: “Then Job replied: Even today my complaint is bitter; his hand is heavy in spite of my groaning. If only I knew where to find him; if only I could go to his dwelling! I would state my case before him and fill my mouth with his arguments. I would find out what he would answer me, and consider what he would have to say.” “But he knows the way I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold.”

Job 24: “Why does the Almighty not set times for judgement? Why must those who know him look in vain for such days? There are those who move boundary stones; they pasture flocks they have stolen.” “For a little while they are exalted, and then they are gone; they are brought low and gathered up like all others; the are cut off like heads of grain. If this is not so, who can prove me false and reduce my words to nothing?”

Job 25: “The Bildad the Shuhite replied: Dominion and awe belong to God; he establishes order in the heights of heaven. Can his forces be numbered? On whom does his light not rise? How then can a mortal be righteous before God?”

Job 26: “Then Job replied: How you have helped the powerless! How you have saved the arm that is feeble! What advice you have offered to one without wisdom!” “He spreads out the northern skies over empty space; he suspends the earth over nothing.” “And these are but the outer fringe of his works; how faint the whisper we hear of him! Who then can understand the thunder of his power?”

Job 27: “As surely as God lives, who has denied me justice, the Almighty who has made my life bitter, as long as I have life within me, the breath of God in my nostrils, my lips will not say anything wicked, and my tongue will not utter lies. I will never admit you are in the right; till I die, I will not deny my integrity.”

Job 28: “There is a mine for silver and a place where Gold is refined.” “But where can wisdom be found? Where does understanding dwell? No mortal comprehends its worth; it cannot be found in the land of the living. The deep says, It is not in me; The sea says, It is not with me. It cannot be bought with the finest gold, nor can its price be weighed out in silver.” “And he said to the human race, ‘The fear of the Lord—That is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding.”

Job 29: “How I long for the months gone by, for the days when God watched over me, when his lamp shone on my head and by his light I walked in darkness! Oh for the days when I was in my prime, when God’s intimate friendship blessed my house, when the Almighty was still with me, and my children were around me.”

Job 30: “But now they mock me, men younger than I, whose fathers I would have disdained to put with my sheep dogs.” “I cry out to you, God, but you do not answer; I stand up but you merely look at me. You turn on me ruthlessly; With the might of your hand you attack me.

Job 31: “I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a young woman. For what is our lot from God above, our heritage from the Almighty on high?” “If I have denied justice to any of my servants, whether male or female, when they had a grievance against me, what will I do when God confronts me? What will I answer when called to account?”

Job 32: So these three men stopped answering Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes. “So Elihu son of Barakel the Buzite said: I am young in years, and you are old; That is why I was fearful, not daring to tell you what I know. I thought, Age should speak; Advanced years should teach wisdom. But it is the spirit in a person, the breath of the Almighty that gives them understanding.”

Job 33: “But now Job, listen to my words; pay attention to everything that I say.” “The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives life. Answer me then, if you can; stand up and argue your case before me. I am the same as you in God’s sight; I too am a piece of clay.”

Job 34: “Then Elihu said: Hear my words, you wise men; listen to me, you men of learning. For the ear tests words as the tongue tests food. Let us discern for ourselves what is right; let us learn together what is good.” “So listen to me, you men of understanding. Far be it from God to do evil, for the Almighty to do wrong. He repays everyone for what they have done; He brings on them what their conduct deserves.”

Job 35: “Then Elihu said: Do you think that this is just? You say, I am in the right, not God. Yet you ask him, What profit is it to me, and what do I gain by not sinning?

Job 36: “Elihu continued: God is mighty, but despises no one; he is mighty , and firm in his purpose. He does not keep the wicked alive but gives the afflicted their rights. He does not take his eyes off the righteous; he enthrones them with kings and exalts them forever.”

Job 37: “Listen to this, Job; stop and consider God’s wonders. Do you know how God controls the clouds and makes the lightning flash? Do you know how the clouds hang poised, those wonders of him who has perfect knowledge?” “The Almighty is beyond our reach and exalted in power; in his justice and great righteousness, he does not oppress.”

Job 38: “Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm. He said: ‘Who is this that obscures my plans with words without knowledge? Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you will answer me. ‘Where were you when I laid the earth foundation? Tell me, if you understand.”

Job 39: “Do you know when the mountain goat gives birth? Do you watch when the doe bears her fawn? Do you count the months till they bear? Do you know the time they give birth?” “Who let the wild donkey go free? Who untied its ropes? I gave it the wasteland as its home, the salt flats as its habitat.”

Job 40: “The LORD said to Job: ‘Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct him? Let him who accuses God answer him!’ Then Job answered the LORD: I am unworthy—how can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth. I spoke once, but I have no answer—twice, but I will say no more.’ Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm: “Brace yourself like a man; I will question you and you will answer me. Would you discredit my justice? Would you condemn me to justify yourself? Do you have an arm like God’s, and can your voice thunder like his.’”

Job 41: “Can you pull in Leviathan with a fishhook or tie down its tongue with a rope? Can you put a cord through its nose or pierce it’s jaw with a hook? Will it keep begging you for mercy? Will it speak to you with gentle words? Will it make an agreement with you for you to take it as your slave for life? Can you make a pet of it like a bird or put it on a leash for the young woman in your house?” “Who has a claim against me that I must pay? Everything under heaven belongs to me.”

Job 42: “Then Job replied to the LORD: I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted. You asked, who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge? Surely, I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. ‘You said, Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you and you will answer me.’ My ears have heard you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore, I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.”

Psalm 1: “Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked, or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields it’s fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever he does prospers.”

Psalm 2: “Why do nations conspire ands the people plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up and the ruler’s band together against the LORD and against his anointing, saying, Let us break the chains and throw off their shackles. The One enthroned in heaven laughs.” “Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned you rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear and celebrate his rule with trembling.”

Proverbs 1: “The proverbs od Solomon son of David, King of Israel: for gaining wisdom and instruction.” “Listen, my son, to your father’s instruction and do not forsake your mother’s teaching.” “Repent at my rebuke! Then I will pour out my thoughts to you, and I will make known to you my teachings.” “Whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm.”

Proverbs 2: “My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding—indeed if you call for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as silver and search for it as hidden treasure, then yu will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.”

Proverbs 3: “Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor with a good name in the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

Proverbs 4: “The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it costs you all you have, get understanding. Cherish her, and she will exalt you; embrace her and she will honor you. She will give you a garland to grace your head and present you with a glorious crown.” “But the way of the wicked is like a deep darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble.”

Proverbs 5: “My son, pay attention to my wisdom, turn your ear to my words of insight, that you may maintain discretion and your lips may preserve knowledge. For the lips of the adulterous woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil.” “Keep to a path far from her, and do not go near the door of her house.”

Proverbs 6: “There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a hearth that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in a community.”

Proverbs 7: “Say to wisdom, ‘you are my sister,’ and to insight, ‘you are my relative.’ They will keep you from the adulterous woman, from the wayward woman and her destructive words.” “Do not let your heart turn to her ways or stray into her paths. Many are the victims she has brought down; her slain are a mighty throng. Her house is a highway to the grave, leading down to the chambers of death.”

Proverbs 8: “Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice?” “Choose my instruction over silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom is more precious than rubies and nothing you desire can compare with her.” “I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me.”

Proverbs 9 “To those who have no sense she says, ‘Come, eat the food and drink the wine I have mixed. Leave your simple ways and you will live; walk in the ways of insight.” “To fear the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”

Proverbs 10: “A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son brings grief to his mother.” “The way of the LORD is a refuge to for the blameless, but it is the ruin of those who do evil.”

Proverbs 11: “When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.” “Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.” “A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. People curse the one who hoards grain, but they pray God’s blessing on the one who is willing to sell.”

Proverbs 12: Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but whoever hates correction is stupid.” “Those who work their land will have abundant food, but those who chase fantasies have no sense.” “In the way of the righteous there is life; along that path, there is immortality.”

Proverbs 13: “A wise son heeds his father’s instruction, but a mocker does not respond to rebukes.” “The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, turning a person from the snares of death.” “Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to disciple them.”

Proverbs 14: “Where there are no oxen, the manger is empty, but from the strength of an ox comes abundant harvests.” “Stay away from a fool, for you will not find knowledge on their lips.” “Do not those who plot evil go astray? But those who plan what is good find love and faithfulness.”

Proverbs 15: “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” “The soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit.” ‘The LORD detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases him. The LORD detests the way of the wicked, but he loves those who pursue righteousness.”

Proverbs 16: “All the persons ways seem pure to them, but the motives are weighed by the LORD. Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans. The LORD works out everything to its proper end, even the wicked for the day of disaster.” “Honest scales and balances belong to the LORD; all the weights in the bag are of his making.”

Proverbs 17: “The crucible for silver and a furnace for gold, but the LORD tests the heart.” “Whoever fosters love covers over an offense, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.” “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.”

Proverbs 18: “Fools find no pleasure in understanding but delight in airing their own opinions. When wickedness comes, so does contempt, and with shame comes reproach. The words of the mouth are deep waters, but the fountain of wisdom is a rushing stream.” “The name of the LORD is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.”

Proverbs 19: “The one who gets wisdom loves life; the one who cherishes understanding will soon prosper.” “Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from the LORD.” “Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done.” “Listen to advice and accept discipline, and in the end, you will be counted among the wise.”

Proverbs 20: “Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise.” “Even small children are known by their actions, so is their conduct really pure and upright?” “Gold there is, and rubies in abundance, but lips that speak knowledge are a rare jewel.” “A person’s steps are directed by the LORD. How then can anyone understand their own way?”

Proverbs 21: “The way of the wicked is devious, but the conduct of the innocent is upright.” “Whoever shut their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be heard.” “The craving of the sluggard will be the death of him, because his hands refuse to work. All day he craves for more, but the righteous give without sparing.” “The sacrifice of the wicked is detestable—how much more so when brought with evil intent.”

Proverbs 22: “A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than pure gold. Rich and poor have this in common: The LORD is the maker of them all.” “The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.”

Proverbs 23: “Do not wear yourself out to get rich; do not trust your own cleverness. Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.” “My son, if your heart is wise, then my heart will be glad indeed; my inmost being will rejoice when your lips speak what is right.”

Proverbs 24: “By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its room are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.” “Do not gloat when your enemy falls; when they stumble, do not let your heart rejoice, or the LORD will see and disapprove and turn his wrath away from them.”

Proverbs 25: “Like clouds and wind without rain is the one who boasts about gifts never given.” “If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you.” “It is not good to eat too much honey, nor is it honorable to search out matters that are too deep.”

Proverbs 26: “Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you yourself will be just like him. Answer a fool according to his own folly, or he will be wise in his own eyes. Sending a message by the hands of a fool is like cutting off one’s feet or drinking poison.” “Do you see a person who is wise in their own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.”

Proverbs 27: “Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.” “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” “As water reflects the face, so ones life reflects the heart.” “The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but people are tested by their praise.”

Proverbs 28: “Whoever conceals their sin does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy. Blessed is the one who trembles before God, but whoever hardens their heart falls into trouble.” “Those who work their land will have abundant food, but those who chase fantasies will have their fill of poverty. A faithful person will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished.”

Proverbs 29: “The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern.” “Pride brings a person low, but the lowly in spirit gain honor.” “Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD will be kept safe.” “The righteous detest the dishonest; the wicked detest the upright.”

Proverbs 30: “Two things I ask of you LORD; do not refuse before I die: Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, ‘Who is the LORD.’ Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God”

Ecclesiastes 1: “Meaningless! Meaningless! Says the Teacher! Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless. What do people gain from all their labors at which they toil under the sun? Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever.” “I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. I applied my mind to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under the heavens. What a heavy burden God has laid on mankind.”

Ecclesiastes 2: “I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces” “I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure.” “Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.” “Like the fool, the wise too must die.” “To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God.”

Ecclesiastes 3: “What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in it’s time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from the beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may find satisfaction in all their toil—this is a gift of God.”

Ecclesiastes 4: “And I saw that all toil and all achievement spring from one person’s envy of another. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.” “Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity the one who falls and has no one to help them up.”

Ecclesiastes 5: “Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong. Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few.”

Ecclesiastes 6: “I have seen another evil under the sun, and it weighs heavily on mankind: God gives some people wealth, possessions and honor, so that they lack nothing their heart desires, but God does not grant them the ability to enjoy them, and a stranger enjoys them instead. This is meaningless, and a grievous evil.”

Ecclesiastes 7: “It is better to heed the rebuke of a wise person than to listen to the song of fools. Like the crackling of thorns under the pot, so is the laughter of fools. This too is meaningless.” “Wisdom is a shelter as money is a shelter, but the advantage of knowledge is this: Wisdom preserves those who have it.” “When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider this: God has made the one as well as the other.”

Ecclesiastes 8: “There is something else meaningless that occurs on the earth: the righteous who get what the wicked deserve, and the wicked getting what the righteous deserve. This too, is meaningless. So I commend the enjoyment of life, because there is nothing better for a person under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad. Then joy will accompany them in their toil all the days of their life that God has given them under the sun.”

Ecclesiastes 9: “So I reflected on all of this and concluded that the righteous and the wise and what they do are in God’s hands, but no one knows whether love or hate awaits them. All share a common destiny.” “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the realm of the dead where you are going, there is neither working or planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.”

Ecclesiastes 10: “There is an evil I have seen under the sun, the sort of error that rises from a ruler: Fools are put in many high positions, while the rich occupy the low ones. I have seen slaves on horseback, while princes go on foot like slaves.” “If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed, but skill will bring success.”

Ecclesiastes 11: “As you don not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother’s womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.” “Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see but know that for al these things God will bring you into judgement.”

Ecclesiastes 12: Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, I find no pleasure in them.” “Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. For God will bring every deed into judgement, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.”

Song of Songs 1: “Tell me, you whom I love, where you graze your flock and where you rest your sheep at midday. Why should I be like a veiled woman beside the flocks of your friends? If you do not know, most beautiful of women, follow the tracks of the sheep and graze your young goats by the tents of the shepherds.”

Song of Songs 2: “Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest is my beloved among the young men. I delight to sit in his shade, and his fruit is sweet to my taste.” “Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you by the gazelles and by the does of the field: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.”

Song of Songs 3: “Scarcely had I passed them when I found the one my hear loves. I held him and would not let him go till I had brought him to my mother’s house, to the room of the one who conceived me. Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you by the gazelles of the field: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.”

Song of Songs 4: “You have stolen my heart, my sister, my bride; you have stolen my heart with one glance of your eyes, with one jewel of your necklace. How beautiful is your love, my sister, my bride! How much more pleasing your love than wine, and the fragrance of your perfume more than spice!

Song of Songs 5: “How is your beloved better than others, most beautiful of women? How is your beloved more beautiful than others, that you so charge us?” “My beloved is radiant and ruddy, outstanding among ten thousand.”

Song of Songs 6: “Sixty queens there may be, and eighty concubines, and virgins beyond number; but my dove, my perfect one, is unique, the only daughter of her mother, the favorite of the one who bore her. The young women saw her and called her blessed; the queens and concubines praised her.”

Song of Songs 7: “I belong to my beloved, and his desire is for me. Come, my beloved, let us go to the countryside, let us spend the night in the villages. Let us go early to the vineyards to see if the vines have budded, if the blossoms have opened, and if the pomegranates are in bloom—there I will give you my love.”

Song of Songs 8: “Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.” “Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot sweep it away. If one were to give all the wealth of one’s house for love, it would be utterly scorned.”

**THE PROPHETS OF THE EXILE:**

Jerimiah 1: “The word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born, I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.’ ‘Alas, Sovereign LORD,’ I said, ‘I do not know how to speak; ‘I am too young.’ But the LORD said to me, Do not say, I am too young. You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you, and I will rescue you,’ declares the LORD.”

Jerimiah 2: “This is what the LORD says: I remember the devotion of your youth, how as a bride, you loved me and followed me through the wilderness, through a land not sown.” “What fault did your ancestors find in me, that they strayed so far from me? They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves.” “Mt people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.”

Jerimiah 3: “Return, faithless Israel, declares the LORD, I will frown on you no longer, for I am faithful, declares the LORD, I will not be angry forever. Only, acknowledge your guilt—you have rebelled against the LORD your God, you have scattered your favors to foreign gods under every spreading tree, and have not obeyed me, declares the LORD.”

Jerimiah 4 “This is what the LORD says to the people of Judah and to Jerusalem: Beak up your unplowed ground and do not sow among thorns. Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, circumcise your hearts, you people of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, or my wrath will flare up and burn like fire because of the evil you have done—burn with no one to quench it.”

Jerimiah 5 “Go up and down the streets of Jerusalem, look around and consider, search through her squares. If you can find but one person who deals honestly and seeks the truth, I will forgive this city.” “Go through the vineyards and ravage them, but do not destroy them completely. Strip off all her branches, for these people do not belong to the LORD.”

Jerimiah 6 “This is what the LORD almighty says: Cut down the trees and build siege ramps against Jerusalem. This city must be punished; it is filled with oppression.” “The bellows blow fiercely to burn away the lead with fire, but the refining goes on in vain; the wicked are not purged out. They are called rejected silver because the LORD has rejected them.”

Jerimiah 7: “Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, burn incense to Baal and follow other gods you have not known, and then come and stand before me in this house, which bears my Name, and say, ‘We are safe’ safe to do these detestable things? Has this house, which bears me Name, become a den of robbers to you? But I have been watching! Declares the LORD.”

Jerimiah 8: “When people fall down, do they not get up? When someone turns away, do they not return? Why then have these people turned away? Why does Jerusalem always turn away? They cling to deceit; they refuse to return. I have listened attentively, but they do not say what is right. None of them repent of their wickedness, saying, What have I done.”

Jerimiah 9: “Therefore this is what the LORD almighty says: See, I will refine and test them, for what else can I do because the sin of my people?” “The days are coming declares the LORD, when I will punish all who are circumcised only in the flesh—Egypt, Judah, Edom, Ammon, Moab and all who live in the wilderness in distant places. For all these nations are really uncircumcised, and even the whole house of Israel is uncircumcised in heart.”

Jerimiah 10: “No one is like you, LORD; you are great and your name is mighty in power. Who should not fear you, King of the nations? This is your due. Among all the wise leaders of the nations and in all their kingdoms, there is no one like you.” “Pour out your wrath on the nations that do not acknowledge you, on the peoples who do not call on your name.”

Jerimiah 11: “This is the word that came to Jerimiah from the LORD: Listen to the terms of the covenant and tell them to the people of Judah and to those who live in Jerusalem. Tell them that this is what the LORD, the God od5af Israel says: Cursed is the one who does not obey the terms of the covenant.” “Listen to the terms of the covenant and follow them.”

Jerimiah 12: “You are always righteous, LORD, when I bring a case before you. Yet I would speak with you about your justice: Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why do all the faithless live at ease? You have planted them, and they have taken root: they grow and bear fruit. You are always on their lips but far from their hearts.”

Jerimiah 13: “This is what the LORD says: In the same way I will ruin the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem. These wicked people, who refuse to listen to my words, who follow the stubbornness of their hearts and go after other gods to serve and worship them, will be like this belt—completely useless! For as a belt is bound around a waist, so I bound all the people of Judah to me, declares the LORD, to be my people or my renown and praise and honor. But they have not listened.”

Jerimiah 14: “This is what the LORD says about his people: ‘They greatly love to wander; they do not restrain their feet. So the LORD does not accept them; he will now remember their wickedness and punish them for their sins.’ Then the LORD said to me, ‘Do not pray for the well being of this people. Although they fast, I will not listen to their cry.’”

Jerimiah 15: “Then the LORD said to me: Even if Moses and Samuel were to stand before me, my heart would not go out to this people. Send them away from my presence! Let them go! And if they ask you, ‘Where shall we go?’ tell them, This is what the LORD says: ‘Those destined for death, to death; those destined for the sword, to the sword; those for starvation, to starvation; those for captivity, to captivity.’”

Jerimiah 16: “LORD, my strength and my fortress, my refuge in times of distress, to you the nations will come from the ends of the earth and say, ‘Our ancestors possessed nothing but false gods, worthless idols that did them no good. Do people make their own gods? Yes, but they are not gods!’ Therefore, I will teach them—this time I will teach them my power and my might. Then they will know that my name is the LORD.”

Jerimiah 17: “’But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, who’s confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.’ The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? ‘I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve.’”

Jerimiah 18: “This is the word that came to Jerimiah from the LORD: Go down to the potter’s house, and there I will give you my message. So I went down to the potters house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so, the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. Then the word of the LORD came to me. He said, Can I not do with you Israel, as this potter does?”

Jerimiah 19: “This is what the LORD says: Go and buy a clay jar from the potter. Take along some of the elders of the people and of the priests and go the valley of Ben Hinnom near the entrance of the Potsherd Gate. There, pronounce the words I tell you, and say, Hear the word of the LORD, You kings of Judah and people of Jerusalem.” “I will smash this nation and this city just as this potters jar is smashed and cannot be repaired.”

Jerimiah 20: “I will give all Judah into the hands of the king of Babylon, who will carry them away to Babylon or put them to the sword. I will deliver all of the wealth of this city into the hands of their enemies—all it’s products, all its valuables and all the treasures of the king of Judah. They will take it away as plunder and carry it off to Babylon.”

Jerimiah 21: “This is what the LORD says: See, I am setting before you the way of life and of death. Whoever stays in this city will die by the sword, famine or plague. But, whoever goes out and surrenders to the Babylonians who are besieging you will live; they will escape with their lives. I have determined to do this city harm and not good, declares the LORD.”

Jerimiah 22: “people from many nations will pass by this city and will ask one another, ‘Why has the LORD done such a thing to this great city? And the answer will be: Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD their God and have worshipped other gods.” “Do not weep for the dead king or mourn his loss; rather weep bitterly for him who is exiled, because he will never return nor see his native land again.”

Jerimiah 23: “I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number. I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing, declares the LORD.”

Jerimiah 24: “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel says: Like these good figs, I regard as good the exiles from Judah, whom I sent away from this place to the land of the Babylonians. My eyes will watch over them for their good, and I will bring them back to this land. I will build them up and not tear them down; I will plant them and not uproot them.”

Jerimiah 25: “But when the seventy years are fulfilled, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation, the land of the Babylonians, for their guilt, declares the LORD, and make it desolate forever. I will bring on that land all that I have spoken against it, all that are written in this book and prophesied by Jerimiah against all the nations. They themselves will be enslaved by many nations and great kings; I will repay them according to their deeds and the work of their hands.”

Jerimiah 26: “This is what the LORD says: Stand in the courtyard of the LORD’s house and speak to all the people of the towns of Judah who come to worship in the house of the LORD. Tell them everything I command you; do not omit a word. Perhaps they will listen, and each will turn from their evil ways. Then I will relent and not inflict on them, the disaster I was planning because of the evil they have done.”

Jerimiah 27: “With my great power and outstretched arm I made the earth and its people and the wild animals that are on it, and I give it to anyone I please. Now I will all your countries into the hands of my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; I will make even the wild animals subject to him. All nations will serve him and his son, and his grandson until the time for this land comes; then many nations and great kings will subject him.”

Jerimiah 28: The prophet, Hananiah, prophecies peace for Judah and Jerusalem, but Jerimiah replies: “From early times the prophets who preceded you and me have prophesied war, disaster and plague against many countries and great kingdoms. But the prophet who prophecies peace will be recognized as one truly sent by the LORD only if his prediction comes true.” “In the seventh month of that same year, Hananiah the prophet died.”

Jerimiah 29: Jerimiah wrote a letter that was sent to those taken into exile by Nebuchadnezzar. It read, “This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters.” “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me, and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and you will find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

Jerimiah 30: “The days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will bring my people Israel and Judah back from captivity and restore them to the land I gave their ancestors to possess, says the LORD.” “In that day, declares the LORD Almighty, I will break the yoke off their necks and will tear off their bonds; no longer will foreigners enslave them. Instead, they will serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up for them.”

Jerimiah 31: “At that time, declares the LORD, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they will be my people.” “The days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and led them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them, declares the LORD.”

Jerimiah 32” “In their presence I gave Baruch these instructions: This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel says: Take these documents, both the sealed and the unsealed copies of the deeds of purchase, and put them in a clay jar so that they will last a long time. For this sis what the LORD Almighty, says: Houses and fields will again be bought in this land.” “I will make an everlasting covenant with them.”

Jerimiah 33: “This is what the LORD says: You say about this place, It is a desolate waste, without people or animals. Yet in the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem that are deserted, inhabited by neither people nor animals, there will be heard once more the sound of joy and gladness, the voice of bride and bridegroom, and the voices of those who bring thank offerings to the house of the LORD, saying, Give thanks to the LORD Almighty, for the LORD is good; his love endures forever.”

Jerimiah 34: “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Go to Zedekiah king of Judah and tell him, This is what the LORD says: I am about to give this city into the hands of the king of Babylon, and he will burn it down. You will not escape form his grasp but will surely be captured and given into his hands. You will see the king of Babylon with your own eyes, and he will speak with you face to face. And you will go to Babylon.”

Jerimiah 35: “Go and tell the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem, Will you not learn a lesson and obey my words? Declares the LORD. Jehonadab, son of Rekab ordered his descendants not to drink wine and this command they have kept. To this day, they do not drink wine, because they obeyed their forefather’s command. But I have spoken to you again and again, yet you have not obeyed me. Again and again, I sent all my servants the prophets to you.”

Jerimiah 36: A scroll was written and delivered to Jehoiakim. “It was the ninth month and the king was sitting in his winter apartment, with a fire burning in the firepot in front of him. Whenever Jehudi had read three of four columns of the scroll, the king cut them off with the scribe’s knife and threw them into the firepot. The king and all his attendants who heard all these words showed no fear, nor did they tear their clothes.”

Jerimiah 37: “This is what the LORD says: Do not deceive yourselves, thinking, the Babylonians will surely leave us. They will not! Even if you were to defeat the entire Babylonian army that is attacking you and only wounded me were left in their tents, they would come out and burn this city down.” “King Zedekiah then gave orders for Jerimiah to be placed in the courtyard of the guard and given a loaf of bread from the street of the bakers each day until all the bread in the city was gone.”

Jerimiah 38: “Then Jerimiah said to Zedekiah, This is what the LORD God Almighty, the God of Israel, says: If you surrender to the officers of the king of Babylon, your life will be spared, and this city will not be burned down; you and your family will live. But if you will not surrender to the officers of the king of Babylon, this city will be given into the hands of the Babylonians, and they will burn it down; you yourself will not escape from them.”

Jerimiah 39: “This is how Jerusalem was taken: In the ninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon marched against Jerusalem with his whole army and laid siege to it. And on the ninth day of the fourth month of Zedekiah’s eleventh year, the city was broken through.” “The Babylonians set fire to the royal palace and the houses of the people, and broke down the walls of Jerusalem.”

Jerimiah 40: “When the commander of the guard found Jerimiah, he said to him, ‘The LORD your God decreed this disaster for this place. And now the LORD has brought it about; he has done just as he said he would. All this happened because the people sinned against the LORD and would not obey him. But today, I am freeing you from the chains on your wrists. Come with me to Babylon, if you like, and I will look after you; But if you do not want to, then don’t come. Look, the whole country lies before you; go wherever you please.”

Jerimiah 41: Ishmael struck down Gedaliah, killing the one whom the king of Babylon had appointed as governor over the land. “Ishmael made captives of all the rest of the people who were at Mizpah.” This group headed for Egypt, “Top escape the Babylonians. They were afraid of them because Ishmael son of Nethaniah had killed Gedaliah son of Ahikam, whom the king of Babylon had appointed as governor over the land.”

Jerimiah 42: Then all the army officers and all the people from the least to the greatest came to Jerimiah and asked him to inquire of the LORD. “Then they said to Jerimiah, May the LORD be a true and faithful witness against us if we do not act in accordance with everything the LORD your God sends you to tell us.” Then the LORD spoke to Jerimiah and said, “Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon, whom you now fear. Do not be afraid of him, declares the LORD, for I am with you and will save you and deliver you from his hands.”

Jerimiah 43: “When Jerimiah had finished telling the people all the words of the LORD their God—everything that the LORD had sent him to tell them—Azariah son of Hoshaiah and Johanan son of Kareah and all the arrogant me said to Jerimiah, You are lying! The LORD our God has not sent you to say, You must not go to Egypt to settle there.” So they entered Egypt in disobedience to the LORD and went as far as Taphanhes.”

Jerimiah 44: “Therefore this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: I am determined to bring disaster on you and to destroy all Judah. I will take away the remnant of Judah who were determined to go to Egypt and settle there. They will all perish in Egypt; they will fall by the sword or famine.” But the assembly refused to listen and were determined to continue offering incense to the Queen of Heaven and pour out drink offerings to her image.

Jerimiah 45: A message to Baruch: “I will overthrow what I have built and uproot what I have planted, throughout the earth. Should you then seek great things for yourself? Do not seek them. For I will bring disaster on all people, declares the LORD, but wherever you go, I will let you escape with your life.”

Jerimiah 46: A message about Egypt: “The LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: I am about to bring punishment on Amon god of Thebes, on Pharoah, on Egypt and her gods and her kings, and on those who rely on Pharoah. I will give them into the hands of those who want to kill them—Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and his officers. Later however, Egypt will be inhabited as in times past, declares the LORD.”

Jerimiah 47: A message about the Philistines: “For the day has come to destroy the Philistines and to remove all survivors who could help Tyre and Sidon. The LORD is about to destroy the Philistines, the remnant from the coasts of Caphtor.”

Jerimiah 48: A message concerning Moab: “This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Woe to Nebo, for it will be ruined.” “Moab will be praised no more; in Heshbon people will plot her downfall: Come, let us put an end to that nation.” “In Moab I will put an end to those who make offerings on the high places and burn incense to their gods, declares the LORD. So, **my heart laments** for Moab like the music of a pipe; **it laments** like a pipe for the people of Kir Hareseth.”

Jerimiah 49: A message about Ammon: “Every one of you will be driven away, and no one will gather the fugitives. Yet, afterward, I will restore the fortunes of the Ammonites, declares the LORD.” A message about Edom: “This is what the LORD says: If those who do not deserve to drink the cup must drink it, why should you go unpunished? You will not go unpunished but must drink it.” A message about Damascus: “I will set fire to the walls of Damascus; it will consume the fortresses of Ben-Hadad.” A message about Kedar and Hazar: “Arise and attack Kedar and destroy the people of the East. Their tents and their flocks will be taken.” A message about Elam: “See, I will break the bow of Elam, the mainstay of their might.”

Jerimiah 50: A message about Babylon: “Babylon will be captured; Bel will be put to shame, Marduk filled with terror. Her images will be put to shame and her idols filled with terror. A nation from the north will attack her and lay waste her land. No one will live in it; both people and animals will flee away. In those days, at that time, declares the LORD, the people of Israel and the people of Judah together will go in tears to seek the LORD their God. They will ask the way to Zion and turn their faces toward it. They will come and bind themselves to the LORD in an everlasting covenant that will not be forgotten.” “I will punish the king of Babylon and his land as I punished the king of Assyria. But I will bring Israel back to their own pasture.”

Jerimiah 51: “Sharpen the arrows, take up the shields! The LORD has stirred up the kings of the Medes, because his purpose is to destroy Babylon. The LORD will take vengeance, vengeance for his temple.” “Before your eyes I will repay Babylon and all who live in Babylonia for the wrong they have done in Zion, declares the LORD.”

Jerimiah 52: “So in the ninth year of Zedekiah’s reign, on the tenth day of the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon marched against Jerusalem with his whole army.” “By the ninth day of the fourth month the famine in the city had become so severe that there was no food for the people to eat. Then the city wall was broken through, and the whole army fled.” “He set fire to the temple of the LORD, the royal palace and all the houses of Jerusalem. Every important building he burned down.” “He released Jehoiachin king of Judah and freed him from prison. He spoke kindly to him and gave him a seat of honor higher than those of the other kings who were with him in Babylon.”

Lamentations 1: “How deserted lies the city, once so full of people. How like a widow she is, who once was great among the nations. She who was queen among the provinces has now become a slave.” “After affliction and harsh labour, Judah has gone into exile.” “All her people groan as they search for bread; they barter their treasures for food to keep themselves alive.” “My sins have been bound into a yoke; by his hands they were woven together.”

Lamentations 2: “How the LORD has covered daughter Zion with the cloud of his anger! He has hurled down the splendor of Israel from heaven to earth; he has not remembered his footstool in the day of his anger.” “The LORD has made Zion forget her appointed festivals and her Sabbaths; in his fierce anger he has spurned both king and priest. The LORD has rejected his alter and abandoned his sanctuary.”

Lamentations 3: “I am the man who has seen affliction by the rod of the LORD’s wrath. He has driven me away and made me walk in darkness rather than light; indeed, he has turned his hand against me again and again, all day long.” “I say to myself, The LORD is my portion; therefore, I will wait for him. The LORD is good to those who’s hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.”

Lamentations 4: “Even jackals offer their breasts to nurse their young, but my people have become heartless like ostriches in the desert.” “With their own hands compassionate women have cooked their own children, who became their food when my people were destroyed.”

Lamentations 5: “Remember, LORD, what has happened to us; look and see our disgrace. Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers, our homes to foreigners.” “Joy is gone from our hearts; our dancing has turned to mourning. The crown has fallen from our head. Woe to us, for we have sinned!” “Restore us to yourself, LORD, that we may return; renew our days as of old unless you have utterly rejected us and are angry with us beyond measure.”

Ezekiel 1: “In my thirteenth year, in the fourth month on the fifth day, while I was among the exiles by the Kedar River, the heavens were opened and I saw a vision. On the fifth of the month—it was the fifth year of the exile of King Jehoiachin—the word of the LORD came to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, by the Kedar River in the land of the Babylonians.” When the heavens were opened, Ezekiel saw four living creatures and high above the throne was a figure like that of a man surrounded by the light like a rainbow: “This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. When I saw it, I fell facedown, and I heard a voice of one speaking.”

Ezekiel 2: “He said: Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me to this very day.” “But you, son of man, listen to what I say to you. Do not rebel like that rebellious people; open your mouth and eat what I give you.”

Ezekiel 3: “Then he said to me, Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it. So, I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth.” “And he said to me, Son of man, listen carefully and take to heart all the words I speak to you. Go now to your people in exile and speak to them. Say to them, this is what the LORD say.” “Whoever will listen let them listen, and whoever will refuse, let them refuse; for they are a rebellious people.”

Ezekiel 4: “Now, son of man, take a block of clay, put it in front of you and draw the city of Jerusalem on it. Then lay siege to it: Erect siege works against it, build a ramp up to it, set up camps against it and put battering rams around it.” “Then lie on your left side and put the sin of the people of Israel upon yourself. You are to bear their sin for the number of days you lie on your side.”

Ezekiel 5: “Therefore, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: You have been more unruly than the nations around you and have not followed my decrees or kept my laws. You have not even conformed to the standards of the nations around you.” “I will make you a ruin and a reproach among the nations around you, in the sight of all who pass by.”

Ezekiel 6: “I am about to bring a sword against you, and I will destroy your high places. Your alters will be demolished and your incense alters will be smashed.” “But I will spare some, for some of you will escape the sword when you are scattered among the lands and nations. Then in the nations where you have been carried captive, those who escape will remember me—**how I have been grieved** by their adulterous hearts, which they have turned away from me, and by their eyes, which have lusted after their idols.”

Ezekiel 7: “Son of man, this is what the Sovereign LORD says to the land of Israel: The end! The end has come upon the four corners of the land! The end is now upon you, and I will unleash my anger against you.” “They took pride in their beautiful jewellery and used it to make their detestable idols. They made it into vile images; Therefore, I will make it a thing unclean to them.”

Ezekiel 8: “Then he said to me, Son of man, look toward the north. So I looked, and in the entrance north of the gate of the alter I saw this idol of jealousy.” “So I went in and looked, and I saw portrayed all over the walls all kinds of crawling things and unclean animals and all the idols of Israel.” “Again, he said to me, you will see them doing things that are even more detestable.” “With their backs towards the temple of the LORD and their faces towards the east, they were bowing down to the sun in the east.”

Ezekiel 9: “Now the glory of the God of Israel went up from above the cherubim, where it had been, and move to the threshold of the temple. Then the LORD called to the man clothed in linen who had the writing kit at his side and said to him, ‘Go throughout the city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of those who grieve and lament over all the detestable things that are done in it.’ As I listened, he said to the others, ‘Follow him throughout the city and kill, without showing pity or compassion. Slaughter the old men, the young men and women, the mothers and the children, but do not touch anyone who has the mark. Begin at my sanctuary.’”

Ezekiel 10: “Now the cherubim were standing on the south side of the temple when the man went in, and a cloud filled the inner court. Then the glory of the LORD rose from above the cherubim and moved to the threshold of the temple.” “When the cherubim stood still, they also stood still; and when the cherubim rose, they rose with them, because the spirit of the living creatures was in them. Then the glory of the LORD departed from over the threshold of the temple and stopped over the cherubim. While I watched, the cherubim spread their wings and rose from the ground, and as they went, the wheels went with them.”

Ezekiel 11: “Therefore say: This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will gather you from the nations and bring you back from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you back the land of Israel again. They will return to it and remove all its vile images and detestable idols. I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh.”

Ezekiel 12: “The word of the LORD came to me: Son of man, you are living among a rebellious people. They have eyes but do not see and ears to hear but do not hear, for they are a rebellious people.” “Say to them, I am a sign to you. As I have done, so it will be done to them. They will go into exile as captives.” “But I will spare a few of them from the sword, famine, and plague so that in the nations where they go they may acknowledge all their detestable practices. Then they will know that I am the LORD.”

Ezekiel 13: “Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am against your magic charms with which you ensnare people like birds, and I will tear them from your arms.” “Because you disheartened the righteous with your lies, when I had brought them no grief, and because you encouraged the wicked not to turn from their evil ways and so save their lives, therefore you will no longer see false visions or practice divination. I will save my people from your hands. And they will know that I am the LORD.”

Ezekiel 14: “When any of the Israelites set up idols in their hearts and put a wicked stumbling block before their faces and then go to a prophet, I the LORD will answer them myself in keeping with their great idolatry.” “Therefore, say to the people of Israel, This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Repent! Turn from your idols and renounce all your detestable practices!”

Ezekiel 15: Jerusalem as a useless vine: “The word of the LORD came to me: Son of man, how is the wood of a vine different from that of a branch from any of the trees in the forest? Is wood ever taken from it to make anything useful? Do they make pegs from it to hang things on? And after it is thrown on the fire as fuel and the fire burns both ends and chars the middle, is it then useful for anything? If it not useful for anything when it is whole, how much less can it be made useful when the fire has burned it and it is charred.”

Ezekiel 16: God found Israel and cared for her, and she became beautiful, adorned and well cared for. “But you trusted in your beauty and used your fame to become a prostitute.” “And you took your sons and daughters whom you bore to me and sacrificed them as food to the idols. Was your prostitution not enough? You slaughtered my children and sacrificed them to idols. In all you detestable practices and your prostitution you did not remember the days of your youth, when you were naked and bare, kicking about in your blood.”

Ezekiel 17: “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will take a shoot from the very top of the cedar and plant it; I will break off a tender sprig from its topmost shoots and plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain heights of Israel, I will plant it; It will produce branches and bear fruit and become a splendid cedar. Birds of every kind will nest in it; They will find shelter in the shade of its branches. All the trees of the forest will know that I the LORD bring down the tall tree and make the low tree grow tall.”

Ezekiel 18: “But if a wicked person turns from all the sins they have committed and keeps all my decrees and does what is just and right, that person will surely live; they will not die. None of the offenses they have committed will be remembered against them. Because of the righteous things they have done, they will live. Do I take pleasure in the death of the wicked? Declares the sovereign LORD. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live? But if the righteous person turns from righteousness and commits sin and does the same detestable things the wicked person does, will they live? None of the righteous things that person has done will be remembered. Because of the unfaithfulness they are guilty of and because the sins they have committed, they will die.”

Ezekiel 19: “Your mother was like a vine in your vineyard planted by the water; it was fruitful and full of branches because of abundant water. Its branches were strong, fit for a ruler’s scepter. It towered high above the thick foliage, conspicuous for its height and for its many branches. But it was uprooted in fury and thrown to the ground. The east wind made it shrivel, it was stripped of its fruit; its strong branches withered and fire consumed them. Now it is planted in the dessert, in a dry and thirsty land. Fire spread from one of its main branches and consumed its fruit.”

Ezekiel 20: “Therefore say to the Israelites: This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Will you defile yourselves the way your ancestors did and lust after their vile images? When you offer gifts—the sacrifice of your children in the fire—you continue to defile yourselves with all your idols to this day. Am I to let you inquire of me, you Israelites? As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I will not let you inquire of me. You say, We want to be like the nations, like the people of the world, who serve wood and stone. But what you have in mind will never happen.”

Ezekiel 21 “Therefore groan, son of man! Groan before them with broken heart and bitter grief. And when they ask you, why are you groaning? You shall say, Because of the news that is coming. Every heart will melt with fear and every hand go limp; every spirit will become faint, and every leg will be wet with urine. It is coming! It will surely take place, declares the Sovereign LORD.”

Ezekiel 22: “Her priests do violence to my laws and profane my holy things; they do not distinguish between the holy and the common; they teach that there is no difference between the unclean and the clean; and they shut their eyes to the keeping of my Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them.” “I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one.”

Ezekiel 23: “The LORD said to me: Son of man, will you judge Oholah and Oholibah? Then confront them with these detestable practices, for they have committed adultery and blood is on their hands. They committed adultery with their idols; they even sacrificed their children, whom they bore to me, as food for them. They have also done this to me: At that same time they defiled my sanctuary and desecrated my Sabbaths. On the very day they sacrificed their children to their idols, they entered my sanctuary and desecrated it. That is what they did in my house.

Ezekiel 24: ‘The word of the LORD came to me: Son of man, with one blow I am about to take away from you the delight of your eyes. Yet do not lament or weep or shed any tears. Groan quietly; do not mourn for the dead. Keep your turban fastened and your sandals on your feet; do not cover your mustache and beard or eat the customary food for mourners. So I spoke to the people in the mourning, and in the evening my wife died. The next morning, I did as I had been commanded.”

Ezekiel 25: A prophecy against Ammon: “Because you have clapped your hands and stamped your feet, rejoicing with all the malice of your heart against the land of Israel, therefore I will stretch out my hand against you and give you as plunder to the nations. I will wipe you out from among the nations and exterminate you from among the countries. I will destroy you, and you will know that I am the LORD.” A prophecy against Moab, Edom, and against Philistia.

Ezekiel 26: A prophecy against Tyre: “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: When I make you a desolate city, like cities no longer inhabited, and when I bring the ocean depths over you and its vast waters cover you, then I will bring you down with those who go down to the pit, to the people of long ago. I will make you dwell in the earth below, as in ancient ruins, with those who go down to the pit, and you will not return or take your place in the land of the living. I will bring you to a horrible and you will be no more.”

Ezekiel 27: A lament over Tyre: “All who handle the oars will abandon their ships; the mariners and all the sailors will stand on the shore. They will raise their voice and cry bitterly over you; they will sprinkle dust on their heads and roll in ashes. They will shave their heads because of you and will put on sackcloth. They will weep over you with anguish of soul and with bitter mourning.”

Ezekiel 28: “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: When I gather the people of Israel from the nations where they have been scattered, I will be proved holy through them in the sight of the nations. Then they will live in their own land, which I gave to my servant Jacob. They will live there in safety and will build houses and plant vineyards; they will live in safety when I inflict punishment on all their neighbors who maligned them. Then they will know that I am the LORD their God.”

Ezekiel 29: “Son of man, set your face against Pharoah king of Egypt and prophecy against him and against all Egypt. Speak to him and say: This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am against you, Pharoah, king of Egypt, you great monster lying among the streams.” “I will bring a sword against you and kill both man and beast. Egypt will become a desolate wasteland. Then they will know that I am the LORD.”

Ezekiel 30: “A sword will come against Egypt, her wealth will be carried away and her foundations torn down.” “I will put an end to the hordes of Egypt by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. He and his army—the most ruthless of nations—will be brought in to destroy the land.”

Ezekiel 31: Son of man, say to Pharoah king of Egypt and to his hordes: Who can be compared with you in majesty? Consider Assyria, once a cedar in Lebanon, with beautiful branches overshadowing the forest; it towered on high, its tops above the thick foliage.” “Which of the trees of Eden can be compared with you in splendor and majesty? Yet you too, will be brought down with the trees of Eden to the earth below; you will lie among the uncircumcised, with those killed by the sword.”

Ezekiel 32: “For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: The sword of the king of Babylon will come against you. I will cause your hordes to fall by the swords of mighty men—the most ruthless of all nations. They will shatter the pride of Egypt, and all her hordes will be overthrown.” “When I make Egypt desolate and strip the land of everything in it, when I strike down all who live there, then they will know that I am the LORD.”

Ezekiel 33: “Son of man, say to the Israelites, This is what they are saying: Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live? Say to them, As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, you people of Israel? Therefore, son of man, say to your people, **If someone who is righteous disobeys**, that person’s former righteousness will count for nothing.”

Ezekiel 34: “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Woe to you, shepherds of Israel who only take care of yourselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock? You eat the curds, cloth yourselves with wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the flock. You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally. So, they were scattered because there was no shepherd, and when they were scattered, they became food for all the wild animals.” “For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them.” “I will shepherd the flock with justice.”

Ezekiel 35: “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: While the whole earth rejoices, I will make you desolate. Because you rejoiced when the inheritance of Israel became desolate, that is how I will treat you. You will be desolate, Mount Seir, you and all of Edom. Then you will know that I am the LORD.”

Ezekiel 36: “But you, mountains of Israel, will produce branches and fruit for my people Israel, for they will soon come home. I am concerned for you and will look on you with favor; you will be plowed and sown, and I will cause many people to live on you—yes, all of Israel. The towns will be inhabited, and the ruins rebuilt. I will increase the number of people and animals living on you, and they will become numerous. I will settle people on you as in the past and will make you prosper mare than before. Then you will know that I am the LORD.”

Ezekiel 37: The LORD led Ezekiel into a valley that was filled with dry bones, “And he asked me, Son of man, can these bones live? I said, Sovereign LORD, you alone know. Then he said to me, prophecy to these bones and say to them, Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you and you will come to life.” “And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone.” “So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.”

Ezekiel 38: The LORD’s great victory over the nations: “On that day thoughts will come into your mind and you will devise an evil scheme. You will say, ‘I will invade a land of unwalled villages; I will attack a peaceful and unsuspecting people—all of them living without walls and without gates and bars.’” “You will come from your place in the far north, you and many nations with you, all of them riding on horses, a great horde, a mighty army.” “I will execute judgement on him with plague and bloodshed.” “Then you will know that I am the LORD.”

Ezekiel 39: “Then those who live in the towns of Israel will go out and use the weapons for fuel and burn them up—the small and the large shields, the bows and the arrows, the war clubs and spears. For seven years they will use them for fuel. They will not need to gather wood from the fields or cut it from the forests, because they will use the weapons for fuel. And they will plunder those who plundered them and loot those who loot them, declares the Sovereign LORD.” “People will be continually employed in cleansing the land.”

Ezekiel 40: “In the twenty-fifth year of our exile, at the beginning of the year, on the tenth of the month, in the fourteenth year after the fall of the city—on that very day the hand of the LORD was on me and he took me there.” “Then he said to me, Son of man, look carefully and listen closely and pay attention to everything I am going to show you, for that is why you have been brought here. Tell the people of Israel everything you see.” There he showed Ezekiel the rooms for preparing sacrifices and the rooms for the priests.

Ezekiel 41: “He brought me to the portico of the temple and measured the jambs of the portico; they were five cubits wide on either side.” “The structure surrounding the temple was built in ascending stages, so that the rooms widened as one went upward. A stairway went from the lowest floor to the top floor through the middle floor. I saw that the temple had a raised base all around it, forming the foundations of the side rooms.”

Ezekiel 42: “Then the man led me northward into the outer court and brought me to the rooms opposite the temple courtyard and opposite the outer wall on the north side.” “Then he said to me, The north and south rooms facing the temple courtyard are the priests’ rooms, where the priests who approach the LORD will eat the most holy offerings—the grain offerings, the sin offerings, and the guilt offerings.” “So he measured the area on all four sides. It had a wall around it, five hundred cubits long and five hundred cubits wide, to separate the holy from the common.”

Ezekiel 43: “Then the man brought me to the gate facing east, and I saw the glory of the God od Israel coming from the east. His voice was like the roars of rushing waters, and the land was radiant with his glory.” “The glory of the LORD entered the temple through the gate facing east. Then the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. While the man was standing beside me, I heard someone speaking to me from inside the temple. He said: Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place for the souls of my feet. This is where I will live among the Israelites forever.”

Ezekiel 44: “Then the man brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, the one facing east, and it was shut. The LORD said to me, This gate is to remain shut. It must not be opened; no one may enter through it. It is to remain shut because the LORD, the God of Israel, has entered through it.” “This is what the LORD says: Enough of your detestable practices, people of Israel.” “No foreigner uncircumcised in heart and flesh is to enter my sanctuary, not even the foreigners who live among the Israelites.”

Ezekiel 45: “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: You have gone far enough, you princes of Israel! Give up your violence and oppression and do what is just and right. Stop dispossessing my people, declares the Sovereign LORD. You are to use accurate scales, and accurate ephah and an accurate bath.” “In the first month on the fourteenth day you are to observe the Passover, a festival lasting seven days, during which you shall eat bread made without yeast.”

Ezekiel 46: “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: The gate of the inner court facing east is to be shut on the six working days, but on the Sabbath day and on the day of the New Moon festival it is to be opened.” “On the Sabbath and New Moons the people of the land are to worship in the presence of the LORD at the entrance of that gateway.” “No one is to return through the gate by which the entered, but each is to go out of the opposite gate.”

Ezekiel 47: “The man brought me back to the entrance of the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple towards the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming from under the south side of the temple, south of the alter. He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside of the outer gate facing east, and the water was trickling from the south side.” “There was large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live.” “Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water that flows from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve as food and their leaves for healing.”

Ezekiel 48: The divisions of the land, each by tribe, with a special portion given to the Zadokites, “Who were faithful in serving me and did not go astray as the Levites did when the Israelites went astray. It will be a special gift to them from the sacred portion of the land, a most holy portion, bordering the territory of the Levites.” “They must not sell or exchange any of it. This is the best of the land and must not pass into other hands, because it is holy to the LORD.” The gates of the New City total twelve, 3 on each of the four sides. The city is square, with each of the four walls 4500 cubits. “The distance all around will be 18,000 cubits. And the name of the city from that time on will be: THE LORD IS THEE.”

**THE RETURN FROM EXILE**

Ezra 1: “In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jerimiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also put it into writing: This is what Cyrus, king of Persia says: The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them. And in any locality where survivors may now be living, the people are to provide them with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with freewill offerings for the temple of God in Jerusalem.”

Ezra 2: The whole company numbered 42’360, besides their slaves and singers. “When they arrived at the house of the LORD in Jerusalem, some of the heads of the families gave freewill offerings toward the rebuilding of the house of God on its site. According to their ability they gave to the treasury for this work 61’000 darics of gold, 5000 minas of silver and 100 priestly garments. The priests, the Levites, the musicians the gatekeepers and the temple servants settled in their own towns, along with some of the other people, and the rest of the Israelites settled in their towns.”

Ezra 3: “Despite their fear of the peoples around them, they built the alter on its foundation and sacrificed burnt offerings on it to the LORD.” “They appointed Levites twenty years old and more to supervise the building of the house of the LORD.” “And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LOPRD had been laid. But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of the temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy.”

Ezra 4: “When the enemies of Judah and Benjamin heard that the exiles were building the temple for the LORD, the God of Israel, they came to Zerubbabel and to the heads of the families and said, Let us help you build.” But the Israelites answered, “You have no part with us in building the temple to our God.” “Then the people around them set out to discourage the people of Judah and make them afraid to go on building.” Furthermore, they wrote a letter to King Artaxerxes and had him issue a decree to stop the progress. “Thus, the work on the house of God in Jerusalem came to a standstill until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.”

Ezra 5: Haggai and Zachariah prophesied to the Jews and they once again began building, “and the prophets of God were with them, supporting them.” Tattanai, governor of the Trans-Euphrates along with their associates asked, “Who authorized you to rebuild this temple and to finish it?” Then they reported all of this to King Darius with this request, “Now if it pleases the king, let a search be made in the royal archives of Babylon to see if King Cyrus did in fact issue a decree to rebuild this house of God in Jerusalem. Then let the king send us his decision in this matter.”

Ezra 6: King Darius had a search made in the archives and the scroll of King Cyrus was discovered. King Darius then sent them this instruction, “Do not interfere with the work of the temple of God. Let the governor of the Jews and the Jewish elders rebuild this house of God on its site. Moreover, I herby decree what you are to do for these elders of the Jews in the construction of this house of God: Their expenses are to be fully paid out of the royal treasury, from the revenues of the Trans-Euphrates, so that the work will not stop.” “On the fourteenth day of the first month, the exiles celebrated the Passover.”

Ezra 7: Ezra, one of the descendants of Aaron the chief priest, “This Ezra came up from Babylon. He was a teacher well versed in the Law of Moses, which the LORD, the God of Israel, had given. The king had granted him everything ha asked for, for the hand of the LORD his God was on him.” King Artaxerxes sent provisions along with these instructions, “With this money be sure to but bulls, rams and male lambs, together with their grain offerings and drink offerings, and sacrifice them on the alter of the temple of your God in Jerusalem.”

Ezra 8: Ezra traveled from Babylon with a large group: “There, by the Ahava Canal, I proclaimed a fast, so that we might humble ourselves before our God and ask him for a safe journey for us and our children, with all our possessions. I was ashamed to ask the king for solders and horsemen to protect us from enemies on the road, because we had told the king, ‘The gracious hand of our God is on everyone who looks to him, but his great anger is against all who forsake him.’ So we fasted and petitioned our God about this, and he answered our prayers.”

Ezra 9: After all these things had been done, the leaders came to Ezra and said, the people of Israel, including the priests and Levites have not kept themselves separate from the neighboring peoples, but “have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and their sons.” “When I heard this, I tore my tunic and cloak, pulled hair from my head and beard and sat down appalled.” “Then, at evening sacrifice, I rose from my self-abasement, with my tunic and cloak torn, and fell on my knees with my hands spread out to the LORD my God and prayed.” “We are left this day as a remnant. Here we are before you in our guilt, though because of it not one of us can stand in your presence.”

Ezra 10: “While Ezra was praying and confessing, weeping and throwing himself down before the house of God, a large crowd of Israelites—men, women and children—gathered around him. They too wept bitterly.” Then, Shekaniah said to Ezra, “Now let us make a covenant before our God to send away all these women and their children.” Ezra instructed the leaders to do as Shekaniah had suggested and he withdrew from the assembly. “While he was there, he ate no food and drank no water, because he continued to mourn over the unfaithfulness of the exiles.” So the exiles did as proposed, “and by the first day of the first month they finished dealing with all the men who had married foreign women.”

Nehemiah 1: “The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, Hanani, one of the brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. They said to me, those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The walls of Jerusalem have been broken down and the gates burned with fire. When I heard these things, I sat down and wept.” Nehemiah repents for his sins and the sins of the people before praying, “‘Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man.’ I was cup bearer to the king.”

Nehemiah 2: “I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before, so the king asked me, ‘Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill.? This can be nothing but sadness but sadness of heart.’ I was very much afraid, but I said to the king, ‘may the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?’ The king said to me, ‘What is it you want.’” Nehemiah requests permission to go back to Jerusalem and rebuild, “And because the gracious hand of the LORD was upon me, the king granted my request.”

Nehemiah 3: With Nehemiah, the people living in Jerusalem began rebuilding the walls and the gates. Some worked diligently, laying beams and putting doors and bars in place, and bolting them together, but some failed to see the vision. “The next section was repaired by the men of Tekoa, but their nobles would not put their shoulders to the work under their supervisors,” yet others like, “Shallum son of Hasshub, ruler of the half-district of Jerusalem, repaired the next section with his daughters.”

Nehemiah 4: “When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, ‘What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring those stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?’ Tobiah the ammonite, who was at his side, said, ‘What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their walls of stone!’ Others too, plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem, “But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet their threat.”

Nehemiah 5: “Now the men and their wives raised a great outcry against their fellow Jews. Some were saying, ‘We and our sons and daughters are numerous; in order for us to eat and stay alive, we must great grain.’” Some were mortgaging their fields and others were borrowing money to pay the kings taxes. Nehemiah pondered these things in his mind and then responded, “What you are doing is not right.” “I and my brothers and my men are also lending the people money and grain. But let us stop charging them interest! Give back to them immediately their fields, vineyards, olive groves and houses, and also the interest you are charging them.” Though many around us lorded it over the people. “But out of reverence for God I did not act like that.” “Remember me with favor, my God, for I have done all this for these people.”

Nehemiah 6: Now Sanballat and Tobiah, along with Geshem sent this request, “Come, let us meet together ion one of the villages on the plain of Ono.” Four times they sent this message, but since they were scheming to harm us, Nehemiah did not go. A fifth time, Nehemiah received a message from them accusing the Jews of a revolt. Then they encouraged Nehemiah to go into hiding, “But I said, ‘Should a man like me run away? Or should someone like me go into the temple to save his life? I will not go.’ I realized that that God had not sent him, but that he had prophesied against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hire him.” “Remember Tobiah and Sanballat, my God, because of what they have done.”

Nehemiah 7: “After the wall had been rebuilt and I had set the doors in place, the gatekeepers, the musicians, and the Levites were appointed.” “Now the city was large and spacious, but therewere few people in it, and the houses had not yet been rebuilt. So my God put it into my heart to assemble the nobles, the officials and the common people for registration by families.” “The whole company numbered 42’360, besides their 7337 male and female slaves; and they also had 245 male and female singers.”

Nehemiah 8: When the Israelites had settled in their towns, “All the people came together as one in the square before the water gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel.” “Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, Amen! Amen! Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.” The Levites instructed the people, “Making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read.” And once again, they celebrated the Feast Tabernacles.

Nehemiah 9: “On the twenty-fourth day of the same month, the Israelites gathered together, fasting and wearing sackcloth and putting dust on their heads. Those of Israelite descent had separated themselves from all foreigners. They stood in their places and confessed their sins and the sins of their ancestors.” After reading from the Book of the Law and worshipping, the Levites said, “Stand up and praise the LORD your God, who is from everlasting to everlasting.” The Israelites concluded their time of praise with a plea for help, “But see, we are slaves today, slaves in a land you gave your ancestors.”

Nehemiah 10: The Israelites gather together, making a binding agreement and putting it into writing, sealed by the leaders of the people. “The rest of the people—priests, Levites, gatekeepers, musicians, temple servants and all who separated themselves from the neighboring peoples for the sake of the Law of God, together with their wives and their sons and daughters who are able to understand—all these now join their fellow Israelites the nobles, and bind themselves with a curse and an oath to follow the Law of God given through Moses the servant of God and to obey carefully all the commands, regulations and decrees of the LORD our Lord.” “We will not neglect the house of our God.”

Nehemiah 11: Now the leaders of the people settled in Jerusalem. The rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of every ten of them to live in Jerusalem, the holy city, while the remaining nine were to stay in their own towns. The people commended all who volunteered to live in Jerusalem.”

Nehemiah 12: “At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, the Levites were sought out from where they lived and were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate joyfully the dedication with songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps and lyres.” “I had the leaders of Judah go up on top of the wall. I also assigned two large choirs to give thanks. One was to proceed on the top of the wall to the right,” “The second choir proceeded in the opposite direction. I followed them on the top of the wall.” “And on that day they offered great sacrifices, rejoicing because God had given them great joy. The women and children also rejoiced. The sound of rejoicing in Jerusalem could be heard far away.”

Nehemiah 13: “On that day the Book of Moses was read aloud in the hearing of the people and there it was found written that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever be admitted into the assembly of God, because they had not met the Israelites with food and water but had hired Balaam to call a curse down on them.” “When the people of Israel heard this law, they excluded from Israel all who were of foreign descent.” “While all this was going on, I was not in Jerusalem.” “Here I learned about the evil things Eliashib had done by providing Tobiah a room in the courts of the house of God. I was greatly displeased and threw all Tobiah’s household goods out of the room.” Nehemiah also found that the Levites had not received their portions and that they, along with the musicians had gone back to working in their fields. People were found treading the winepress and trading on the Sabbath, and Nehemiah commanded them to purify themselves, and he closes his letter with a prayer, “Remember me with favor, my God.”

Esther 1: “This is what happened during the time of Xerxes, the Xerxes who ruled over 127 provinces stretching from India to Cush.” “For a full 180 days he displayed his vast wealth in his kingdom and the splendor and glory of his majesty. When those days were over, the king gave a banquet, lasting seven days.” On the seventh day, when the king was in good spirits from wine, he commanded the Queen Vashti be brought before him, displaying her beauty. “But when the attendants delivered the king’s command, Queen Vashti refused to come. Then the king became furious and burned with anger.” After consulting his experts, King Xerxes had Queen Vashti removed from her position.

Esther 2: When King Xerxes fury had subsided, his personal attendants proposed: “Let a search be made for beautiful young virgins for the king.” “‘Then let the young woman who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti.’ This advice appealed to the king, and he followed it.” Mordecai was one of the Jews who had returned from exile with his cousin, Esther, who had a lovely figure and was beautiful. She was one of the women selected and brought to the king. “Esther had not revealed her nationality and family background, because Mordecai had forbidden her to do so. Every day he walked back and forth near the courtyard of the harem to find out how Esther was and what was happening to her.” “Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women, and she won his favor.” While Mordecai was sitting at the kings gate, he became aware of a plot to kill King Xerxes. Mordecai was given credit for saving the king’s life.

Esther 3: After this event, the king had one of his men, Haman elevated giving him great honor, but Mordecai refused to kneel down or pay him honor. When Haman learned that Mordecai refused to pay him honor, he plotted to kill not only Mordecai, but all the Jews. Haman made his petition before the king and the king replied, “Do with the people as you please.” “Dispatches were sent by couriers to all the king’s provinces with the order to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews—young and old, women and children—on a single day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods.”

Esther 4: “When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly.” “There was a great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing.” Mordecai sent a message to Esther, instructing her to go into the king’s presence and plead for mercy for the lives of all the Jews. “And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this.” Esther instructs all of the Jews to fast and pray for three days for her before she steps before the king to make her request, which was against the law.

Esther 5: “On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the palace, in front of the king’s hall. The king was sitting on his royal throne in the hall, facing the entrance. When he saw Queen Esther in the court, he was pleased with her and held out to her the gold scepter that was in his hand. So Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter. Then the king asked, ‘What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given you.’” Queen Esther invited King Xerxes along with Haman to a special banquet that she would prepare for them. The king accepted the invitation and went with Mordecai to dine before Esther. But Esther insisted that the two of them come for a second meal before she makes her request of the king.

Esther 6: “That night the king could not sleep; so he ordered the book of chronicles, the record of his reign,” be brought in and read to him. It was found that Mordecai had exposed the plot to kill the king. “What honor and recognition has Mordecai received for this? The king asked. Nothing has been done for him, his attendants answered.” “Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the palace to speak to the king about impaling Mordecai on the pole he had set up for him.” When the king say Haman, he asked him, “What should be done for man the king delights to honor?” Haman was certain the king intended to honor him, so he encouraged the king have this man elevated and honored in public. The king agreed and sent Haman to do all of this for Mordecai. Humiliated, Mordecai entered into the banquet that Queen Esther had prepared.

Esther 7: As they were drinking wine, the king asked, “Queen Esther, what is your petition? It will be given you.” “If I have found favor with you, your majesty, and if it pleases you, grant me my life—this is my petition.” When Queen Esther reveals Haman plot to kill the Jews, the king leaves in a rage, but Haman stays behind to beg Queen Esther for his life. When the king returned, he found Haman on the couch where Esther was reclining. He ordered that Haman be impaled on the same pole that was intended for Mordecai.

Esther 8: “Esther again pleaded with the king, falling at his feet and weeping. She begged him to put an end to the evil plan of Haman the Agagite, which he had devised against the Jews.” The king gave orders to have another document written. “The kings edict granted the Jews in every city the right to assemble and protect themselves; to destroy, kill and annihilate the armed men of any nationality or province who might attack them and their women and children, and to plunder the property of their enemies.” It was a time of joyous celebration. “And many people of other nationalities became Jews because fear of the Jews had seized them.”

Esther 9: “On the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, the edict commanded by the king was to be carried out. On this day the enemies of the Jews had hoed to overpower them, but now the tables were turned, and the Jews got the upper hand of those who hated them.” “No one could stand against them because the people of all the other nationalities were afraid of them.” “Mordecai was prominent in the palace; his reputation spread throughout the provinces, and he became more and more powerful.” “Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews living in to provinces of King Xerxes, near and far, to have them celebrate annually the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar, as the time when the Jews got relief from their enemies.” These days are called Purim, from the word *pur*.

Esther 10: “King Xerxes imposed tribute throughout the empire, to its distant shores. And all his acts of power and might, together with a full account of the greatness of Mordecai, whom the king had promoted, are they not written in the book of annals of the kings of Media and Persia? Mordecai the Jew was second in rank to King Xerxes, and held in high esteem by his fellow Jews, because he worked for the good of his people and spoke up for the welfare of the Jews.”

**Prophets after the Exile:**

Daniel 1: “In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put into the treasury house of his god.” Along with this, Nebuchadnezzar took captives, young intelligent and handsome men, who he intended to train for three years before entering his service. “But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself in this way.” “At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. The king talked with them and found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; so they entered the king’s service.”

Daniel 2: “In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep.” “The king replied to the astrologers, ‘This is what I have firmly decided: If you do not tell me what my dream was and interpret it, I will have you cut into pieces and your houses turned into piles of rubble. But if you tell me the dream and explain it, you will receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor. So, tell me the dream and interpret it for me.” “The astrologers answered the king, ‘There is no one on earth who can do what the king asks.’” “During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision.” Daniel reveals the vision which is a revelation from God. “In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.”

Daniel 3: “King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide, and set it in the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.” He then summoned everyone to come to the dedication and they all came, furthermore he ordered, “Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.” Nebuchadnezzar was enraged when he learned that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego paid no attention to his orders. “So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace.” But God rescued them from the fire and the king witnessed it. He then declared, “Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be cut to pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way.”

Daniel 4: “I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at home in my palace, contented and prosperous. I had a dream that made me afraid.” “I looked and there before me stood a tree in the middle of the land. Its height was enormous.” The tree was cut down and only its stump remained. “This is the dream that I, King Nebuchadnezzar, had. Now, Belteshazzar, tell me what it means, for none of the wise men in my kingdom can interpret it for me.” Daniel reluctantly delivered the meaning. “Your majesty, you are the tree! You have become great and strong; your greatness has grown until it reaches the sky, and your dominion extends to distant parts of the earth.” Nebuchadnezzar’s dream was fulfilled, and he lost everything until the day that he acknowledged the Sovereign God of heaven.

Daniel 5: King Belshazzar became king in place of his father, Nebuchadnezzar, and he gave a great banquet. “As they drank wine, they praise the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone. Suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall.” The king summoned the astrologers and enchanters, but they could not read the writing. Then he summoned Daniel who read the writing, “MENE, MENE, TEKEL, PARSIN.” God had numbered the days of Belshazzar’s life and they had come to an end. “That very night Belshazzar, king of the Babylonians was slain, and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom, at the age of sixty-two.”

Daniel 6: “It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might no suffer loss. Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.” Those around Daniel became jealous and looked for ways to destroy him. They convinced King Darius to issue a decree that Daniel would be thrown into the lion’s den if he was found praying. When Daniel learned of the decree, he continued to pray. Daniel was thrown into the lion’s den, but the angel of the LORD kept him safe. At the king’s command, the men who plotted against Daniel were thrown into the lion’s den with their wives and children.

Daniel 7: Daniel’s Dream of Four Beasts: “In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying in bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream Daniel said: ‘In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea. Four great beasts, each different from the other, came up out of the sea.” Daniel was troubled and he was given this interpretation: “The four great beasts are the four kings that will rise from the earth.” “The fourth beast is the fourth kingdom that will appear on the earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it.”

Daniel 8: Daniel’s Vision of a Ram and a Goat: “In the third year of King Belshazzar’s reign, I, Daniel had a vision, after the one that had already appeared to me.” “While I, Daniel, was watching the vision and trying to understand it, there before me stood one who looked like a man. And I heard a man’s voice from Ulai calling, ‘Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of the vision.’ As he came near the place where I was standing, I was terrified and fell prostrate. ‘Son of man,’ he said, ‘understand that the vision concerns the time of the end.’”

Daniel 9: Daniel’s Prayer: “I, Daniel, understood from the scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given by Jerimiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last for seventy years. So, I turned to the LORD God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed: “LORD, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, we have sinned and done wrong.” “The LORD did not hesitate to bring the disaster on us, for the LORD our God is righteous in everything he does; yet we have not obeyed him.”

Daniel 10: Daniel’s Vision of a Man: In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a revelation was given to Daniel. Its message was true, and it concerned a great war. “I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. His body was like topaz, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude.” “Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come.”

Daniel 11: “Now then, I tell you the truth: Three more kings will arise in Persia, and then a fourth, who will be far richer than all the others. When he has gained power by his great wealth, he will stir up everyone against the kingdom of Greece.” His army forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation. With flattery he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant, but the people who know their God will firmly resist him. Those who are wise will instruct many, though for a time they will fall by the sword or be burned or captured or plundered. When they fall, they will receive a little help, and many who are not sincere will join them. Some of the wise will stumble, so that they may be refined, purified and made spotless until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time.”

Daniel 12: “At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the time of the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone who’s name is found written in the book—will be delivered. Multitudes who sleep in the dust will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. But you, Daniel, roll up and seal the words of the scroll until; the time of the end.”

Hosea 1: “When the LORD began to speak through Hosea, the LORD said to him, ‘Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the LORD.’ So he married Gomer, daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and gave birth to a son. Then the LORD said to Hosea, ‘Call him Jezreel, because I will soon punish the house of Jehu for the massacre at Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of Israel.’”

Hosea 2: “She has not acknowledged that I was the one who gave her the grain, the new wine and oil, who lavished on her the silver and the gold—which they used for Baal. Therefore I will take away my grain when it ripens, and my new wine when it is ready. I will take back my wool and my linen, intended to cover her naked body.” “I will plant her for myself in the land; I will show my love to the one I called, ‘not my loved one.’ I will say to those called ‘Not my people,’ ‘You are my people;’ and they will say, ‘You are my God.’”

Hosea 3: “The LORD said to me, ‘Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is an adulterous. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes.’” “For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or household gods.”

Hosea 4: “Hear the word of the LORD, you Israelites. Because the LORD has a charge to bring against you who live in the land: ‘There is no faithfulness, no love, no acknowledgement of God in the land.” “Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.” “The Israelites are stubborn, like a stubborn heifer. How then can the LORD pasture them like lambs in a meadow.”

Hosea 5:

Haggai 1: In the second year of King Darius, the word of the LORD came to Haggai. “Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.” “This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘Give careful thought to your ways. Go up to the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honoured,’ says the LORD.”

Haggai 2: “This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘In a little while, I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake all nations, and what is desired by all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,’ says the LORD Almighty. ‘The silver is mine and the gold is mine,’ declares the LORD Almighty. ‘The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,’ says the LORD Almighty. ‘And in this place I will grant peace,’ declares the LORD Almighty.”

Zechariah 1: “In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Zechariah son of Berekiah, the son of Iddo: ‘The LORD was very angry with your ancestors. Therefore tell the people: This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘Return to me’ declares the LORD Almighty, ‘and I will return to you,’ says the LORD Almighty.” “Then they repented and said, ‘The LORD Almighty has done to us what our ways and our practices deserve, just as he determined to do.’”

Zechariah 2: “Shout and be glad, daughter Zion. For I am coming, and I will live among you, declares the LORD. Many nations will be joined with the LORD in that day and will become my people. I will live among you and you will know that the LORD Almighty has sent me to you. The LORD will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land and will again choose Jerusalem. Be still before the LORD, all mankind, because he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.”

Zechariah 3: “Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him.” “Then he said to Joshua, ‘See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments around you.’” “If you will walk in obedience to me and keep my requirements, then you will govern my house and have charge in my courts, and I will give you a place among these standing here.”

Zechariah 4: “Then the angel who talked with me returned and woke me up, like someone awakened from sleep. He asked me, ‘What do you see?’ I answered, ‘I see a solid gold lampstand with a bowl at the top and seven lamps on it, with seven channels to the lamps. Also there are two olive trees by it, one at the right of the bowl, and the other on its left.” I asked about the trees and he said to me, “These are the two who are anointed to serve the LORD of all the earth.”

Zechariah 5: The Flying Scroll: “This is the curse that is going out over the whole land; for according to what it says on one side, every thief will be banished, and according to what it says on the other, everyone who swears falsely will be banished.”

Zechariah 6: “I looked up again, and there before me where four chariots coming out from between two mountains—mountains of bronze. The first chariot had red horses, the second black, the third white, and the fourth dappled—all of them powerful. I asked the angel who was speaking to me, what are these my lord?’ The angel answered me, ‘These are the four spirits of heaven, going out from standing in the presence of the Lord of the whole world.”

Zechariah 7: “Ask all the people of the land and the priests, ‘When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months for the past seventy years, was it really for me that you fasted? And when you were eating and drinking, were you not just feasting for yourselves?’” “This is what the LORD Almighty said: ‘Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow and the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other.’” “When I called, they did not listen; so when they called, I would not listen.” “This is how they made the pleasant land desolate.”

Zechariah 8: “This is what the LORD says: ‘I will return to Zion and dwell in Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the Faithful City, and the mountain of the LORD Almighty will be called the Holy Mountain.” “I will save my people from the countries of the east and the west. I will bring them back to live in Jerusalem; They will be my people, and I will be faithful and righteous to them as their God.” “In those days ten people from all nations and language will take firm hold of one Jew by the hem of his robe and say, ‘Let us go with you, because we have heard that God is with you.’”

Zechariah 9: “Rejoice greatly, daughter Zion! Shout, daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. And I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the war horses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.”

Zechariah 10: “Ask the LORD for rain in the springtime; it is the LORDS who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone.” “I will strengthen Judah and save the tribes of Joseph. I will restore them because I have compassion on them.” “I will bring them back from Egypt and gather them from Assyria.” “I will strengthen them in the LORD and in his name they will live securely, declares the LORD.”

Zechariah 11: “Then I took my staff called favour and broke it, revoking the covenant I had made with all the nations. It was revoked on that day, and so the oppressed of the flock who were watching me knew that it was the word of the LORD. I told them, ‘If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it.” So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. And the LORD said to me, ‘Throw it to the potter’—the handsome price at which they valued me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them to the potter at the house of the LORD.”

Zechariah 12: “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one the have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.”

Zechariah 13: The Shepherd Struck, The Sheep Scattered: “‘Awake, sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is close to me!’ declares the LORD Almighty. ‘Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered, and I will turn my hand against the little ones. In the whole land,’ declares the LORD, ‘two thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one-third will be left in it. This third I will put into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are my people,’ and they will say, ‘The LORD is our God.’”

Zachariah 14: “On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north, and half moving south.” “Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.” “The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name.”

Malachi 1: “A son honors his father, and a slave his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me? says the LORD Almighty.” “When you offer blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you? Says the LORD Almighty.” “‘Cursed is the cheat who has an acceptable male in his flock and vows to give it, but then sacrifices a blemished animal to the LORD. For I am a great king,’ says the LORD Almighty, ‘and my name is to be feared among the nations.’”

Malachi 2: “I will send a curse on you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed them, because you have not resolved to honor me.” “‘The man who hates and divorces his wife,’ says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘does violence to the one he should protect,’ says the LORD Almighty.’ So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful.”

Malachi 3: “‘So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widow and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigner among you of justice, but do not fear me,’ says the LORD Almighty.” “‘On the day when I act,’ says the LORD Almighty, ‘they will be my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as a father has compassion and spares his son who serves him. And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.’”

Malachi 4: “‘Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire,’ says the LORD Almighty. ‘Not a root or a branch will be left to them. But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays.’” “See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before the great and dreadful day of the LORD comes.”

**The Story So Far:**

1 Chronicles 1: The Historical Records from Adam to Abraham.

1 Chronicles 2: Israel’s sons: These are the sons of Israel: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Dan, Joseph, Benjamin, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.

1 Chronicles 3: The Sons of David and the Kings of Judah.

1 Chronicles 4: Other Clans of Judah and the descendants of Simeon.

1 Chronicles 5: The Sons of Reuben, Gad, and the Half-Tribe of Manasseh.

1 Chronicles 6: The Sons of Levi and the Temple Musicians along with the settlements and land allotments.

1 Chronicles 7: The Sons of Issachar, Benjamin, Naphtali, Manasseh, Ephraim, and Asher.

1 Chronicles 8: The Genealogy of Saul the Benjamite.

1 Chronicles 9: “All Israel was listed in the genealogies recorded in the book of kings of Israel and Judah. They were taken captive to Babylon because of their unfaithfulness. Now the first to resettle on their own property in their towns were some Israelites, priests, Levites and temple servants.”

1 Chronicles 10: While Saul and his army were fighting against the Philistines, the archers overtook him and injured him. Fearing that his enemies would abuse him, he fell on his own sword and died. “Saul died because he was unfaithful to the LORD; he did not keep the word of the LORD and even consulted a medium for guidance, and did not inquire of the LORD. So the LORD put him to death and turned the kingdom over to David son of Jesse.”

1 Chronicles 11: “All Israel came together to David at Hebron and said, ‘We are your own flesh and blood. In the past, even while Saul was king, you were the one who led Israel in their military campaigns. And the LORD your God said to you, ‘You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.’ When all the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron, he made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel, as the LORD had promised through Samuel.”

1 Chronicles 12: Warriors join David: “These were the men who came to David at Ziglag, while he was banished from the presence of Saul son of Kish (they were among the warriors who helped him in battle; they were armed with bows and were able to shoot arrows or to sling stones right-handed or left-handed; they were relatives of Saul from the tribe of Benjamin).” “Day after day men came to help David, until he had a great army, like the army of God.”

1 Chronicles 13: David conferred with each of his officers, “Let us bring the ark of our God back to us, for we did not inquire of it during the reign of Saul.” But as the moved the ark, the oxen pulling the cart stumbled and Uzzah reached out to steady the ark, but the LORD’s anger burned against Uzzah and he struck him down. “David was afraid of God that day and asked, ‘How can I ever bring the ark of God to me?”

1 Chronicles 14: “And David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel and that his kingdom had been highly exalted for the sake of the people Israel.” “When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over Israel, they went up in full force but David heard about it and went out to meet them.” David inquired of God, and God gave the Philistines into the hands of David and his men.

1 Chronicles 15: “After David had constructed buildings for himself in the City of David, he prepared a place for the ark of God and pitched a tent for it. Then David said, ‘No one but the Levites may carry the ark of God, because the LORD chose them to carry the ark of the LORD and to minister before him forever.” “So all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with shouts, with the sounding of rams’ horns and trumpets, and of cymbals, and the playing of lyres and harps.”

1 Chronicles 16: “They brought the ark of God and set it inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and they presented burnt offerings and fellowship offerings before God.” “Then he gave a loaf of bread, a cake of dates and a cake of raisins to each Israelite man and woman.” “Then David appointed Asaph and his associates to give praise to the LORD in this manner:” “Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous deeds among the peoples.”

1 Chronicles 17: “After David had settled in his palace, he said to Nathan the prophet, ‘Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of the covenant of the LORD is under a tent.’ Nathan replied to David, ‘Whatever you have in mind, do it, for God is with you.’” But that night, the word of the God came to Nathan with a message to David. One of David’s own offspring will be the one to build a house for God, and his throne will be established forever. ebron HhefbkqjefbqkjbkaJBHHhHHAKLDEFLEWKFLFNHLKKJHJKSJFHJBACKBSDKVJBKJBSVDFJKBKJBsjkhvfskjdbkdsjbhv

1 Chronicles 18: “In the course of time, David defeated the Philistines and subdued them, and he took Gath and its surrounding villages from the control of the Philistines. David also defeated the Moabites, and they became subject to him, and he brought them tribute.” “Towns that belonged to Hadadezer, David took a great quantity of bronze, which Solomon used to make the bronze Sea, the pillars and the various bronze articles.” “David reigned over all Israel, doing what was just and right for all his people.”

1 Chronicles 19: “In the course of time, Nahash king of the Ammonites died, and his son succeeded him as king. David thought, ‘I will show kindness to Hanun, son of Nahash, because his father showed kindness to me.’ So David sent a delegation to express his sympathy to Hanun concerning his father.” But when the delegation arrived, the Ammonite commanders thought they had been sent as spies. This eventually led to war Between the Ammonites and Israel, and God gave the victory to David and his men. “When the vassals of Hadadezer saw that they had been routed by Israel, they made peace with David and became subject to him.”

1 Chronicles 20: “In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, Joab led out the armed forces. He laid waste the land of the Ammonites and went to Rabbah and besieged it, but David remained in Jerusalem. Joab attacked Rabbah and left it in ruins.” “He took a great quantity of plunder from the city and brought out the people who were there, consigning them to labour with saws and with iron picks and axes. David did this to all the Ammonite towns. Then David and his entire army returned to Jerusalem.”

1 Chronicles 21: “Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel.” Joab, the commander of the troops, tried to talk David out of the census, the king’s word however prevailed. So Joab went throughout Israel and then reported back to David. “Then David said to God, ‘I have sinned greatly by doing this, Now, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing.” A judgement came from God and 70’000 men of Israel fell and God sent an angel to destroy Jerusalem, but as the angel was doing so, God saw the destruction and relented. “The tabernacle of the LORD, which Moses had made in the wilderness, and the alter of burnt offering were at that time on the high place at Gibeon. But David could not go before it to inquire of God, because he was afraid of the sword of the angel of the LORD.”

1 Chronicles 22: “Then David said, ‘The house of the LORD God is to be here, and also the alter of burnt offering for Israel.’ So David gave orders to assemble the foreigners residing in Israel and from among them he appointed stone cutters to prepare dressed stone for building the house of God.” “David said, ‘My son Solomon is young and inexperienced, and the house to be built for the LORD should be of great magnificence and fame and splendor in the sight of all nations. Therefore, I will make preparations for it. So, David made extensive preparations before his death.” “Then David ordered all the leaders of Israel to help his son Solomon.”

1 Chronicles 23: “When David was old and full of years, he made his son Solomon king over Israel.” “For David had said, ‘Since the LORD, the God of Israel, has granted rest to his people and has come to dwell in Jerusalem forever, the Levites no longer need to carry the tabernacle or any of the articles used in its service.’ According to the last instruction of David, the Levites were counted from those twenty years old or more. The duty of the Levites was to help Aaron’s descendants in the service of the temple of the LORD.”

1 Chronicles 24: The Divisions of Priests: “These were the divisions of the descendants of Aaron: The sons of Aaron were Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. But Nadab and Abihu died before their father did, and they had no sons; so Eleazar and Ithamar served as priests.” “The scribe Shemaiah son of Nethanel, a Levite, recorded their names in the presence of the king and of the officials.”

1 Chronicles 25: The Musicians: “David, together with the commanders of the army, set apart some of the sons of Asaph, Heman and Jeduthun for the ministry of prophesying, accompanied by harps, lyres and cymbals.” “All these men were under the supervision of their father for the music of the temple of the LORD, with cymbals, lyres and harps, for the ministry at the house of God.”

1 Chronicles 26: The Gatekeepers: These divisions of the gatekeepers, through their leaders, had duties for ministering in the temple of the LORD, just as their relatives had. Lots were cast for each gate, according to their families, young and old alike.” The Treasurers and other Officials: “Their fellow Levites were in charge of the treasuries of the house of God and the treasuries of the dedicated things.”

1 Chronicles 27: Army Divisions: “This is the list of the Israelites—heads of families, commanders of thousands, and the commanders of hundreds, and their officers, who served the king in all that concerned the army divisions that were on duty month by month throughout the year. Each division consisted of 24’000 men.” Chapter 27 also includes the Leaders of the Tribes and the Kings Overseers.

1 Chronicles 28: “David summoned all of the officials of Israel to assemble at Jerusalem.” “King David rose to his feet and said, ‘Listen to me, my fellow Israelites, my people. I had it in my heart to build a house as a place of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, for the footstool of our God, and I made plans to build it. But God said to me, ‘You are not to build a house for my Name, because you are a warrior and have shed blood.’” “He has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel.” “And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every desire and every thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.”

1 Chronicles 29: “Then King David said to the whole assembly: “My son Solomon, the one whom God has chosen, is young and inexperienced. The task is great, because this palatial structure is not for man but for the LORD God. With all my resources I have provided for the temple of my God.” And besides these, “In my devotion to the temple of my God I now give my personal treasures of gold and silver for the temple of my God, over and above everything I have provided for this holy temple.” Then the leaders of the people also brought gifts, and they gave willingly to the work of the temple. “The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the LORD. David the king also rejoiced greatly.” “David son of Jesse was king over all Israel. He ruled over Israel forty years—seven in Hebron and thirty-three in Jerusalem. He died at a good old age, having enjoyed long life, wealth and honor. His son Solomon succeeded him as king.”

2 Chronicles 1: “Solomon son of David established himself firmly over his kingdom, for the LORD his God was with him and made him exceedingly great.” “Solomon went up to the bronze alter before the LORD in the tent of meeting and offered a thousand burnt offerings on it. That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, ‘Ask for whatever you want me to give you.’” Solomon responded with this request, “Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?” Solomon began accumulating chariots and horses, which were imported from Egypt, and he made silver and gold as common in Jerusalem as stones.

2 Chronicles 2: “Solomon gave orders to build a temple for the name of the LORD and a royal palace for himself. He conscripted 70’000 men as carriers and 80’000 men as stone cutters in the hills and 3’600 as foremen over them.” Solomon also sent a message to Hiram, king of Tyre, requesting skilled craftsmen and timber for the construction in exchange for wheat, barley, wine and olive oil. Hiram responded to the message with, “Praise be to the LORD, the God of heaven and earth! He has given King David a wise son, endowed with intelligence and discernment, who will build a temple for the LORD and a palace for himself.”

2 Chronicles 3: “Then Solomon began to build the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem on **Mount Moriah** where the LORD had appeared to his father David. It was on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite, the place provided by David. He began building on the second day of the second month in the fourth year of his reign.” “He overlaid the inside with pure gold. He paneled the main hall with juniper and covered it with fine gold and decorated it with palm trees and chain designs.”

2 Chronicles 4: The Temple Furnishings: “He made a bronze alter twenty cubits long, twenty cubits wide and ten cubits high. He made the Sea of cast metal, circular in shape, measuring ten cubits from rim to rim and five cubits high.” “The Sea stood on twelve bulls, three facing north, three facing west, three facing south and three facing east. The Sea rested on top of them, and their hindquarters were towards the center.” “Solomon also made the furnishings that were in God’s temple.”

2 Chronicles 5: “When all the work Solomon had done for the temple of the LORD was finished, he brough in the things his father David had dedicated—silver and gold and all the furnishings—and he placed them in the treasuries of God’s temple.” “The priests then brought the ark of the LORD’s covenant to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Most Holy Place, and put it beneath the wings of the cherubim.” “There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the Israelites after they came out of Egypt.” “Then the temple of the LORD was filled with the cloud, and the priests could not preform their services because the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the temple of God.”

2 Chronicles 6: “The Solomon said, ‘The LORD has said that he would dwell in a dark cloud; I have built a magnificent temple for you, a place for you to dwell forever. While the whole assembly of Israel was standing there, the king turned around and blessed them.” “He stood on the platform and then knelt down before the whole assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven. He said: ‘LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven or on earth—you keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way.” “Hear from heaven, your dwelling place; and when you hear, forgive.”

2 Chronicles 7: “When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. The priests could not enter the temple of the LORD because the glory of the LORD filled it. When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the glory of the LORD above the temple, they knelt on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD, saying, ‘He is good; his love endures forever.’”

2 Chronicles 8: “At the end of twenty years, during which Solomon built the temple of the LORD and his own palace, Solomon rebuilt the villages that Hiram had given him, and settled Israelites in them.” “Solomon conscripted the descendants of all these people living in the land—whom the Israelites had not destroyed—to serve as slave labour, as it is to this day.” “Solomon brought Pharoah’s daughter up from the city of David to the palace he had built for her, for he said, ‘My wife must not live in the palace of David the king of Israel, because the places the ark of the LORD entered are holy.’”

2 Chronicles 9: “When the queen of Sheba heard of Solomon’s fame, she came to Jerusalem to test him with hard questions. Arriving with a very great caravan—with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones—she came to Solomon and talked with him about all she had on her mind.” When the queen of Sheba saw Solomon’s wisdom and the land, she was overwhelmed. “King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all she desired and asked for; he gave her more than she had brought to him. Then she left and returned with her retinue to her own country.” “Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel for forty years. Then he rested with his ancestors and was buried in the city of David his father. And Rehoboam his son succeeded him as king.”

2 Chronicles 10: “Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone there to make him king.” Jeroboam and all Israel went to Rehoboam and said to him, “Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but now lighten the harsh labour and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we will serve you.” After consultations, Rehoboam met with the people again and he gave them this answer, “My father made your yoke heavy; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions.” “When all Israel saw that the king refused to listen to them, they answered the king: ‘What share do we have in David, what part in Jesse’s son? To your tents, Israel! Look after your own house, David!” “So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.”

2 Chronicles 11: “When Rehoboam arrived in Jerusalem, he mustered Judah and Benjamin—a hundred and eighty thousand able young men—to go to war against Israel and regain the kingdom for Rehoboam. But this word of the LORD came to Shemaiah the man of God.” “Do not go up to fight against your fellow Israelite. Go home, every one of you, for this is my doing.” So Rehoboam fortified the towns of Judah and Benjamin and they were his. “Those from every tribe of Israel who set their heart on seeking the LORD, the God of Israel, followed the Levites to Jerusalem to offer sacrifices to the LORD, the God of their ancestors.”

2 Chronicles 12: “After Rehoboam’s position as king was established and he had become strong, he and all Israel with him abandoned the law of the LORD.” “When Shishak king of Egypt attacked Jerusalem, he carried off the treasures of the temple of the LORD and the treasures of the royal palace. He took everything, including the gold shields that Solomon had made.” Yet when the leaders of Jerusalem humbled themselves, God delivered them from the hands of their enemies. “Indeed, there was some good in Judah.”

2 Chronicles 13: “In the eighteenth year of the reign of Jeroboam, Abijah became king of Judah, and he reigned in Jerusalem for three years.” “There was war between Abijah and Jeroboam.” Abijah stood on top of Mount Zemaraim and pointed out the sins of Jeroboam and the calves he had made. “As for us, the LORD is our God, and we have not forsaken him.” “We are observing the requirements of the LORD our God. But you have forsaken him.” War broke out between them, and the Israelites fled before Judah, with many casualties.

2 Chronicles 14: “And Abijah rested with his ancestors and was buried in the City of David. Asa his son succeeded him as king, and in his days, the country was at peace for ten years. Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God. He removed the foreign altars and the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. He commanded Judah to seek the LORD, the God of their ancestors, and to obey his laws and commands.”

2 Chronicles 15: “The Spirit of God came on Azariah son of Oded. He went out to meet Asa and said to him, ‘Listen to me, Asa and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD is with you when you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you.” “When Asa heard these words and the prophecy of Azariah son of Oded the prophet, he took courage.” “They entered into a covenant to seek the LORD, the God of their ancestors, with all their heart and soul.”

2 Chronicles 16: When Asa was threatened by Baasha, the king of Israel, he made a treaty with Ben-Hadad using the silver and gold in the treasuries of the LORD’s temple. “At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, ‘Because you relied on the king of Aram and not the LORD your God, the army of the king of Aram has escaped from your hand.’” “For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.” Asa was angry with the seer.

2 Chronicles 17: “Jehoshaphat his son succeeded him as king and strengthened himself against Israel.” “The LORD was with Jehoshaphat because he followed the ways of his father David before him.” In the third year of his reign, he sent officials and Levites out, and, “They taught throughout Judea, taking with them the Book of the Law of the LORD.” “The fear of the LORD fell on all the kingdoms of the land surrounding Judah, so that they did not go to war against Jehoshaphat.”

2 Chronicles 18: “Now Jehoshaphat had great wealth and honor, and he allied himself with Ahab in marriage. Some years later he went down to see Ahab in Samaria.” They contemplated going to war against the Ramoth Gilead, but Jehoshaphat insisted the first seek the counsel of the LORD. Though all the other prophets’ prophesied success, Micaiah was brought before them. “But Micaiah said, ‘As surely as the LORD lives, I can tell you only what my God says.’” “The LORD has decreed disaster for you” “If you return safely, the LORD has not spoken through me.” At random, and arrow hit the king of Israel and he died at sunset.

2 Chronicles 19: “When Jehoshaphat king of Judah returned safely to his palace in Jerusalem, Jehu the seer, the son of Hanani, went out to meet him and said to the king, ‘Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD? Because of this, the wrath of the LORD is on you. There is, however, some good in you, for you have rid the land of the Asherah poles and have set your heart on seeking God.’”

2 Chronicles 20: “After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to wage war against Jehoshaphat.” “Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the LORD, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. The people of Judah came together to seek help from the LORD; indeed they came from every town in Judah to seek him.” Then the Spirit of the LORD came to Jahaziel and he said, ‘Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s.’” “You will not have to fight this battle.” The men of Judah praise God and as they did, the LORD set ambushes against their enemies. “When the men of Judah came to the place that overlooks the desert and looked towards the vast army, they saw only dead bodies lying on the ground.”

2 Chronicles 21: “The Jehoshaphat rested with his ancestors and was buried in the City of David. And Jehoram his son succeeded him as king.” He followed the ways of the kings of Israel and did evil in the eyes of the LORD. “Jehoram received a letter from Elijah the prophet, which said: ‘This is what the LORD, the God of your father David says:’” “You have also murdered your own brothers, members of your own family, men who were better than you. So now the LORD is about to strike your people, your sons, your wives and everything that is yours, with a heavy blow.”

2 Chronicles 22: “The people of Jerusalem made Ahaziah, Jehoram’s youngest son king in his place.” “He too followed the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother encouraged him to act wickedly.” “While Jehu was executing judgement on the house of Ahab, he found the officials of Judah and the sons of Ahaziah’s relatives, who had been attending Ahaziah, and he killed them.” “So there was no one in the house of Ahaziah powerful enough to retain the kingdom.”

2 Chronicles 23: “In the seventh year Jehoiada showed his strength.” “Jehoiada said to them, ‘The king’s son shall reign, as the LORD promised concerning the descendants of David.’” Jehoiada gave instructions to the Levites to make Joash king. When Athaliah heard the noise and the cheering, she shouted, “Treason! Treason!” And they put her to death at the Horse Gate. “Jehoiada then made a covenant that he, the people of the king would be the LORD’s people.”

2 Chronicles 24: “Joash was seven years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem forty years.” “Joash did what was right in the eyes of the LORD all the years of Jehoiada the priest.” “Some time later, Joash decided to restore the temple of the LORD.” But after the death of Jehoiada, “They abandoned the temple of the LORD, the God of their ancestors, and worshiped Asherah poles and idols.” Then God’s anger came on Judah and Jerusalem. Zachariah the priest stood before the people and spoke this message: “You will not prosper. Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has forsaken you.”

2 Chronicles 25: Amaziah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years.” “He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, but not wholeheartedly.” Amaziah trusted in the word of the LORD and went to battle against a larger army. “When Amaziah returned from slaughtering the Edomites, he brought back the gods of the people of Seir. He set them up as his own gods, bowed down to them and burned sacrifice to them.”

2 Chronicles 26: “Then all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in place of his father Amaziah.” “He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father Amaziah had done.” “As long as he sought the LORD, God gave him success.” “But after Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall.” Leprosy broke out on his forehead after he entered the temple to burn incense, forcing him to live in isolation, banned from the temple of the LORD.

2 Chronicles 27: “Jotham was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for sixteen years.” “Jotham grew powerful because he walked steadfastly before the LORD his God.” “Jotham rested with his ancestors and was buried in the City of David. And Ahaz his son succeeded him as king.”

2 Chronicles 28: “Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years. Unlike David his father, he did not do what was right in the eyes of the LORD. He followed the ways of the kings of Israel and also made idols for worshiping the Baals.” And God gave them into the hands of their enemies and also the Israelites, but the LORD did not allow the Israelites to enslave the men and women of Judah and Jerusalem. “So the soldiers gave up their prisoners and plunder in the presence of the officials and all the assembly. The men designated by name took their prisoners, and from the plunder they clothed all who were naked. They provided them with cloths and sandals, food and drink, and healing balm. All those who were weak they put on donkeys. So they took them back to their fellow Israelites at Jericho, the City of Palms, and returned to Samaria.”

2 Chronicles 29: “Hezekiah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years.” “He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father David had done. In the first month of the first year of his reign, he opened the doors of the temple of the LORD and repaired them.” “When they had assembled their fellow Levites and consecrated themselves, they went in to purify the temple of the LORD, as the king had ordered, following the word of the LORD.” “So the service of the temple was re-established.”

2 Chronicles 30: “Hezekiah sent word to all Israel and Judah and also wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh, inviting them to the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem and celebrate the Passover to the LORD, the God of Israel.” “It had not been celebrated in large numbers according to what was written.” Though many people had come, many had not purified themselves, “Yet they ate the Passover, contrary to what was written.” Hezekiah prayed for them, “And the LORD heard Hezekiah and healed the people.”

2 Chronicles 31: “When all this had ended, the Israelites who were there went out to the towns of Judah, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. They destroyed the high places and the alters throughout Judah and Benjamin and in Ephraim and Manasseh. After they had destroyed all of them, the Israelites returned to their own towns and to their own property.” Hezekiah ordered the people living in Jerusalem to give the priests their portion. “As soon as the order went out, the Israelites generously gave the firstfruits of their grain, new wine, olive oil and honey and all that the fields produced.”

2 Chronicles 32: “After all that Hezekiah had so faithfully done, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah.” Hezekiah fortified Jerusalem and encouraged the Israelites to trust in the LORD. Sennacherib ridiculed the Israelites and asked them, “On what are you basing your confidence, that you remain in Jerusalem under siege?” “How much less will your god deliver you from my hand!” But the men of Israel were faithful, “So the LORD saved Hezekiah and the people of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib king of Assyria and from the hand of all the others.”

2 Chronicles 33: “Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-five years. He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, following the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites.” He rejected God and erected alters to the Baals and made Asherah poles. But when he was captured and taken to Babylon, he humbled himself. “In his distress he sought the favor of the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his ancestors.” The LORD was moved by his plea and so he brought him back to Jerusalem.

2 Chronicles 34: “Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and followed the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left. In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David.” Josiah gave orders to have the temple restored and the workers paid. “While they were bringing out the money that had been taken into the temple of the LORD, Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the LORD that had been given through Moses.” It was read in the presence of the king, and when he heard the words, he tore his robes. Josiah humbled himself before the LORD and the LORD was gracious to him.

2 Chronicles 35: “Josiah celebrated the Passover to the LORD in Jerusalem, and the Passover lamb was slaughtered on the fourteenth day of the first month.” He gave instruction to the Levites, and “Josiah provided for all the people who were there a total of thirty thousand lambs and goats for the Passover offerings, and also three thousand cattle—all from the king’s own possessions.” “**The Passover had not been observed like this in Israel since the days of the prophet Samuel.**” Josiah died in battle and Jerimiah composed laments to commemorate his life.

2 Chronicles 36: “And the people of the land took Jehoahaz son of Josiah and made him king in Jerusalem in place of his father.” He reigned in Jerusalem for three months before the king of Egypt dethroned him and made his brother king in his place. Jehoiakim became king in Jerusalem, but he did evil in the eyes of the LORD, as did his successor, Jehoiachin, and eventually his uncle, Zedekiah. Because of their rebellion, the wrath of the LORD came on his people. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon marched out against Jerusalem and set fire to God’s temple and broke down the wall of Jerusalem. Those who escaped the sword were exiled to Babylon, “And the became servants to him and his successors until the kingdom of Persia came to power. **The land enjoyed its sabbath rests**; all the time of its desolation it rested, until the seventy years were completed in fulfilment of the word of the LORD spoken by Jerimiah.”

**Jesus and the Kingdom:**

Matthew 1: The genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, beginning with Abraham. “This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before the came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.” After Joseph considered a quiet divorce, and angel of the Lord appeared to him. “When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.” “And he gave him the name Jesus.”

Matthew 2: “After Jesus had been born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, ‘Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.’” After they inquired of Herod, the continued on their way. “When the saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.” Having been warned in a dream, Joseph took Mary and Jesus to Egypt until the death of Herod.

Matthew 3: “In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” “John’s clothes were made of Camal’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.” People came to John, “Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the Jordan River.” Then Jesus also came to be baptized by John, but John tried to deter him. “Jesus replied, ‘Let us do so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.’ Then John consented.” As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.’”

Matthew 4: The Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, ‘If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.’ Jesus answered, ‘It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” Two more times, the tempter tested him, but Jesus did not sin. “Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.” Then John the Baptist was put into prison. “From that time on Jesus began to preach, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.’” “As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fisherman. ‘Come, follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will send you out to fish for people.’”

Matthew 5: “Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said: ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.’” With many words, Jesus taught them, but he added, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have not come to abolish them, but to fulfill them.” And Jesus continued to teach about the kingdom of heaven and the dangers of hell.

Matthew 6: “Be careful not to do your acts of righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.” “And when you pray, do not keep babbling like pagans, for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask.” And Jesus taught them how to pray with sincerity and humility, and about fasting, true treasure which is in heaven, and about living without worry.

Matthew 7: “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that lead to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.” “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophecy in your name, and in your name drive out demons, and in your name perform miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’” “When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as the teachers of the law.”

Matthew 8: “When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, ‘Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.’ Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. ‘I am willing,’ he said, ‘Be clean!’ Immediately he was cleansed from his leprosy.” And Jesus healed many others as well. “When Jesus saw the crowds around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake.” A furious storm broke out while Jesus was sleeping. The disciples woke Jesus, and he “got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.”

Matthew 9: Jesus forgives and heals a paralyzed man, and shows his authority as the Son of God. “As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector’s booth. ‘Follow me.’ He told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.” Many sinners continued to gather around Jesus, and the Pharisees were troubled by this. “On hearing this, Jesus said, ‘It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.’” Jesus continued to heal, traveling through towns and villages. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them and said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Matthew 10: “Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.” And Jesus instructed them to give this message, “‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.” Jesus also warned them, “You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.” “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.”

Matthew 11: “After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee.” John the Baptist sent his disciples to Jesus to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” But Jesus understood who he was and his mission, and he began to denounce the towns that hod not repented. “At that time Jesus said, ‘I praise you, Father, Lord of Heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.”

Matthew 12: “At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, ‘Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath.’” But Jesus replied, “If you had known what these words mean, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice, you would not have condemned the innocent. For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.’” When Jesus heals a man born blind and mute, the Pharisees accuse him of doing his work by the power of Beelzebul. Then some Pharisees and teachers of the Law request a sign from him, but he replied, ‘A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign!”

Matthew 13: The Jesus began to speak to the people and told them many parables. “The disciples came to him and asked, ‘Why do you speak to the people in parables?’ He replied, ‘Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.’” “This is why I speak to them in parables: ‘Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah.’” “But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear.” “So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet: ‘I will open my mouth in parables, and I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world.’”

Matthew 14: “At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the reports about Jesus, and he said to his attendants, ‘This is John the Baptist; he has risen from the dead! That is why miraculous powers are at work in him.’” When Jesus heard that John the Baptist had been beheaded, he withdrew by boat to a solitary place. The crowds followed him, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. When evening came, Jesus miraculously fed the crowd with five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and sent them to the other side of the lake while he dismissed the crowds. Shortly before dawn, Jesus walked on the water in front of them. When He joined them in the boat, the wind died down. Those in the boat worshipped him saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

Matthew 15: “Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, ‘Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don’t wash their hands before they eat!’ Jesus replied, ‘And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition?’” The disciples came to Jesus and told him that the Pharisees were offended by his words, but he replied, “Every plant that me heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.” After healing the daughter of a Canaanite woman, Jesus continues along the sea of Galilee, a primarily Gentile region where he miraculously feeds the crowds again.

Matthew 16: “The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking to show a sign from heaven.” They were unable to see God’s activity in the world, even though the Messiah was standing before them. “‘A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah’ Jesus then left them and went away.’” The Pharisees and Sadducees failed to recognize Jesus, but when they reached Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” and Peter replies, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.” At that time, Jesus began to explain to the disciples that he must go to Jerusalem, suffer and that he must be killed and on the third day, be raised to life.

Matthew 17: “After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and he led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them, Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.” But Jesus instructed them not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had been raised from the dead. Later, Jesus again tells his disciples, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and on the third day, he will be raised to life.” And the disciples were filled with grief.

Matthew 18: “At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, ‘Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?’ He called a little child to him and placed the child among them. And he said, ‘Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom oh heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of a child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, and whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.’” And Jesus continues teaching the disciples about living in his kingdom with purity, compassion, merciful and forgiving.

Matthew 19: “Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, ‘Teacher, what good things must I do get eternal life?’ “Why do you ask me about what is good?’ Jesus replied. ‘There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments.’ ‘Which ones?’ he inquired. Jesus replied, ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself.’ ‘All these I have kept,’ the young man said, ‘What do I still lack?’ Jesus answered, ‘If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

Matthew 20: “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.” And all the workers received a generous wage, including those who had only worked for only one hour. Then, a third time, Jesus tells the disciples that he will die, explains his death, and tells them of his resurrection. The mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Jesus with a request, “Grant me that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other on your left in your kingdom.” Again, Jesus teaches that kingdom living is a life of humility, modeled after Christ.

Matthew 21: Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem as King of the Jews was prophesied, and so he gives specific instructions concerning the donkey and the colt which he would ride. When he entered Jerusalem, the crowds shouted, “Hosannah to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. ‘It is written,’ he said to them, ‘My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers.’ The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them.’” The chief priests and the Pharisees questioned Jesus’ authority, and he gave his answer through another parable. “Therefore, I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.”

Matthew 22: “Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused. Then he sent more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner.’” But they paid no attention to the servants and went off. “The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.” The king sent his servants into the streets, to invite anyone they could find, so that the wedding hall could be filled with guests. “Then the Pharisees went out and made plans to trap him in his words.” Jesus responded to their questions, and when the crowds heard him, they were astonished with his teaching.

Matthew 23: “Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: ‘The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat. So, you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they preach.” “Everything they do is done for people to see.” “But you are not to be called ‘Rabbi,’ for you have one Teacher, and you are all brothers. And do not call anyone on earth ‘father,’ for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one Instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” Then Jesus spoke against the teaching and practices of the Pharisees and teachers of the law in the seven woes.

Matthew 24 “Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. ‘Do you see all these things?’ he asked. ‘Truly I tell you, not one stone will be left on another; everyone will be thrown down.’ As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. ‘Tell us, they said, ‘when will this happen, and what will be a sign of your coming and of the end of the age?’ Jesus answered: ‘Watch out that no one deceives you.’” False prophets and false messiahs will come, attempting to deceive, but do not be deceived. “But about the day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.” “**Who then is the faithful and wise servant**, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them food at the proper time? It will be good for that servant if his master finds him doing so when he returns.”

Matthew 25: “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were wise.” **“Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”** Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them, each according to his ability. After a long time the master returned to settle accounts with them. Two were faithful and were rewarded with these words, “Well done, good and **faithful servant!** You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share in your master’s happiness.” “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates sheep from the goats.”

Matthew 26: Again, Jesus said to his disciples, “As you know, the Passover is two days away—and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.” While Jesus was in Bethany, a woman came to him with aa alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head while he was reclining at the table, preparing him for his burial. Then, Judas agrees to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. After eating the Passover meal with the disciples, Jesus leads them to the garden of Gethsemane to pray. There, a large crowd, armed with swords and clubs came to arrest Jesus. Jesus is questioned before the Sanhedrin, where he replies with, “But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.” They accuse Jesus of blasphemy and sentence him to death.

Matthew 27: “When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. ‘I have sinned,’ he said, ‘for I have betrayed innocent blood.’ ‘What is that to us?’ they replied, ‘That’s your responsibility.’” The Jesus stood before Pilate, who also found him to be innocent. Jesus is mocked and beaten by the solders, and then handed over to be crucified. “”About three in the afternoon, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ‘Eli, Eli, lema sabachtani?’ (Which means, ‘My God, My God, why have you forsaken my?’)” As evening approached, the body of Jesus was given to Joseph of Arimathea. He wrapped the body, placed it in his own new tomb, and rolled a big stone in front of the entrance. Herod posted a guard at the entrance of the tomb to make it secure, and placed his seal on it.

Matthew 28: “After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went at look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.” “The angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.” While the women were on their way to tell the disciples, “Suddenly Jesus met them. ‘Greetings,’ he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go into Galilee; there they will see me.’” When Jesus met his disciples in Galilee, he gave them this instruction, “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

“Mark 1: “The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: ‘I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way. A voice of one calling in the wilderness, prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’” “And this was his message, ‘After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’” And Jesus began to call his disciples and healing many.

Mark 2: While Jesus walked along, he saw Levi sitting in the tax collector’s booth. Follow me, Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him. “While Jesus was having dinner at Levi’s house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: ‘Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?’ On hearing this, Jesus said to them, ‘It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.’”

Mark 3: “Another time Jesus went into the synagogue, and a man with a shrivelled hand was there. Some of them were **looking for a reason to accuse Jesus**, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. Jesus said to the man with the shrivelled hand, ‘Stand up in front of everyone.’ Then Jesus asked them, ‘which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or evil, to save life or to kill?’ But they remained silent. He looked around them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, ‘Stretch out your hand.’ He stretched it out and it was completely restored. **Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.”**

Mark 4: “When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. He told them, ‘The secrets of the kingdom of God have been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables so that, ‘they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!’” “He did not say anything to them without using parables. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.”

Mark 5: “Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. He pleaded earnestly with him, ‘My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will healed and live.’ So Jesus went with him.” While Jesus was on the way, some came from the house of Jairus, “‘your daughter is dead,’ they said, ‘why bother the teacher any more?’ Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, ‘Don’t be afraid; just believe.’” Jesus took the girl by the hand and said to her, “Little girl, I say to you, get up!” Immediately, the little girl stood up and began to walk around.

Mark 6: Jesus went back to his hometown and taught in their synagogue on the Sabbath and they recognized him. Isn’t this the carpenter, they said. “And they took offence at him.” He was amazed at their lack of faith. Jesus called the twelve to him and began sending them out two by two, and he gave them authority to cast out impure spirits. When the disciples returned, they gathered around Jesus and reported to him all that they had done and taught. Then Jesus said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.” When the crowds followed them, he had compassion on them and began teaching them.

Mark 7: Some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “‘Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating with unwashed hands?’ He replied, ‘Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: ‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules. You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.’” The Jesus honors the Syrophoenician woman’s faith by healing her daughter.

Mark 8: Again, a large crowd gathered and Jesus began to teach them. And after they had been with him for three days, he had compassion on them and wanted to feed them before sending them home. When the disciples found only seven loaves, he again multiplied the loaves and fed the thousands. Then the Pharisees came to him and asked him for a sign. “‘He sighed deeply and said, ‘Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given it.’” Then Jesus asked his disciples about his identity, and Peter replied, “You are the Messiah.” From then on, he began to teach them that he must suffer and die.

Mark 9: “And he said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power. After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before their eyes. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.” Later, while they were passing through Galilee, Jesus again told them about the death he would die in Jerusalem.

Mark 10: Jesus continued to travel and to teach. “As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “‘Good teacher,’ he asked, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ ‘Why do you call me good?’ Jesus answered. ‘No one is good—except God alone. You know the commandments: You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.’ ‘Teacher,’ he declared, ‘all these I have kept since I was a boy.’ Jesus looked at him and loved him. ‘One thing you lack,’ he said. ‘Go, sell everything you have, give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.’”

Mark 11: As Jesus was nearing Jerusalem, he instructed his disciples to provide a colt for him, and he rode the colt as he entered the city. The crowds saw him and shouted, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.” On his way to the temple, Jesus passed a fig tree which had no fruit, and he cursed the tree. Arriving at the temple, Jesus saw the activity and began clearing the temple courts. “Is it not written: My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations? But you have made it a den of robbers.” Then the chief priests and the teachers of the law began looking for a way to kill him.

Mark 12: “Jesus then began to speak to them in parables.” One of the teachers of the law came to Jesus and asked, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” “The most important one,’ answered Jesus, ‘is this: ‘Hear O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.’”

Mark 13: “As he was leaving the temple, one of the disciples said to him, ‘Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!’ ‘Do you see all these great buildings?’ replied Jesus. ‘Not one stone will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.’” As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, opposite the temple, he began teaching them about all the destruction and grief of the end. “But about the day or the hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come.”

Mark 14: “Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. ‘But not during the festival,’ they said, ‘or the people may riot.’” As the Passover was approaching, the disciples began making preparations, following the instructions of Jesus, and they ate the last supper with him. After they had sung a hymn, the went to the Mount of Olives where Jesus predicted Peter’s denial. Then they went to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed to the Father. Accepting the cup, Jesus allowed himself to be arrested and led to trial before the Sanhedrin.

Mark 15: “Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So the bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.” Finding out that Jesus had not committed any crime, Pilate asked the crowds about releasing him, but the crowds shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!” Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified. Just before his death, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” And when the centurion who stood there before Jesus saw how he died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!” The body of Jesus was given to Joseph of Arimathea and it was placed inside a new tomb.

Mark 16: “Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, ‘who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?’ but when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.’” “He has risen! He is not here.” “Trembling and bewildered, the woman went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.”

John 1: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made.” “In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.” “No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in the closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.”

John 2: “On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, ‘They have no more wine.’” “Nearby stood six stone jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.” Jesus instructed the servants to fill them with water, and the water was miraculously turned into wine before it was served. Just before the Jewish Passover, Jesus cleared the temple courts, and the crowds gathered around Jesus and asked for a sign to show his authority.

John 3: “Now there was a Pharisee, a man names Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the sign you are doing if God were not with him.” Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born again, born of the Spirit. After this, Jesus’ disciples started baptizing, and the crowds started going over to him. John’s disciples questioned John about this, and he testified concerning Jesus, “He must become greater; I must become less.”

John 4: As Jesus traveled on from there, he came to Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.” A Samaritan woman was there and after a discussion, she said to Jesus, “‘I know that when Messiah (called Christ) is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.’ Then Jesus declared, ‘I, the one speaking to you, I am he.’” And many of the Samaritans believe. “Now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”

John 5: “Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals.” There, Jesus encountered a man who had been an invalid for 38 years, and Jesus asked him, “Do you want to get well?” And the invalid is desperate for healing and aware that he needs help, so Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” “So, Because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him.”

John 6: Some time later, Jesus crossed over Sea of Galilee, and went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. The Jewish Passover Festival was near and Jesus planned on feeding the crowds. The disciples found a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish. Jesus took what was there and blessed it, and he fed the crowds with it. And Jesus said to them, “Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

John 7: During the Festival of Tabernacles, Jesus also made his way up to Jerusalem, and halfway through the festival, he began to teach in the temple courts. The crowds wondered about his education and Jesus replied, “Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.” Again, they were divided, and Jesus cried out, “Yes, you know me, and you know where I am from. I am not here on my own authority, but he who sent me is true. You do not know him, but I know him because I am from him, and he sent me.”

John 8: “When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’” But the Pharisees questioned his testimony and his identity. Again, Jesus told them that he had come from the Father, but the crowds insisted that they were living under God because they were descendants of Abraham. At this, Jesus replied, “If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and obey his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced at the though of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.”

John 9: “As he was going along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents that he was born blind?’ ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned,’ Jesus said, ‘but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.’” Then Jesus made some mud with his saliva and put it on the man’s eyes and sent him to the Pool of Siloam to wash. When he did, he came home seeing. Because Jesus had healed this man on the Sabbath, the Pharisees were angry. They have taken refuge in the law, and believe they are right because they identify with Moses.

John 10: The Jews in Jerusalem failed to recognize Jesus, he said to them, “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.” “Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon’s Colonnade. The Jews were gathered around him, saying, ‘How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.’ Jesus answered, ‘I did tell you, but you did not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify about me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep.’” And Jesus left them, crossed the Jordan, and stayed where John had been baptizing.

John 11: Now when Jesus learned that Lazarus, one of his friends was sick, he said to his disciples, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.” Then Jesus made plans to go back to Judea. “On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.” Martha questioned Jesus, but he replied to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” Making his way towards the entrance of the tomb, Jesus called out in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” And the dead man came out. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees met with the Sanhedrin, and they made plans to kill Jesus.

John12: “Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here, a dinner was given in Jesus honor.” “Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet, and wiped his feet with her hair.” Aware that he was about to die, Jesus said, “It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial.” The next day, Jesus made his way into Jerusalem, and the crowds took palm branches and went out to meet him shouting, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel.” When Jesus is told that the Greeks are coming to him, he replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.”

John13: “It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.” Then, during the Passover meal, Jesus washed his disciples feet and then he said to them, “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.” Then Jesus revealed that one of his own disciples would betray him.

John 14: Jesus said to his disciples, I am going to prepare a place for you, “And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?’ Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do now him and have seen him.” “Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.” “All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

John 15: “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as also I remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.” “If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept the Father’s command and remained in his love.” “This is my command: Love each other.”

John 16: “But very truly I tell you, it is for your own good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.” “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.” “Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father.” “I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.”

John 17: Then Jesus looked toward heaven and prayed, “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.” Then, Jesus prayed for his disciples and all those who would believe in him through their message. “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.”

John 18: “When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it.” “So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of solders and some of the officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.” “They bound him and brought him to Annas, who was the Father-in-law to Caiaphas, the high priest of the year.” Now, Simon Peter had followed Jesus to the courtyard of the high priest, but there he denied that he knew Jesus. After being questioned by the high priest, Jesus is taken to Pilate for another round of questioning, but Pilate finds no basis for a charge against him.

John 19: “Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The solders twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe and went up to him again and again, saying, ‘Hail, king of the Jews!’ and they slapped him in the face.” Once more, Pilate came out to the Jews and declared Jesus innocence, but the Jewish leaders insisted that Jesus had to die, because of his claim to be the Son of God. When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid and tried to set Jesus free, but the crowds shouted all the louder, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify!” Finally, Pilate handed him over to be crucified with a notice placed above his head, “JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.” “Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that the scriptures would be fulfilled, Jesus said, ‘I am thirsty.’ A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, ‘It is finished.’ With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.” Then they took Jesus body down and placed it in a new tomb, which was nearby.

John 20: “Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb and we don’t know where they have put him.’” So both ran for the tomb. “They still did not understand from Scriptures that Jesus had to rise from the dead.” Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying, and Jesus appeared to her and asked, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it that you are looking for?” At first, she did not recognize Jesus, so he called her by name, “Mary.” And Jesus said to her, “Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Then Jesus appeared also to the disciples and also to Thomas.

John 21: “Afterward, Jesus appeared again to the disciples, by the sea of Galilee.” The disciples had been out fishing and caught nothing. Early in the morning, Jesus stood on shore and called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?’ ‘No,’ they answered. He said, ‘Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.’ When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, ‘It is the Lord!’” “This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.” Then Jesus reinstates Peter when he asks him three times, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” Again, Jesus calls Peter to give up fishing in order to follow him, feeding his lambs and taking care of his sheep.

Luke 1: “Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they have been handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word.” The angel of the Lord appeared to Zachariah. Their prayers had been heard and he and Elizabeth were going to have a son whom they were to name John. “And he will go on before the Lord, in the Spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” Then, the angel Gabriel went to visit Mary an announced her favorable position. “You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

Luke 2: “In those days, Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.” “So, Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and the line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.”

Luke 3: John the Baptist went into the country around the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. “As it was written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: ‘A voice of one calling in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord, and make straight paths for him.” “The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah.” But John assured them that the one who was coming after him would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire. “And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.”

Luke 4: “Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil, and at the end of them, he was hungry.” Three times, he was tempted, but Jesus did not give into the temptation. “Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.” “He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it was written: ‘The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.” The Jesus told them, “Today, this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

Luke 5: One day, as Jesus was teaching, a crowd was gathering. Jesus got into a boat and started teaching the people. Then he told Simon, the owner of the boat, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch. Finally, Simon agreed and they let out the nets. When they had let out the nets, they caught such a large number of fish that the nets began to break. “When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, ‘Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” Jesus replied, “Don’t be afraid; from now on, you will fish for people.” So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything, and followed him. Jesus also called Levi, one of the tax collectors to follow him, and immediately, he followed Jesus.

Luke 6: “One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grain fields, and his disciples began to pick some heads of grain, rub them in their hands and eat the kernels. Some of the Pharisees asked, “Why are you doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?” Jesus reminded them that even David and his companions had eaten consecrated bread, even though it was only lawful for the priests to eat, and then he replied, “The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.” “One of those days, Jesus went up on a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles.”

Luke 7: While Jesus was entering Capernaum, he was met by a group of elders representing a centurion whose servant lay sick. They pleaded with Jesus to come and heal him, and Jesus agreed. While Jesus was on the way, he was met by representatives of the centurion who felt unworthy of being in Jesus’ presence. Believing in Jesus’ authority, he asked Jesus to heal him by giving his word. Jesus replied to the crowd, “I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.” Then he healed the man. Jesus continued to heal, even raising the son of a widow back to life. “John’s disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, he sent them to the Lord to ask, ‘Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?’” Though John may have had questions, Jesus understood his role and the role of John the Baptist.

Luke 8: “After this, **Jesus traveled about from one town to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God.** The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod’s household; Susanna; and many other. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.” Then Jesus told them the parable of the Sower and the seed, concluding with the seed that fell on good soil, which stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produces a crop.

Luke 9: “When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.” “When the apostles returned, they reported to Jesus what they had done. Then he took them with him and they withdrew by themselves to a town called Bethsaida, but the crowds learned about it and followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.” Then Jesus fed the entire crowd with only five loaves of bread and two fish. One day, while Jesus was praying in private, he asked his disciples, “Who do the crowds say that I am?” The crowds were not certain. The Jesus asked the Twelve, “Who do you say I am?” Peter responded, “God’s Messiah.” About eight days later, Jesus was transfigured before the eyes of Peter, James and John.

Luke 10: “After this, the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was to go.” “Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come has come near to you.’” “The seventy-two returned with joy and said, ‘Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.’ He replied, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.” “At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, ‘I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and have revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.”

Luke 11: The disciples came to Jesus and asked him to teach them how to pray, “He said to them, ‘When you pray, say: Father, Hollowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.’” Jesus continued by encouraging his disciples to come to the Father in prayer, making their requests known. “If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” Those who opposed Jesus questioned the source of his power, and Jesus replied, “But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.” “When Jesus went outside, the Pharisees and the teachers of the law began to oppose him fiercely, and to besiege him with question, waiting to catch him in something he might say.”

Luke 12: “Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling one another, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples, saying: ‘Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.” “When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.” Many were preoccupied with wealth, and Jesus told them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.” “Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than cloths.” “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near, and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Luke 13: When Jesus had healed a woman on the Sabbath day, the synagogue leader was indignant and said, “There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath.” “The Lord answered him, ‘You hypocrite! Doesn’t each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out and give it water? Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?’ When he said all this, his opponents were humiliated, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.” And Jesus said to them, “Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to.” As Jesus neared Jerusalem, He said, “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. Look, your house will be left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

Luke 14: “One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat at the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched. There in front of him was a man suffering from abnormal swelling of his body. Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in the law, ‘Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?’ But they remained silent. So, taking hold of the man, he healed him and sent him on his way.” “Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: ‘If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, and even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their own cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.” “Salt is good, but if it looses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is fir neither for the soil nor the manure pile; it is thrown out. ‘Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.’”

Luke 15: “Now the tax collectors and sinners were gathering around to hear Jesus. But the teachers of the law muttered, ‘This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.’ Then Jesus told them this parable: ‘Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.’” And with the parable of the lost coin and the lost son, Jesus continued to reveal the love of God who rejoices over sinners who repent.

Luke 16 Jesus continued to teach the people in parables, encouraging people to use wisely what had been entrusted to them. “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own? No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

Luke 17: “Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, ‘The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ **because the kingdom of God is in your midst.”** “Then he said to his disciples, ‘The time is coming when you will long to see the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it. People will tell you, ‘There he is,’ or ‘Here he is!’ Do not go running after them. For the Son of Man in his day will be like lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to another.’”

Luke 18: “A certain ruler asked him, ‘Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ ‘Why do you call me good?’ Jesus answered. ‘No one is good—except God alone. You know the commandments.’” Jesus encouraged the ruler to keep the commands, and surrender everything including his wealth. At this, the ruler became very sad, because he had great wealth. “Jesus looked at him and said, ‘How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of heaven!” “As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, ‘Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.’ He called out, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’” Then Jesus stopped and healed the man. Having received his sight, the man followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.

Luke 19: As Jesus was passing through Jericho, he met Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. Zacchaeus was eager to see Jesus, and so Jesus went to have supper with him. In joy, Zacchaeus said, “Look, Lord! Here and now, I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.” “Jesus said to him, ‘Today, salvation has come to this house, because this man too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.’” Nearing Jerusalem, Jesus sent two of his disciples ahead of him to find a colt. They brought it back, put Jesus on it as they entered Jerusalem. The crowds put their cloaks on the road and shouted, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” Then Jesus entered the temple courts, driving out those who were selling there. “It is written, he said to them, My house will be called a house of prayer; but you have made it a den of robbers.”

Luke 20: The leaders in Jerusalem began to question Jesus, “‘Tell us by what authority are you doing these things,’ they said, ‘Who gave you this authority?’” Then Jesus told them another parable, which pointed at the unfaithfulness of the people who had killed those sent to them. “The teachers of the law and the chief priests looked for a way to arrest him immediately, because they knew that he had spoken this parable against them. But they were afraid of the people. Keeping a close watch on him, they sent spies, who pretended to be sincere. They hoped to catch Jesus in something he said, so that they might hand him over to the power and authority of the government.” So, the spies questioned him about whether they should pay taxes to Caesar. “They were unable to trap him in what he said there in public. And astonished by his answer, they became silent.”

Luke 21: “Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said, ‘As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; everyone will be thrown down.’ ‘Teacher,’ they asked, ‘when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?’” With many words, Jesus warned them of the destruction that was at hand. “Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.” Each day, Jesus taught at the temple, and each evening, he went up to the hill called the Mount of Olives.”

Luke 22: “Now the **Festival of Unleavened Bread**, called the **Passover**, was approaching and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus, for they were afraid of the people.” “Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the **Passover lamb had to be sacrificed**. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, ‘Do and make preparations for us to eat the Passover.” And Jesus said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat **this Passover** with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfilment in the kingdom of God.” “And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them saying, ‘This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.” “This cup is the **new covenant** in my blood, which is poured out for you.” Then Jesus led his disciples to the Mount of Olives where he was arrested. And Jesus was led before the chief priests and teachers of the law who questioned him about his identity.

Luke 23: “Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying, ‘We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be the Messiah, a king.” Pilate found no basis for a charge against him and sent him to Herod who also plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. “That day Herod and Pilate became friends—before this they had been enemies.” Pilate and Herod found Jesus to be innocent and made plans to have him released, but the crowds insisted that Jesus be crucified. After they had put Jesus on the cross, “It was about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out in a loud voice, ‘Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.’ When he had said this, he breathed his last.”

Luke 24: “On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb.” The stone that sealed the tomb had been rolled away, but they did not see the body of Jesus. Two men in gleaming white met them and asked, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen.” The women left the tomb, telling everyone what they had seen and heard, but they did not believe them. “Now that same day, two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them, but they were kept from recognizing him.” When they returned to Jerusalem, they told everyone how Jesus had appeared to them and that he had risen from the dead. “While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’” “Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.”

Acts 1: “Then they gathered around him and asked him, ‘Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom of Israel?’ He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.” In those days **Peter** **stood up among the believers**, a group numbering about a hundred and twenty. Then Matthias was chosen by lot to take the place of Judas, and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Acts 2: “When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be **tongues of fire** that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to **speak** in other tongues, as the Spirit enabled them.” “The Peter stood up with the Eleven, **raised his voice** and addressed the crowd.” And Peter explained to the crowd what was happening. “”In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophecy.” “God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all **witnesses** of it. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and **hear**.” “When the people **heard** this, they were cut to the heart.” “And with many other **words** he warned them.”

Acts 3: “One day Peter and John were going up were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called beautiful, where he was put everyday to beg from the people who were going into the temple courts.” When He saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money, but Peter said to him, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, walk.” The man’s strength was restored, and he went into the temple courts walking, jumping, and praising God. The crowds were astonished, but peter gave all credit for the healing to Jesus. Then he explained to them, “You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.” “But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer.”

Acts 4: The Priests and the Sadducees were greatly disturbed by the teaching, and “They seized Peter and John, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day.” And all the leaders had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: By what power or what name did you do this? Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people in Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. Jesus is ‘the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.’” They took note that these were unschooled, ordinary men that had been with Jesus. When they had been released, They met together and prayed, “And they were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”

Acts 5: Ananias and Saphira sold a piece of land and brought some of the proceeds to the apostles but lied about the amount the gained from the sale. When confronted, they both fell down and died. “Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.” “No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people.” As their numbers continued to increase, the leaders of Jerusalem were filled with jealousy, and they had the apostles arrested and put into jail. “but during the night, an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. ‘Go, stand in the temple courts,’ he said, ‘and tell the people all about this new life.’” And Peter and the other apostles continued to teach about Jesus. This Jesus, “whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given those who obey him.”

Acts 6: In those days, some of the Hellenistic Jews complained that their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. So, the Twelve gathered and decided to choose seven men from among them, men who were full of the Spirit and wisdom, and hand this responsibility over to them. Stephen, A man full of God’s grace and power, who preformed great wonders and signs among the people, was one of the men selected. Opposition arose however, and some men began to argue with Stephen, “But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke.” Nevertheless, the produced false witnesses and had Stephen brought before the Sanhedrin.

Acts 7: “Then the high priest asked Stephen, ‘Are these charges true?’ To this he replied: ‘Brothers and fathers, listen to me! The glory of God appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haram. ‘Leave your country and your people,’ God said, ‘and go to the land I will show you.’” From there, Stephen recounted the history of the Israelite nation, and the times when their nation had rejected the direction of God. “You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! Was there ever a prophet that your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now, you have betrayed and murdered him—you who have received the law given through the angels but have not obeyed it.” They audience was furious and they dragged Stephen outside and stoned him to death.

Acts 8: “And Saul approved of their killing him. On that day, a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.” Philip traveled to Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there, and many believed Philip and were baptised. When Peter and John heard of it, they also traveled to Samaria, and they prayed that the new believers might receive the Holy Spirit. “Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.” Later, Philip traveled south and met up with the Ethiopian eunuch, an important official and explained the prophecies to him. By faith, he received the words of Philip and was baptised.

Acts 9: “Meanwhile, Paul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples.” “As he neared Damascus on his journey, a bright light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?’” After Saul had seen the vision, he opened his eyes, but could see nothing, so they led him by the hand into Damascus. A disciples named Ananias came and prayed for Saul. Immediately, he was filled with the Holy Spirit and his eyesight was restored. “At one he began to preach in the synagogue that Jesus is the Son of God.” When Saul came back to Jerusalem, Barnabas took him to the apostles, and told them how Saul had seen the Lord, and that the Lord had spoken to him.

Acts 10: “At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. He and all his family were devout and God fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.” One day, while he was praying, an angel of the Lord told him to send men to Joppa to bring back Simon who is called Peter. Cornelius sent men to Joppa, and while they were on their way, Peter went on the roof to pray. He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its for corners with all kinds of animals. These animals appeared unclean to Peter, but a voice from heaven came to him, “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.” Just then, the messengers came to Peter. Peter returned to Caesarea with the men and proclaimed that Jesus was the anointed one spoken of by the prophets. “While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message.”

Acts 11: “The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God.” But some criticized him for entering and eating with uncircumcised men. Then Peter explained his actions and his vision to them, “Then I remembered what the Lord had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’” “So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.” The good news continued to spread, and some of them went to Antioch and began to speak to the Greeks also. News of this reached the church and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. “Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.”

Acts 12: “It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. He had James, the brother of John put to death with the sword. When he saw that this was met with approval among the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also.” “So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying for him.” “Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. ‘Quick, get up!’ he said, and the chains fell off Peter’s wrists.” The angel led Peter out of the prison, but Peter thought he was having a dream, until he was walking outside the prison. The next morning, “After Herod had a thorough search made for him and did not find him, he cross-examined the guards and ordered that they be executed.”

Acts 13: While the men of Antioch were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” From there, Barnabas and Saul set off, proclaiming the word of God in the Jewish synagogue. In Pisidian Antioch, Paul began to teach the good news of Jesus in the synagogue. “On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy. They began to contradict what Paul was saying and heaped abuse on him.” From there, Paul turned his ministry to the Gentiles.

Acts 14: “At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the Jewish synagogue. There they spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Greeks believed. But the Jews who refused to believe stirred up the other Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to perform signs and wonders.” After discovering that some in the city intended them harm, Paul and Barnabas fled to Lystra and Derbe where they continued to preach the gospel.

Acts 15: “Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: ‘Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.’ This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute with them.” So Paul, Barnabas, and other believers went to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders with this question. “The apostles and elders met to consider this question. After much discussion, Peter stood up and addressed the crowd. “God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith.”

Acts 16: “Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived.” The believers spoke well of him, and Paul wanted to take him along on his missionary journey, so he circumcised him because the Jews in the area knew his father was a Greek. Paul and Silas then continued to travel, proclaiming Jesus wherever the Holy Spirit led.

Acts 17: Then Paul and his companions came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. “As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. ‘This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah,’ he said. Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women.” Other Jews were filled with jealousy and started a riot in the city. When Paul traveled to Berea to teach, the Jews of Thesalonica followed him, agitating the crowds. Paul then moved on the Athens where he continued to teach in the synagogue.

Acts 18: “After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.” Paul began teaching again, supporting himself through tent-making. “When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah. But when they opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his cloths in protest and said to them, ‘Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent of it. From now on, I will go to the Gentiles.’” Meanwhile, a man named Apollos came to Ephesus and began teaching about Jesus.

Acts 19: When Paul arrived in Ephesus, he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” The answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.” “God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.”

Acts 20: Paul continued to travel through the area, speaking many words of encouragement to the people. “Paul had decided to set sail past Ephesus to avoid spending time in Asia, for he was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem, if possible, by the day of Pentecost. From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. When they arrived, he said to them: ‘You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first time I came to the province of Asia.” “I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.” “Hovever, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.” “When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed.”

Acts 21: “After we had torn ourselves away from them, we put out to sea and sailed straight to Kos.” After arriving in Caesarea, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. “Coming over to us, he took Paul’s belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, ‘The Holy Spirit says, ‘In this way the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.’ When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul no to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, ‘Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.’ When he would not be dissuaded, we gave up and said, ‘The Lord’s will be done.’” When Paul arrived in Jerusalem, the brothers greeted him warmly. But when the crowds found him in the temple, they seized him and dragged him out. The city was in an uproar. The Roman troops took charge of him and brought him into the barracks. After receiving permission, Paul addressed the crowd in Aramaic.

Acts 22: “‘Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defence.’ When the heard him speak to them in Aramaic, they became very quiet.” Paul told how he had met the Lord on the road to Damascus, received instruction, and even lost his sight. As Paul continued his story, he told them of how Jesus had sent him to preach to the Gentiles. “The crowd listened to Paul until he said this. Then they raised their voices and shouted, ‘Rid the earth of him! He’s not fit to live!’” The commander ordered that Paul be taken back to the barracks, flogged and interrogated, but when they learned that Paul was a Roman citizen, they were alarmed. Wanting to find out why the crowds were so angry with Paul, the commander of the army assembled all the chief priests and the members of the Sanhedrin and had Paul stand before them.

Acts 23: “Then Paul, knowing that some of them we Sadducees and the other Pharisees, called out in the Sanhedrin, ‘My brothers, I am a Pharisee, descended from Pharisees. I stand on trial because of the hope of the resurrection of the dead.’ When he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assemble was divided.” “The dispute became so violent that the commander was afraid Paul would be torn to pieces by them. He ordered the troops to go down and take him away from them by force and bring him back to the barracks. The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, ‘Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome.’” Learning that some had plotted to kill Paul, the commander made provisions to have Paul transferred to Rome

Acts 24: “Five days late, Ananias went down to Caesarea with some of the elders and a lawyer named Tertulius, and they brought their charges against Paul before the governor.” “Then Felix, who was well acquainted with the Way, adjourned the proceedings. ‘When Lysias the commander comes,’ he said, ‘I will deicide your case.’ He ordered the centurion to keep Paul under guard but to give him some freedom and permit his friends to take care of his needs.” “When two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, but because Felix wanted to grant a favour to the Jews, he left Paul in prison.

Acts 25: “Three days after arriving in the province, Festus went up from Caesarea to Jerusalem, where the where the Jewish leaders appeared before him and presented their charges against Paul. They requested Festus, as a favour to them, to have Paul transferred to Jerusalem, for they were preparing an ambush to kill him along the way.” “Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favour, said to Paul, ‘Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and stand trial before me there on these charges?’” Though Paul declared his innocence, he also insisted that no one had the right to hand him over to those who wanted him dead. He then appealed to Caesar. When King Agrippa came to pay his respects to Festus, they discussed Paul’s case.

Acts 26: “Then Agrippa said to Paul, ‘You have permission to speak for yourself.’ So Paul motioned with his hand and began his defense.” Paul retold his story for Agrippa, including how he had met Jesus on the road to Damascus, and how Jesus had instructed him to go to the Gentiles. “I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds.” “I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen—that the Messiah would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles.” “At this point, Festus interrupted Paul’s defense. ‘You are out of your mind, Paul!’ He shouted. ‘Your great learning is driving you insane.’” After leaving, they all agreed that Paul had not done anything deserving death or imprisonment.

Acts 27: “When it was decided that we would sail for Italy, Paul and some other prisoners were handed over to a centurion named Julius, who belonged to the Imperial Regiment.” After setting sail, the wind made travel slow and dangerous. By the time they reached Fair Havens, much time had been lost and sailing had already become dangerous. “When a gentle south wind began to blow, they saw their opportunity; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore to Crete.” A storm of hurricane force called the Northeaster swept down from the island. On the fourteenth night, we were still being driven across the Adriatic Sea. When morning finally came, they saw a sandy beach and made plans to run aground. “He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land. The rest were to get there on planks or on other pieces of the ship. In this way everyone reached land safely.”

Acts 28: “ Once safely on shore, we found out the island was called Malta. The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and it was cold. “After three months we put out to sea in a ship that had wintered in the island.” “When we got to Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself, with a solder to guard him. When Paul was finally brought before the group in Jerusalem, “He witnessed to them from morning till evening, explaining about the kingdom of God, and from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets he tried to persuade them about Jesus.” Some were convinced, but others would not believe. “For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance.”

Romans 1: “Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we receive grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name’s sake. And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.”

Romans 2: ‘You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on everyone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgement do the same thing. Now we know that God’s judgement against those who do such things is based on truth. So when you, a mere human being, pass judgement on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God’s judgement. Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance.” “God will repay each person according to what they have done.” “For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God’s sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.”

Romans 3: “What advantage, them is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision? Much in every way! First of all, the Jews have been entrusted with the very words of God.” “What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin. As it is written, ‘There is no one righteous, not even one.’” “Therefore, no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.” “Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.”

Romans 4: “What does Scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” “Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised or before? It was not after, but before.” “So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them. He is then also the father of the circumcised but who also follow in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.” “As it is written, ‘I have made you the father of many nations.”

Romans 5: “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith without into this grace in which we now stand.” “Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him.”

Romans 6: “What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer. Or don’t you know that all us who were baptized into Christ were baptized into his death. We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead to the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in death like this, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like this. For we know that our old self was crucified with him, so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.” “But now you have been set free from sin and become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.”

Romans 7: “But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.” “Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me.” “So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God’s law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.”

Romans 8: “Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.” “And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, the do not belong to Christ.” “But if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.” “Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”

Romans 9: “It is not as though God’s word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham’s children. On the contrary, ‘It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.’ In other words, it is not the children of physical descent who are God’s children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham’s offspring.” “As he sys in Hosea: ‘I will call them my people who are not my people; and I will call her ‘my loved one,’ who is not my loved one.’” “What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; but the people of Israel, who pursued the law as the way of righteousness, have not obtained their goal. Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it was by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone.”

Romans 10: “Brothers and sister, my hearts desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge.” “As Scripture says, ‘anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.’ For there is no difference between Jew of Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’” For Isaiah boldly says, “I was found by those who did not seek me; I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me.” But about Israel he says, “All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and obstinate people.”

Romans 11: “I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew.” “So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace. And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.” But “Do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. You will say then, ‘Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in.’ Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but tremble. For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either.”

Romans 12: Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing, and perfect will.” “Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.” “Live in harmony with one another.” “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Romans 13: “Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authorities is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgement on themselves.” “For the one in authority is God’s servant for your own good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.” “This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing.”

Romans 14: “Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarrelling on disputable matters. Ones person’s faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables.” “Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.” “Therefore, let us stop passing judgement on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.” “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating or drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit., because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.”

Romans 15: “May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind towards each other that Jesus Christ had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” “Yet I have written you quite boldly on some points to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles. He gave me the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.”

Romans 16: “I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause division and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.” “Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, **so that the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith—**to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.