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Yehezkel

(Ezekiel)

Introduction

Yehezkel (or more properly 'Yehezkel' which means 'God/El will strengthen', but called 'Ezekiel' in older English translations because Greek has no 'y' or 'h') was a priest in Yerushalem (Jerusalem). He was one of the many people who were captured by the Babylonian army and marched off to Bavel before Yerushalem was defeated in 586 B.C. So he lived in Bavel and became a prophet five years after he'd been exiled. His message was directed to the people exiled to Bavel as well as those back in Yerushalem. Yehezkel's account can be divided into six parts: 1. God's calling Yehezkel as a prophet; 2. warnings to the people there about God's coming punishment of them, and of the coming destruction of Yerushalem; 3. God's messages about the punishment of various nations who'd attacked Yisrael; 4. comforting Yisrael when enemies defeated Yerushalem, and a promise of a future, better life; 5. the defeat of all of Yisrael's enemies; 6. Yehezkel's description of a restored temple and of a nation that would return to living there.
Yehezkel demonstrated a lot of faith, and his messages came as visions—many of which he had to act out. Yehezkel explained the importance of a new heart and spirit, and how it's necessary for each person to individually repent from their sins. He reveals Yisrael's hope of a new life. Then as prophet and priest, he greatly looks forward to a new temple with all the rooms that are necessary for the sacred services.

Main components of this document

The calling of Yehezkel as a prophet *1:1–3:27*
The speeches concerning the destruction of Yerushalem *4:1–24:27*
God's judgement of nations *25:1–32:32*
God's promise to his people *33:1–37:27*
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The revelation concerning the coming temple and nation *40:1–48:35*

Lighter type marks additions. Underscores join parts of a single source word.
Struck words are untranslated. The ◘ sign marks a verse with no text.
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Yehezkel's calling to be a prophet[1] · Yahweh reveals himself

1:1 When I was thirty years old, on July 5th, as I was living with the other captives by the Kevar Canal, the skies opened[2] and I saw visions from God.

2 That was the fifth year since King Yehoyakin had been taken captive.[3] 3 Yahweh gave me, the priest Yehezkel (Ezekiel) (son of Buzi), this message in the land of the Kasdim (Chaldeans) (often known better as Babylonians) by the Kevar Canal, and Yahweh revealed his strength to me there. 4 Then I looked, and there was a windstorm coming from the north—a huge cloud with lightning flashing inside it and brilliant light inside it and surrounding it, and fire inside the cloud made it look amber coloured. 5 In the middle was what seemed to be four living creatures resembling humans,[4] 6 but each of them had four faces and four wings. 7 Their legs were straight, but they had hooves like calves' hooves that gleamed like polished bronze. 8 They had human hands under their wings on each of their four sides. For each of the four of them, 9 their wings were touching the wings of the next creature, and they didn't turn as they went—rather each one went straight forward.

10 Each one's front face was like a human face, then they each had a lion's face on the right, a calf's face on the left, and the fourth face was an eagle's face.[5] 11 Their faces were like that, and their wings were spread out above, so that each creature had a pair of wings that touched another creature's wings, and also a pair that covered their bodies. 12 Each went straight forward, so that wherever the spirit directed them to go, they went without turning.

13 The living creatures resembled burning coals or torches.[6] Bright fire also moved around among the creatures, and there were flashes of lightning. 14 The living creatures moved rapidly swiftly back and forth, and they looked a bit like lightning.

15 Then I looked more closely and saw a wheel on the ground beside each of the living creatures with its four faces.[7] 16 Each of the wheels was the same, and they all shone like chrysolite. Each wheel seemed to have one wheel inside another wheel. 17 When they moved, they didn't have to turn to change direction. 18 The rims of the wheels were awesomely tall, and all four of them were full of eyes around the rim.[8] 19 Whenever the living creatures moved, the wheels moved beside them. When the living creatures went upwards, the wheels also went up. 20 Wherever the spirit would go, they went, and the wheels went up beside them, because the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels. 21 Whenever the creatures moved, the wheels also moved, and when the creatures stood still, the wheels stood still. When the creatures went upwards, the wheels went up beside them, because the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.

22 Above the living creatures was something like an awesome crystal dome stretched out over their heads.[9] 23 Beneath the dome, each of the creatures' wings stretched out straight and touched another creature's wings. Each one also had a pair to cover their own body with. 24 Then I heard the sound of their wings, which was like the noise of a lot of water. When they moved, it was like the voice of the powerful

1 **RV 1:1 · Parallel** 1:1–3:27

2 **RV 1:1 · Cross-ref.** Rev 19:11.

3 **RV 1:2 · Cross-ref.** 2Ki 24:10-16; 2Ch 36:9-10.

4 **RV 1:5 · Cross-ref.** Rev 4:6.

5 **RV 1:10 · Cross-ref.** Eze 1:5,10; 10:4; Eze 10:14; Rev 4:7.

6 **RV 1:13 · Cross-ref.** Rev 4:5.

7 **RV 1:15-21 · Cross-ref.** Eze 10:9-13.

8 **RV 1:18 · Cross-ref.** Rev 4:8.

9 **RV 1:22 · Cross-ref.** Rev 4:6.

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one—like the sound of a rainstorm or an army. Whenever they stood still, they lowered their wings.[10] 25 Whenever they stopped and lowered their wings, a voice came from under the dome that was above their heads.

God's throne

26 Above the dome over their heads was what looked like a sapphire stone that had been made into a throne, and on the thing like a throne was something that looked like a man.[11] 27 I saw a figure that appeared to have glowing metal with fire in it from his hips upwards, and looking downwards from his hips, I saw the appearance of fire and brightness all around.[12] 28 The bright light surrounding the throne looked like a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day—it was the appearance of the likeness of Yahweh's splendour. When I saw it, I quickly knelt down and bowed my head to the ground, and I heard a voice speaking.

Yehezkel sent as a prophet to Yisrael

2:1 He said to me, "Son of humanity, stand up and then I'll speak to you." 2 Then as he spoke to me, the spirit entered into me and stood me up, and I heard him speaking to me. 3 He told me, "Son of humanity, I'm sending you to Yisrael's (Israel's) people—two rebellious nations that have rebelled against me. Both they and their ancestors have been sinning against me right up to this very moment. 4 Their descendants are very stubborn and hardheaded. I'm sending you to them, and you'll tell them that this is what the master Yahweh is saying to them. 5 They might listen or might not. They're a rebellious bunch, but they'll at least know that a prophet's been among them.

6 And you, son of humanity, don't be afraid of them or their words. Don't be afraid, even though you're among briers and thorns, and although you live with scorpions. Don't fear their words or be dismayed by their faces, since they're a rebellious bunch. 7 Pass my messages on to them, whether they listen or not, because they're quite rebellious. 8 But you, son of humanity, listen to what I'm telling you. Don't become rebellious like that rebellious bunch. Open your mouth and eat what I'm about to give you." 9 Then I looked and saw a hand extended out to me, and it was holding a scroll with writing on it.[13] 10 He spread it out in front of me—there was writing on both the front and the back, and it was full of messages about grief, mourning, and sad endings.

3:1 He said to me, "Son of humanity, eat what you've found. Eat this scroll,[14] then go speak to the Israeli people." 2 So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat.

3 He told me, "Son of humanity, feed your belly and fill your stomach with this scroll that I've given you." So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey.

4 Then he told me, "Son of humanity, go to the people of Yisrael (Israel) and pass my messages on to them, 5 because you aren't being sent to a people group who speak a strange or difficult language, but to the Israeli people—6 not to many people groups who speak strange or difficult languages whose words you wouldn't be able to understand. I'm sure that if it was them that I sent you to, they would've listened to you. 7 But the Israeli people won't be willing to listen to you, because they're not willing to listen to me. All the Israeli people are hardheaded and hardhearted. 8 Listen, I'll enable you to be as stubborn and tough as they are. 9 I'll make you hard like a diamond—harder than flint. Don't be scared by them or discouraged by the looks they give you, because they're rebellious people."

10 He also told me, "Son of humanity, listen very carefully to what I say, and keep thinking about it. 11 Then go to any of your people who

10 RV 1:24 · Cross-ref. Rev 1:4-15; 19:6.

11 RV 1:26 · Cross-ref. Eze 10:1; Rev 4:2-3.

12 RV 1:27 · Cross-ref. Eze 8:2.

13 RV 2:9-10 · Cross-ref. Rev 5:1.

14 RV 3:1-3 · Cross-ref. Rev 10:9-10.

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were brought here as captives, and tell them, 'This is what the master Yahweh says,' whether they'll listen or not."

12 Then the spirit lifted me up, and I heard rumbling like a large earthquake behind me. (May Yahweh's honour in his place be blessed.) 13 It was the sound of the living creatures' wings as they touched one another, and the sound of the wheels that were with them, and the sound of a large earthquake. 14 Then the spirit lifted me up and took me away, and I went with bitterness and rage in my spirit, because Yahweh's hand was pressing down firmly on me. 15 Then I went to the captives at Tel-Aviv who lived along the Kevar Canal, and I stayed among them there for seven days, overwhelmed in amazement.

16 After those seven days were over, Yahweh gave me this message:[15] 17 "Son of humanity, I've made you a guard over the Israeli people, so listen to this message of mine and give them my warning. 18 When I tell the wicked, 'You'll certainly die' and you don't warn them about that or give them a warning about their evil actions so they might live—the wicked will die for their sin, but I'll hold you responsible for their death. 19 But if you do warn the wicked, and they don't turn from their wickedness or from their wicked actions, then they'll die for their sin, but you will have saved your own life.

20 If a godly person turns from their righteousness and behaves unjustly, and I put a stumbling block in front of that person, they'll die. Because you didn't warn them, they'll die in their sin, and I won't consider the righteous things they did, but I'll hold you responsible for their death. 21 But if you warn the godly person to stop sinning so that they no longer sin, that person will surely live, since they were warned, and you will have saved your own life."

Yehezkel's calling

22 Then Yahweh's hand was on me there, and he told me, "Get ready and go out into the plain, and I'll speak with you there."

23 I got up and went out into the plain where Yahweh's glory was staying, like the glory I'd seen beside the Kevar Canal, so I fell to my knees and bowed low to the ground. 24 Then the spirit entered me and stood me up on my feet, and spoke with me, telling me: Go and shut yourself up in your house. 25 Son of humanity, people will tie you up with ropes so that you'll be unable to go outside. 26 Then I'll make your tongue stick to the roof of your mouth, so you'll become mute, and although they're rebellious people, you won't be able to tell them off. 27 But when I speak to you, I'll open your mouth so you'll be able to tell them, 'This is what the master Yahweh says.' The ones who will hear will hear, but the ones who won't listen won't listen, because they're rebellious people.

Messages about Yerushalem's destruction[16] · Yehezkel models Yerushalem's invasion

4:1 But you, son of humanity, get yourself a brick and place it in front of you and carve Yerushalem (Jerusalem) City on it. 2 Then lay siege against it, and build forts against it. Build an assault ramp up against it and make camps around it. Place battering rams all around it. 3 After that, get yourself an iron pan and use it as an iron wall between yourself and your representation of the city, and keep looking in that direction, because it'll be under siege and you're to put the siege against it. That will be a sign to the Israeli people.

4 Then lie on your left side and put the sin of the Israeli people on it. You'll carry their sin for the number of days you lie down as a sign against them. 5 I myself am assigning to you one day to represent each year of their punishment: 390 days lying on your left side. In that way, you'll carry the Israeli people's sin. 6 When that period is over, then lie down a second time on your right side, because you'll carry the sin of Yehudah's (Judah's) people for forty days. I'm assigning one day to you for each year.

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15 **RV 3:16 · Note** This formula occurs around fifty times in Yehezkel's account.

16 **RV 4:1 · Parallel** 4:1–24:27

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7 Keep looking towards Yerushalem, which is
under siege, and with your arm bared like a
warrior, prophesy against it. 8 Listen, I'll have
you tied with ropes so you won't be able to turn
from one side to the other until the days repre-
senting the years of your siege are over.
9 Take wheat, barley, beans, lentils, millet, and
spelt for yourself, and put them into a single
container, and make bread for yourself accord-
ing to the number of days you'll lie on your
side—yes, you'll eat it for 390 days. 10 You'll
measure 250g by weight to eat each day, and
you'll eat it during the day at set times. 11 Then
you'll measure out half a litre of water to drink
each day, and you'll drink it at set times.
12 You'll cook and eat that bread as barley
cakes, but burn sun-dried human excrement to
bake it over while they're watching.
13 Yahweh says that that means that the
bread that the Israeli people will eat there
among the other nations that I'll banish them
to will be ceremonially unclean. 14 But I
protested, "Oh no, master Yahweh. I've never
broken our dietary laws. Ever since I was
young, and right up till now, I've never eaten
either anything that died or anything killed by
animals, and foul meat has never entered my
mouth."
15 So Yahweh answered me, "Listen, I'll give
you cow manure instead of human excrement,
so you can bake your bread over that."
16 Then he told me, "Son of humanity, listen.
I'm breaking the cycle of food supply in
Yerushalem (Jerusalem), and they'll eat bread
while anxiously rationing it, and drink water
while fearfully rationing it, 17 because they'll
lack both food and water, and everyone will be
appalled by their neighbours' actions, and
they'll waste away because they disobeyed God.

Yehezkel's Yerushalem model

5:1 Then you, son of humanity, take a sharp
sword as a barber's razor for yourself, and use
it to shave your head and beard, then get some
scales so you can weigh your hair and divide it
equally into three piles. 2 Burn a third of it in
the middle of the city when the days represent-
ing the siege have finished, and take the second
pile of hair and hit it with the sword all around
the city. Then scatter the final third to the
wind, and I'll draw out a sword to chase after
the people. 3 But take a few hairs from them
and tie them into the folds of your robe. 4 Then
take a bit more of the hair and throw it into the
middle of the fire to be burnt up—from there a
fire will spread out to all the Israeli people."
5 My master Yahweh says, "That brick model
is Yerushalem (Jerusalem) where I've placed
her in the middle of the nations, and where I've
surrounded her with other countries. 6 But due
to her wickedness, she's rejected my decrees
more than other nations have, and avoided my
regulations more than the countries that sur-
round her. Her people have rejected my judge-
ments and haven't followed my regulations."
7 Therefore my master Yahweh says this, "Be-
cause you're more troublesome than the na-
tions that surround you, and haven't followed
my statutes or obeyed my regulations, or even
acted according to the surrounding nations'
regulations," 8 therefore my master Yahweh
says this, "Listen, I myself will work against
you. I'll execute judgements among you for the
other nations to see. 9 Because of your de-
testable actions, I'll do things to you that I've
never done before, and which I'll never do
again: 10 Fathers will eat children among you,[17]
and sons will eat their fathers, since I'll execute
judgement on you and scatter all of you who
are left in every direction."
11 This is my master Yahweh's declaration: As
surely as I live, it's certainly because you've de-
filed my sanctuary with all your hateful things,
and with all the disgusting things you've done,
that I myself will reduce you in number—I
won't have pity on you, and I won't spare you.
12 A third of you will die from deadly diseases,
plus they'll be consumed by a famine that
comes to you. A third will die by violence in the
area surrounding you. Then I'll scatter a third
in every direction, and draw out a sword to

17 RV 5:10 · Cross-ref. Lam 4:10.

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chase after them as well.

13 Then my rage will be over, and I'll end my
fury at them. I'll be satisfied, and they'll know
that I, Yahweh, have spoken in my rage and I've
completed my furious punishment of them.
14 I'll make you into a city of ruins so that those
from other nations will mock you as they pass
by. 15 So Yerushalem (Jerusalem) will become
something for other people to condemn and to
mock—a warning and a horror to the nations
that surround you. I'll execute judgements
against you in rage and fury, and with an angry
rebuke. I, Yahweh have declared that. 16 I'll
send out harsh arrows of famine against you
that'll become my way of destroying you, be-
cause I'll make the famine more severe and de-
stroy your food supply. 17 I'll send a famine and
disasters against you so you'll be childless.
Plague and bloodshed will pass through you,
and I'll bring a sword against you.[18] I, Yahweh,
have declared that.

Yahweh's judgement on false gods

6:1 Yahweh gave me this
message: 2 "Son of hu-
manity, look towards Yisrael's (Israel's) moun-
tains and prophesy to them. 3 Say, 'Mountains
of Yisrael, listen to this message from the mas-
ter Yahweh. My master Yahweh says this to the
mountains and to the hills, to the streambeds,
and to the valleys: Listen, I'm bringing a sword
against you all, and I'll destroy your hilltop
shrines. 4 Then your altars will become deso-
late and your pillars will be destroyed, and I'll
throw your dead people down in front of their
idols. 5 I'll lay the dead bodies of Yisrael's peo-
ple right there in front of their idols, and scat-
ter your bones around your altars. 6 Every-
where you people live, cities will be turned to
rubble and the hilltop shrines ruined, so that
your altars will be broken down and left idle.
Then they'll be broken and disappear, your pil-
lars will be cut down, and everything you peo-
ple have built will be wiped away. 7 The dead
will fall down right there among you, and you'll
know that I am Yahweh.

8 " 'But I'll preserve a remnant among you,
and there'll be some who escape the sword
among the nations, when you're scattered
throughout the countries. 9 Then those who es-
cape will think about me among the nations
where they'll be held captive. They'll remem-
ber that I was grieved by their promiscuous
heart that turned away from me, and by their
eyes that lusted after their idols. Then the
loathing for the wickedness that they've com-
mitted with all their disgusting activities will
show on their faces, 10 and they'll know that I
am Yahweh. It was for a reason that I said I'd
bring this evil onto them.' "

Yahweh's punishment of the Israelis

11 My master Yahweh
says this: "Clap your
hands and stamp your
feet. Say, 'Oh dear,' because of all the disgust-
ingly evil things done by the Israeli people, be-
cause now they'll fall by sword, famine, and
deadly diseases. 12 Those who are far from
Yerushalem (Jerusalem) will die from deadly
diseases, and those who are near will fall by the
sword. Those who remain and survive will die
by famine. That's the way that I'll put my fury
against them into action. 13 Then you'll know
that I am Yahweh, when their dead lie among
their idols, around their altars, on every high
hill—on all the mountain peaks, and under ev-
ery flourishing tree and thick oak—the places
where they burnt incense to all their idols.
14 I'll strike the land with my hand and make it
bare and deserted from the wilderness to Deve-
lah, throughout all the places where they live.
Then they'll know that I am Yahweh."

Yisrael's end is coming

7:1 Yahweh gave me this
message: 2 "You, son of
humanity, the master Yahweh says this to the
country of Yisrael (Israel).

" 'An end. An end has come to the four bor-
ders of the country.

3 Now your end has come, because I'm send-
ing out my rage onto you, and I'll judge you ac-
cording to your behaviour,

then I'll bring all your disgusting habits back
onto you. 4 I won't pity you, and I won't spare

18 **RV 5:17 · Cross-ref.** Rev 6:8.

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you. Instead, I'll bring your ways back onto you,
and your disgusting actions will come back on
you so you'll know that I am Yahweh.' "
5 My master Yahweh says this:
"Disaster. A unique disaster. Listen, it's coming. 6 An end of an era is definitely coming. The
end has woken up and is starting to work
against you—yes it's coming. 7 Your doom is
coming to you who inhabit the land. The time
has come. The day of destruction is near, and
the mountains will no longer be cheerful.
8 "Now before long I'll pour out my fury
against you and expend my rage on you when I
judge you according to what you do and bring
all your disgusting actions back on you, 9 because I won't be compassionate and I won't
spare you. Whatever you've done in the past,
I'll do to you now, and your disgusting actions
will bounce back on you so you'll know that it's
me, Yahweh, who's punishing you. 10 Look
here, the day—yes, it's coming. Doom has gone
out. The wooden stick has blossomed. Arrogance has budded. 11 Violence has grown up
into a wooden stick of wickedness, but none of
them (even though there's many of them), and
none of their wealth, and none of their importance will continue.
12 "The time is coming—the day has come
close. Don't let a buyer be happy or a seller be
sad, because my anger is directed at the entire
large group. 13 No, the seller won't return to
the land he sold as long as they both live, because the vision concerning the entire group
won't be reversed, and because of their disobedience, none of them will be able to save themselves. 14 They've blown the trumpet and gotten everything ready, but there's no one marching to battle, since my anger is on the entire
large group.
15 "The sword is on the outside, and deadly
diseases and famine are inside the building.
People who are in the countryside will die by
the sword, while famine and deadly diseases
will consume those in the city. 16 But some survivors will escape from among them, and will
go up into the hills. Like the doves that live in
the valleys, all of them will moan—each person
for their own disobedience. 17 They won't be
able to use their trembling hands, and their
knees will feel like liquid. 18 They'll wear sackcloth, but will be covered in terror. Their faces
will display their shame, and they'll shave their
heads as a sign of sorrow. 19 They'll throw their
silver into the streets, and their gold will be like
rubbish. Their silver and gold won't be able to
rescue them in the day of Yahweh's rage. Their
lives won't be saved, and their hunger won't be
satisfied, because their disobedience has become a stumbling block. 20 In their pride they
took his beautiful jewelled ornaments and
made them into their idolatrous figures and detestable things. Therefore, I'm going to defile
those things. 21 I'll hand those things over to
strangers and to the earth's wicked people as
plunder, and they'll defile them. 22 Then I'll put
my hand over my eyes when they defile my
cherished place—bandits will enter it and defile
it.
23 "Make a chain, because the country is filled
with judgement for murder, and now the city is
full of violence. 24 I'll bring the most wicked
foreigners here, and they'll take over the people's houses, and I'll bring the pride of the powerful people to an end, because their sacred
places will be defiled. 25 Anguish will be the order of the day, and they'll wish for peace, but
there won't be any. 26 Disaster will follow disaster and there'll be rumour after rumour. Then
they'll be wanting a vision from the prophet,
but the priest will no longer teach God's instructions, and advice from the elders will be
useless. 27 The king will mourn and the prince
will be overcome by despair, while the hands of
the country's people will tremble in fear. I'll do
that to them just like they did to others. I'll
judge them by their own standards until they
know that I am Yahweh."

Readers' Version

Yahweh's second revelation to Yehezkel[19] · Yerushalem's disgusting idol worship

8:1 Then in the middle of the sixth year,[20] as I sat in my house, and Yehudah's (Judah's) elders sat in front of me, my master Yahweh's hands fell on me there again. **2** I looked, and wow—there was something that looked a bit like a man. From his hips downward there appeared to be fire, and from his hips upward there appeared to be something shining like glowing metal.[21] **3** Then he reached out something in the shape of a hand and took me by my hair—the Spirit lifted me up between earth and the heavens, and in visions from God, he took me to Yerushalem (Jerusalem), to the entrance of the inner northern gate, where the idol was that made Yahweh very jealous.

4 Then wow, the brilliant light of Yisrael's (Israel's) god was there, just like the vision that I'd seen on the plain.[22] **5** Then he told me, "Son of humanity, look towards the north." So I looked towards the north, and to the north of the gate leading to the altar—there in the entrance—was the idol that caused the jealousy.

6 So he told me, "Son of humanity, do you see what they're doing? Those are horribly disgusting things that the Israeli people are doing here to drive me far from my own sanctuary. But you'll see even more disgusting things soon."

7 Then he took me to the courtyard doorway, and I looked, and there was a hole in the wall. **8** He told me, "Son of humanity, dig into this wall." So I dug into the wall, and discovered a doorway. **9** Then he told me, "Go and see the disgustingly wicked things that they're doing there." **10** So I went through and looked, and oh dear, there were shapes of every creeping thing and detestable creature. Pictures of all the Israeli people's idols were carved into the wall all around. **11** Seventy elders from the Israeli people were there, and Shafan's son Ya'azanyah was standing in the middle of them. They were standing in front of the images, and each man was holding his incense burner so that the smell of the cloud of incense went up. **12** Then he asked me, "Son of humanity, do you see what the Israeli elders are doing in the dark? Each one does this in his idol's hidden room, because they say, 'Yahweh doesn't even notice us. Yahweh's abandoned this country.' "

13 Then he told me, "Turn again and see the other terribly disgusting things that they're doing," **14** and he took me to the gate at the northern entrance of Yahweh's temple, and oh dear—there were some women sitting there mourning for the Babylonian Tamuz deity. **15** Then he said to me, "Son of humanity, do you see that? Turn again, and you'll see even more disgusting things than those."

16 Then he took me into the inner courtyard of Yahweh's house, and oh no—at the entrance of Yahweh's temple between the porch and the altar, there were about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple and their faces toward the east where they were worshipping the sun.

17 He asked me, "Son of humanity, do you see that? Is it insignificant that Yehudah's (Judah's) people do those disgusting things that they're doing here? They've filled the land with violence and keep provoking me to anger and mocking me. **18** So I will also do something to them—I won't have compassion and I won't spare them. Even if they cry loudly in my ears, I won't hear them."

Yehezkel is shown Yerushalem's coming punishment

9:1 Then I heard Yahweh call out with a loud voice, saying, "Guards, come up to the city, and each one is to bring his destructive weapon." **2** Then wow, six men came out from the pathway from the upper gate that faces north, each carrying his weapon of slaughter. There was a man among them

19 RV 8:1 · Parallel 8:1–10:22

20 RV 8:1 · Note About fourteen months later—around mid-September 592 B.C.

21 RV 8:2 · Cross-ref. Eze 1:27.

22 RV 8:4 · Cross-ref. Eze 1:28.

Readers' Version

dressed in linen with writing equipment at his side. Then they went in and stood beside the bronze altar.

3 Then the bright light representing Yisrael's (Israel's) god went from the winged creature, where it had been, up to the threshold of the temple. Yahweh called to the man dressed in linen who had the writing equipment at his side. 4 Yahweh told him, "Go through the middle of Yerushalem (Jerusalem) City, and make a mark on the foreheads of those who complain and despair about all the disgusting things being done there in the middle of the city."[23]

5 Then he spoke to the others within my hearing, "Go through the city after him and kill. Don't let yourselves have compassion, and don't show any pity. 6 Slaughter all the old men, young adults, little children, and women, but don't approach anyone who has the mark on their head. Begin at my sacred place." So they began with the elders who were in front of the temple.

7 Yahweh told them, "Defile the temple, and fill its courtyards with the corpses. Now go." So they went out and started attacking the city.

8 As they were attacking it, I found myself alone, and I fell to my knees with my head bowed down to the ground, and cried out, and said, "Ah, master Yahweh, will you destroy the entire remnant of Yisrael by pouring out your rage on Yerushalem?"

9 "The disobedience of the people of Yisrael and Yehudah (Judah) has been extremely bad," he answered. "The land is full of blood, and the city full of perversions, since they say, 'Yahweh has forgotten this country,' and 'Yahweh won't take any notice.' 10 So then, I won't show compassion, and I won't spare them, rather I'll bring it all on their heads."

11 Then wow, the man dressed in linen who had the writing equipment by his side came back to report, saying, "I've done everything you commanded."

God's splendour leaves the temple

10:1 As I looked toward the dome that was over the heads of the winged creatures, something appeared above them that looked like a sapphire stone that had been made into a throne.[24] 2 Then Yahweh spoke to the man dressed in linen and said, "Go between the wheels underneath the winged creatures, and fill both your hands with fiery coals from between the winged creatures and scatter them over the city."[25]

Then the man went in as I watched. 3 The winged creatures stood on the right side of the temple when the man went in, and a cloud filled the inner courtyard. 4 Yahweh's brilliant light rose up from the winged creature and stood over the threshold of the temple. It filled the temple with the cloud, and the courtyard was full of the brightness of Yahweh's splendour. 5 The sound of the creatures' wings could be heard as far as the outer courtyard, like the voice of the powerful God when he speaks.

6 When Yahweh had commanded the man dressed in linen, "Take fire from between the wheels that are between the winged creatures," the man went in and stood beside a wheel. 7 A winged creature reached out his hand between the winged creatures to the fire that was among them, and lifted it up and placed it into the hands of the one dressed in linen. The man took it and went back out.

8 I noticed that the winged creatures had something like a human hand under their wings, 9 then I looked, and wow, four wheels were beside the winged creatures—one wheel beside each one—and the wheels seemed like shining chrysolite.[26] 10 They all appeared to be the same, like having a wheel within a wheel. 11 When they moved, they went in any of their four directions, without turning as they went, because whatever direction the head faced,

23 **RV 9:4 · Cross-ref.** Rev 7:1-8; 9:4; 14:1.

24 **RV 10:1 · Cross-ref.** Eze 1:26; Rev 4:2.

25 **RV 10:2 · Cross-ref.** Rev 8:5.

26 **RV 10:9-13 · Cross-ref.** Eze 1:15-21.

Readers' Version

they went in that direction without turning as they went. 12 Their whole body (including their backs, their hands, and their wings) was covered with eyes, and there were eyes all around the four wheels, covering them as well.[27] 13 I heard someone call them 'the whirling wheels'.

14 Each one had four faces: the first face was a winged creature's face, the second was a human face, the third was a lion's face, and the fourth was an eagle's face.[28] 15 Then the living creatures (they were the same ones I'd seen by the Kevar Canal) rose up in the air. 16 Whenever the winged creatures moved, the wheels would go beside them, and whenever the winged creatures lifted up their wings to take off from the earth, the wheels didn't turn—they still stayed beside them. 17 When the winged creatures stood still, the wheels stood still, and when they went up, the wheels went up with them, because the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.

18 Then Yahweh's brilliant light moved out over the temple threshold and stayed over the winged creatures. 19 The winged creatures lifted up their wings and rose from the ground in my sight when they travelled, and the wheels did the same beside them. They stood at the eastern entrance to Yahweh's residence, and the brilliant light of Yisrael's (Israel's) god came onto them from above. 20 Those were the living creatures that I'd seen below Yisrael's god by the Kevar Canal, so I knew that they were winged creatures.

21 They each had four faces and four wings, and had something like human hands under their wings, 22 and their faces resembled the faces that I'd seen in the vision at the Kevar Canal, and each of them went straight ahead.

Yahweh's punishment for Yerushalem

11:1 Then the spirit lifted me up and brought me to the eastern gate of Yahweh's temple, facing east, and wow, in the doorway of the gate there were twenty-five men. Among them I saw Azur's son Ya'azanyah and Benayah's son Pelatyah, who were leaders of the people.

2 Yahweh told me, "Son of humanity, these are the men who plan to do evil things and who make wicked plans in this city. 3 They're saying, 'This isn't yet the time to build houses. This city is like a cooking pot, and we're the meat.' 4 So, prophesy against them, son of humanity, start prophesying."

5 Then Yahweh's spirit came on me and told me to say: This is what Yahweh says, "That's what you Israeli people are saying, because I know what goes through your mind. 6 You've killed many people in this city, and filled its streets with them.

7 Therefore the master Yahweh says: The people you've killed, whose bodies you've laid in the middle of Yerushalem (Jerusalem), are the meat, and this city is the pot. But you people are going to be brought out from the centre of this city. 8 You've feared the sword, so I'm bringing the sword against you. That's my master Yahweh's declaration. 9 I'll bring you out from the city, and put you into the hands of foreigners, because I'll bring judgement against you people. 10 You'll be killed by the sword. I'll judge you within Yisrael's (Israel's) borders so that you people will know that I am Yahweh. 11 This city won't be your cooking pot, nor will you be the meat inside it. I'll judge you people within Yisrael's borders. 12 Then you'll know that I am Yahweh, the one whose instructions you haven't obeyed and whose regulations you haven't followed. Instead, you people have imitated the wicked customs of the nations that surround you."

13 Then as I was prophesying, Benayah's son Pelatyah died. So I fell to my knees with my face bowed low to the ground and cried out with a loud voice, "Oh no, my master Yahweh, will you completely eliminate the Israeli people?"

Yahweh's promise to the exiles

14 Then Yahweh gave me this message:

27 RV 10:12 · Cross-ref. Rev 4:8.

28 RV 10:14 · Cross-ref. Eze 1:10; Rev 4:7.

Readers' Version

15 "Your brothers, son of humanity, your brothers and all the Israeli people who were exiled—the ones living in Yerushalem (Jerusalem) say about them all, 'They're far away from Yahweh. *This land* was given to us as ours to own.'
16 So tell them, 'My master Yahweh says this: 'Although I've removed them far away to other nations, and though I've scattered them among those lands, I myself have been a place of security for them for a little while in the lands where they were taken.'
17 So explain to them, 'My master Yahweh says this: 'I'll gather you from the people groups, and assemble you from the lands where you were scattered, and I'll give you back the country of Yisrael (Israel).' 18 Then they'll go there and remove every detestable and disgusting thing from there, 19 and I'll give them one heart, and I'll put a new spirit in them. I'll take the rock-hard heart out of them and give them a tender heart,[29] 20 so that they'll follow my instructions and obey my regulations. Then they'll be my people, and I'll be their god.
21 But to those who would rather happily choose their detestable and disgusting ways, I'll make their actions bounce back onto their own heads. That's the master Yahweh's declaration."

God's glory leaves Yerushalem

22 Then the winged creatures lifted up their wings and the wheels that were beside them, and the brilliant light of Yisrael's (Israel's) god was up high over them.[30] 23 Then it went up from the centre of the city and sat above the mountain to the east of the city. 24 The spirit lifted me up and brought me into the land of the Kasdim (Chaldeans) to the exiles, in the vision from God's spirit, and the vision that I'd been seeing left me, 25 and I told the exiles everything Yahweh had shown me.

Portraying the future exile

12:1 Then Yahweh gave me this message: 2 "Son of humanity, you live among a rebellious people group who have eyes to see, yet they don't see, and who have ears to hear, but don't listen,[31] because they're a rebellious people group.
3 "Therefore, son of humanity, pack up your stuff ready to go into exile, and each day while they're watching, start going out somewhere, because while they're watching, I'll exile you from your place to another place. Perhaps they'll begin to see, even though they're such rebellious people. 4 Each day while they're watching, bring out your things for an exile, then as they watch in the evening, go out in the way that people do when going into exile. 5 Dig a hole through the city wall where they'll see you do it, and go out through it. 6 While they're watching, lift your things up onto your shoulder, and bring them out in the darkness. Cover your face, because you mustn't see this land, since I've made you into a sign for the Israeli people."
7 So I did just as I was instructed: I brought my things for an exile out in the daytime, and in the evening I dug a hole through the wall by hand. I brought my things out in the dark, and lifted them up onto my shoulder as they watched.
8 The next morning, Yahweh gave me this message: 9 "Son of humanity, haven't those rebellious Israeli people asked you what you're doing? 10 Tell them that the master Yahweh says this: 'this prophetic action concerns the ruler in Yerushalem (Jerusalem) and all the other Israeli people who are there.' 11 Tell them that you're a sign to them, and that everything you've done will happen to them—they'll be captured and taken into exile in another country. 12 Their leader will lift his things up onto his shoulder in the dark, and will go out through the wall. They'll dig through the wall and take their things out. He'll cover his face, so he won't see the place he's leaving. 13 I'll spread my net out over him and he'll be caught in my trap, then I'll take him away to Bavel (Babylon) (the land of the Kasdim (Chaldeans)),

29 RV 11:19-20 · Cross-ref. Eze 36:26-28.
30 RV 11:22-23 · Cross-ref. Eze 43:2-5.
31 RV 12:2 · Cross-ref. Isa 6:9-10; Jer 5:21; Mrk 8:18.

Readers' Version

but he won't see it, and he'll die there.[32] 14 I'll
also scatter all of his assistants in every direction, and I'll send out a sword after his entire
army. 15 When I scatter them among the nations and disperse them throughout the lands,
then they'll know that I am Yahweh. 16 But I'll
spare a few of them from the sword, famine,
and deadly diseases, so they'll be able to record
all their hardships and ungodly practices in the
countries that I take them to, so they'll know
that I am Yahweh."

Portraying the peoples' trembling

17 Then Yahweh gave me another message:
18 "Son of humanity, eat your food while trembling with fear, and drink your water while
shaking anxiously, 19 and tell the people in this
country, 'My master Yahweh says this about
the inhabitants of Yerushalem (Jerusalem), and
the country of Yisrael (Israel), "They'll anxiously eat their food and fearfully drink their
water, since all the abundance from the land
will be devastated because of the violence of all
the people who live there. 20 The inhabited
cities will become desolate, and the land itself
will become a wasteland. Then you'll know that
I am Yahweh." ' "

Just because it never came true before...

21 Then Yahweh gave me another message:
22 "Son of humanity,
what's that saying that you have in Yisrael (Israel)? It goes, 'The days seem to go on and on,
yet no prophecy ever comes true.' 23 So tell
them, 'This is what the master Yahweh says:
I'm going to prove that what they say isn't correct, then they'll never say it again in Yisrael.'
Tell them, 'It'll soon be the time when everything that the prophets have predicted will
happen, 24 because there'll no longer be any
false visions or people-pleasing prophecies
within Yisrael. 25 I speak, and I put the words
that I speak into action, because I am Yahweh.
The matter will no longer be delayed, because
I'll speak this message in your lifetimes, you rebellious people, and then I'll carry it out!'
That's the master Yahweh's declaration."

26 Then Yahweh gave me another message:
27 "Listen, son of humanity, the Israeli people
have said, 'The vision that the prophet sees is
for many years from now, and he prophesies
about far-off times,' 28 so tell them, 'The master
Yahweh says this: 'My words won't be delayed
any longer, but the message that I've given will
be put into effect. That's the master Yahweh's
declaration.' "

Condemning the false prophets

13:1 Then Yahweh gave me another message:
2 "Son of humanity, prophesy against the
prophets who are prophesying in Yisrael (Israel), and tell those who are prophesying out of
their own imaginations, 'Listen to Yahweh's
message. 3 My master Yahweh says this: 'Foolish prophets who follow their own spirit and
haven't actually seen any vision won't end well.
4 Yisrael, your prophets have been like jackals
in the wastelands. 5 You haven't gone to the
breaks in the walls around the Israeli cities and
repaired them, in order to be able to defend
yourselves well during the battle on Yahweh's
chosen day. 6 The people have false visions and
make false predictions. Yahweh hasn't sent
those who say that they're bringing Yahweh's
declaration, but nevertheless they've made
people hope that their messages would come
true. 7 Haven't you had false visions and made
false predictions—all of you who say that you're
bringing Yahweh's declaration when I myself
haven't spoken?'
8 Therefore the master Yahweh says this, 'Because you people have presented false visions
and have told lies, this is the master Yahweh's
declaration against you: 9 I'll punish the
prophets who have lying visions and who make
false predictions. They won't be allowed in the
assembly of my people, or enrolled in the
record of Yisrael's descendants. They mustn't
go to the land of Yisrael—that's how you people
will know that I am the master Yahweh.
10 Also because they led my people astray and

32 RV 12:13 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 25:7; Jer 52:11.

Readers' Version

said, "Peace," when there's no peace,[33] it's as if
they're building a wall and then whitewashing
it.' 11 Tell the ones who are whitewashing the
wall that it'll fall down. There'll be a downpour,
then I'll send hailstones to make it fall down,
and a strong wind to break it down. 12 See, the
wall will fall down. Haven't others asked you
where the white coating went that you put on
it?
13 Therefore my master Yahweh says this: 'In
my rage, I'll bring a storm, and in my anger,
there'll be heavy rain causing floods. In my
rage, hailstones will completely destroy
Yerushalem (Jerusalem). 14 I'll tear down the
wall that you covered with whitewash, and I'll
demolish it to ground level and expose its foun-
dations. So it'll fall, and you'll be annihilated in
the middle of it all. Then you people will know
that I am Yahweh.
15 In my rage I'll annihilate the wall and those
who whitewashed it. I'll tell you, "The wall
doesn't exist anymore, nor do the people who
whitewashed it— 16 those Israeli prophets who
prophesied about Yerushalem and had visions
of peace for it. But there isn't any peace! That's
the master Yahweh's declaration." '
17 So, son of humanity, turn your attention to
your people's daughters and prophesy against
them because they invented prophecies in
their own imaginations. 18 Tell them that the
master Yahweh says this: 'The women won't
end well who sew magic charms onto every
part of their hands, and make headbands for
people of every walk of life that are used to de-
ceive people and hunt them down. Do you peo-
ple really think you can get away with hunting
down my people, but then save your own lives?
19 You've profaned me among my people for
handfuls of barley and crumbs of bread. You
people have killed people who shouldn't have
died, and saved the lives of those who shouldn't
have continued to live, because of your lies to
my people who heard you.
20 Therefore my master Yahweh says this: 'I'm
against the magic charms that you've used to
lure the people in as if they were birds. Indeed,
I'll tear them from your arms, and I'll let the
people you've trapped like birds go free. 21 I'll
tear away your headbands and rescue my peo-
ple from your control so they'll no longer be
trapped in your system. Then you people will
know that I am Yahweh.
22 Because you've discouraged the righteous
people with lies (even though I didn't desire
their discouragement), and because you people
encouraged the actions of the wicked people
instead so they won't change their ways to save
their lives, 23 because of that, you'll no longer
have false visions or continue to make predic-
tions, because I'll rescue my people out of your
control. Then you'll know that I am Yahweh.' "

Yahweh's hate for idols

14:1 One day some of the
Israeli elders came and
sat down to talk, 2 and Yahweh gave me this
message: 3 "Son of humanity, these men have
taken their idols to be their gods, and their
choice to disobey makes it very difficult for
them to relate to me. Should I even let them
ask me anything?
4 Therefore tell them that the master Yahweh
says this: 'Every Israeli person who makes their
idols their priority, or who allows their disobe-
dience to separate them from me, and who
then comes to a prophet, I, Yahweh, will answer
them according to how many idols they have.
5 I'll do that so that I can reclaim the Israeli
people whose values are now far from mine due
to their idols.
6 Therefore tell the Israeli people that the
master Yahweh says this: 'Change your be-
haviour and turn away from your idols. Make a
decision to stop disobeying me by doing those
evil things.
7 Any Israeli person or any foreigner residing
in Yisrael (Israel) who deserts me, who takes
idols to be their gods and allows their disobedi-
ence to separate them from me, and who then
comes to a prophet to request my guidance, I,
Yahweh, will answer that person myself. 8 I'll
clearly show my disapproval and make that

33 **RV 13:10 · Cross-ref.** Jer 6:14; 8:11.

Readers' Version

person into a sign for others and into a talking point, and they'll be isolated from the rest of my people, and you people will know that I am Yahweh.

9 If a prophet is deceived and speaks a message, then I, Yahweh, will deceive that prophet. I'll take action against him and destroy him to remove him from among the Israeli people. 10 Both the prophet and the one who asks him for advice will be guilty, and I'll punish both of them for their disobedience. 11 Because of that, the Israeli people will no longer wander away from following me, nor defile themselves any longer through all their disobedience. They'll be my people, and I'll be their god. That's the master Yahweh's declaration.' "

Turning the country into wasteland

12 Then Yahweh gave me another message: 13 "Son of humanity, when a country sins against me by choosing to worship other gods, so that I decide to take action against it, then I'll break the cycle of food production and send a famine out over it. I'll punish both people and animals from that land 14 in such a way that even if Noah, Daniyel, and Iyov (Job) lived in that place, they could only rescue their own lives by being blameless in my sight. That's the master Yahweh's declaration.

15 If I send vicious wild animals through the country and make it barren so that it becomes a wasteland where no one can pass through because of those animals, 16 then even if those same three men were in it, as I live, declares the master Yahweh, they wouldn't be able to rescue even their own children—only their own lives would be saved, but the land itself would become a wasteland.

17 Or if I bring a sword against that country and say, 'Sword, go through the land and eliminate both the people and domestic animals from it', 18 then even if those three men were in it, as I live, declares the master Yahweh, they wouldn't be able to rescue even their own sons or daughters—only their own lives would be saved.

19 Or if I send deadly diseases against that country and pour out my rage against it through bloodshed, in order to eliminate both the people and the domestic animals, 20 as surely as I live, even if Noah, Daniyel, and Iyov were in that country, they wouldn't be able to rescue even their sons and daughters. They'd save only themselves by being blameless in my sight. That's the master Yahweh's declaration.

21 The master Yahweh says this: 'I'll certainly make things worse by sending my four punishments against Yerushalem (Jerusalem) to eliminate both the people and the domestic animals from it: famine, sword, wild animals, and deadly diseases.[34] 22 But listen! Despite that, a remnant will be left in the city—survivors who'll go out with sons and daughters. Yes, they'll go out to you, and you'll see their behaviour and actions and understand why they deserved the punishment that I sent to Yerushalem, and about everything else that I've sent against the country. 23 The survivors will relieve you people when you see their behaviour and their actions, because you'll know that all those things that I've done against Yerushalem, I didn't do them without good reason. That's the master Yahweh's declaration."

The vine stem is useless as wood

15:1 Then Yahweh gave me another message: 2 "Son of humanity, how is a vine better than any tree with branches in a forest? 3 Do people take wood from a vine to make anything? Would anyone use vine wood even to make something to hang a mug on? 4 If it's used as firewood, and if the fire burns both ends, and even the middle, is it good wood, or indeed good for anything? 5 Originally, the vine wood couldn't be used to make anything, so surely, when the fire's burnt it, it still can't do anything useful.

6 Therefore the master Yahweh says this: 'Unlike the trees in the forests, I've given the vine as fuel for fires. I'll act in the same way toward Yerushalem's (Jerusalem's) inhabitants, 7 and I'll start to take action against them. Even if

34 **RV 14:21 · Cross-ref.** Rev 6:8.

Readers' Version

they get out of the fire, the fire will still consume them, so you people will know that I am Yahweh, when I take action against them.
8 Then I'll make the land into an abandoned wasteland because they chose to worship other gods. That's the master Yahweh's declaration."

Unfaithful Yerushalem's vile practices

16:1 Then Yahweh gave me another message:
2 "Son of humanity, inform Yerushalem (Jerusalem) about their detestable behaviour, 3 and declare that the master Yahweh says this to Yerushalem: Your beginning and your birth took place in the land of Kena'an (Canaan), your father was an Amori, and your mother was a Hiti.[35] 4 When you were born, your mother didn't cut your cord, nor did she clean you with water or rub you down with salt, or wrap cloth around you. 5 No one cared enough about you to do any of these things for you—to be compassionate toward you. Your life was despised and you were thrown out into the open field on the very day that you were born.
6 But I went past, and I saw you, Yerushalem, writhing in your own blood, so I said to you as you lay there in your blood, "Live!"[36] 7 I made you grow like a plant in the countryside. You grew up and became tall, and you became the most precious jewel. Your breasts became firm, and your hair grew thick, even though you'd been naked and bare.
8 I went past again and saw you. Wow, the time of love came for you, so I spread my robe out over you and covered your nakedness. Then I made a promise to you and brought you into a contract and you became mine. That's the master Yahweh's declaration.
9 I washed you, Yerushalem, with water, and rinsed your blood off you, and I put lotion on your skin. 10 Then I dressed you in embroidered clothes and put leather sandals on your feet. I wrapped you in fine linen, then covered you with silk. 11 Next I adorned you with jewellery, and I put bracelets on your hands and a chain around your neck. 12 I put a ring in your nose and earrings in your ears, and a beautiful crown on your head. 13 So you were adorned with gold and silver, and you were dressed in fine linen, silk, and embroidered clothes. You ate good food made from fine flour, honey, and oil, and you were very beautiful, and you became a queen. 14 Your reputation, Yerushalem, spread among the nations because of your beauty, because it was perfect in the majesty I'd given you. That's the master Yahweh's declaration.
15 But Yerushalem, you trusted in your own beauty, and you acted like a prostitute because of your reputation. You flirted with everyone going past, and prostituted yourself, so that your beauty became theirs. 16 Then you took your clothes and made hilltop shrines for yourself with them, decorated in various colours, and there you acted like a prostitute. This shouldn't have happened, nor should such a thing exist. 17 You took the fine gold and silver jewellery that I gave you, and you made male sculptures for yourselves, and you behaved with them like a prostitute would. 18 You took your embroidered garments and covered those idols, and you offered my oils and perfumes to them. 19 The high-quality bread that I gave you (made with fine flour, oil, and honey), you placed in front of them to be a fragrant aroma, and indeed it was. That's the master Yahweh's declaration.
20 Then you took your sons and daughters that you bore for me, and you sacrificed them to those idols to be devoured as food. Are your acts of prostitution a small matter? 21 You slaughtered my children for the idols and made them pass through the fire. 22 In all your evil goings on and your acts of prostitution, you never thought back to the days when you were young, when you were naked and bare as you thrashed about in your own blood. 23 After all your wickedness, you won't end well. That's the master Yahweh's declaration.

35 **RV 16:3 · Note** A bunch of insults to the proud Israelis.
36 **RV 16:6 · Note** The last part of the verse is repeated in the Hebrew.

Readers' Version

24 You made yourself a mound and built a raised shrine in every public square. 25 You built your raised platform at the top of every street and made your beauty a disgrace, and you spread your legs for anyone who passed by, and you multiplied your acts of prostitution. 26 You've acted like a prostitute with your lusty neighbours the Mitsrim (Egyptians), and you committed many more acts of prostitution, provoking me to anger.

Yahweh's anger at Yerushalem

27 Listen, I'll hit you with my hand and cut off your food supply. I'll hand your life over to your enemies, the daughters of the Pelishtim, who were ashamed of your obscene behaviour.

28 You've acted like a prostitute with the Assyrians because you couldn't be satisfied. You acted like a prostitute and still you weren't satisfied. 29 So you performed many more acts of prostitution in Bavel (Babylon) (the country of the Chaldean merchants), and even that didn't satisfy you. 30 Your heart is so sick that you would do things like that—things that only a shameless prostitute would do. That's the master Yahweh's declaration.

31 You made your mounds at the top of every street and built your tall shrines in every public square, yet you weren't like a prostitute, in the sense that you scoffed at taking payment. 32 You adulterous woman, you prefer strangers over your husband. 33 It's normal for clients to pay the prostitute, but you do the opposite: you give your wages to all your lovers and bribe them to come to you from all around for your acts of prostitution. 34 Yes, there's a difference between you and other women. No one offers payment for you to act as a prostitute. You're the very opposite—you paid them but nothing was given to you.

Yahweh's punishment of Yerushalem

35 Therefore, Yerushalem (Jerusalem), you prostitute, listen to Yahweh's message. 36 The master Yahweh says this: 'Because you've poured out your lust and uncovered your nakedness through your acts of prostitution with your lovers and with all your detestable idols, and because you gave them your children's blood, 37 then listen: I'll gather all your lovers that you've met, including the ones you loved and the ones you hated—I'll gather them against you on every side. I'll uncover your nakedness for them so they see all your nakedness. 38 Then I'll punish you for your adultery and the shedding of blood, and I'll bring on you the bloodshed of my anger and passion. 39 I'll allow them to conquer you so they'll tear apart your mounds and break down your tall shrines, and they'll strip your clothes off you and take all your jewellery—leaving you naked and bare.

40 Then they'll bring a crowd up against you and throw heavy stones at you, and they'll cut you apart with their swords. 41 They'll burn down your houses and punish you in several ways in the sight of many women, because I'll put a stop to your prostitution, and you'll no longer pay your lovers. 42 Then I'll calm my rage against you. My anger will leave you, because I'll be satisfied and won't be angry at you any longer.

43 Because you didn't call to mind your younger days, and made me shake with anger because of all those things, therefore, listen: I myself will bring the punishment for what you've done down onto your own head. That's the master Yahweh's declaration.

Like mother, like daughter

Haven't you added prostitution to all your other detestable practices? 44 Listen, everyone who speaks proverbs about you will say, "Like mother, like daughter." 45 You are the daughter of your mother, who detested her husband and her children, and you are the sister of your sisters, who detested their husbands and their children. Your mother was a Hiti, and your father was an Amori.

46 Your older sister was Shomron (Samaria), and her daughters were the ones living in the north, while your younger sister was the one living south of you, that is, Sedom and her daughters. 47 Not only did you follow their customs and copy their behaviour and practices, but in everything you did, you've been *worse* than they were.

Readers' Version

48 This is the master Yahweh's declaration: As
I live, your sister Sedom and her daughters
didn't do as much evil as you and your daugh-
ters have done. 49 Listen, your sister Sedom's
sin was that she was arrogant in her leisure,
careless and unconcerned about anything. She
didn't assist the poor and needy people. 50 She
was arrogant and performed disgusting actions
in front of me, so I took them away, just as
you've seen.
51 As for Shomron, they didn't commit even
half of your sins. No, you've done many more
disgusting things than they did, and you've
shown that your sisters were better than you,
because of all the disgusting things you do.
52 Also how you display your own
shame—you've shown that your sisters were
better than you by the sins you committed in
all those disgusting ways. Your sisters now
seem better than you.
53 From their captivity, I'll restore the for-
tunes of Sedom and her daughters, and of
Shomron and her daughters, and your fortunes
will be similar,[37] 54 so that you'll display your
shame. You'll be humiliated because of every-
thing you've done, and in that way you'll be a
consolation to Sedom and Shomron. 55 Your
sister Sedom and her daughters will be restored
to their former condition, and Shomron and
her daughters will be restored similarly. Then
you and your daughters will be restored to your
former condition. 56 You never even mentioned
your sister Sedom in the period when you were
proud, 57 before your wickedness was revealed.
But now you're an object of scorn to the daugh-
ters of Aram (Syria) and to all the daughters of
the Pelishtim around her. People all around de-
spise you. 58 You'll display your shame and
your disgusting actions. That's Yahweh's decla-
ration.

The permanent agreement

59 The master Yahweh
says this: 'I'll deal with
you as you deserve—you who've despised your
oath by breaking our agreement. 60 But I myself
will call to mind my agreement with you that
was made when you were younger, and I'll es-
tablish a never-ending agreement with you.
61 Then you'll call to mind your behaviour and
be ashamed when you adopt your older and
younger sisters. I'll give them to you as daugh-
ters, but not because of your agreement. 62 I
myself will establish my agreement with you,
and you'll know that I am Yahweh, 63 so that
you'll call everything to mind and be ashamed.
Then you'll no longer open your mouth to
speak, because of your shame, when I've for-
given you for everything you've done. That's
the master Yahweh's declaration.' "

Two eagles and the vine

17:1 Then Yahweh gave
me another message:
2 "Son of humanity, present a riddle and tell a
parable to the Israeli people. 3 Tell them, 'The
master Yahweh says this: 'A large eagle, with
large wings full of multi-coloured feathers, and
long pinions, went to Levanon and grabbed
hold of the top of a cedar tree. 4 He broke off
the top shoot of the tree and took it to Kena'an
(Canaan) where he placed it in a city full of
merchants. 5 He also took some of the land's
seed and planted it in fertile soil, beside a large
body of water where a willow might grow.
6 Then the seed sprouted and became a spread-
ing vine low to the ground. Its branches turned
toward him, and its roots grew down below, so
it became a vine and produced branches and
sent out shoots.
7 But there was another large eagle with large
wings and many feathers. Oh wow, that vine
turned its roots toward this eagle, and it spread
out its branches toward the eagle from the
place it had been planted so it might get wa-
tered. 8 It had been planted in good soil beside
a large body of water so it would grow branches
and produce fruit, to become a magnificent
vine.'
9 Ask the people: 'The master Yahweh wants
to know if it'll prosper. Won't it be uprooted
and stripped of its fruit so that it withers, and
all its fresh growth will dry out? You wouldn't
have to be very strong or get lots of people to

37 RV 16:53 · Note i.e., to go into captivity, but then after a time, to be restored.

Readers' Version

help to pull it out by its roots. 10 So listen. After it had been planted, would it thrive? Wouldn't it wither up when the eastern wind touches it? Yes, it would wither right up in the garden plot where it sprouted.' "

The vine part of the parable explained

11 Then Yahweh gave me another message: 12 "Ask those rebellious people, 'Don't you know what those things mean? Listen, the king of Bavel (Babylon) came to Yerushalem (Jerusalem) and captured its king and its princes and took them with him to Bavel.[38] 13 Then he took a member of the royal family, made an agreement with him—forcing him to make various commitments. Then he took away the country's former powerful people, 14 so the kingdom would remain subjected and not be able to become powerful again. However, by keeping the agreement, the country would at least survive. 15 But the king of Yerushalem rebelled against him by sending his ambassadors to Mitsrayim (Egypt) to acquire horses and an army. Will he succeed? Will the one doing these things escape? If he breaks the agreement, will he survive? 16 This is the master Yahweh's declaration: As I live, he'll definitely die in the land of the king who made him king, the king whose promises he despised, and whose agreement he broke. He'll die in the middle of Bavel. 17 Mitsrayim's Par'oh (Pharaoh) with his mighty army and huge horde won't help him in battle, when ramps are constructed and siege walls are built up to cut off many lives, 18 because the king despised his promise by breaking the agreement. Wow, he reached out to make a promise, and yet afterwards he did all those things. He won't escape. 19 Therefore the master Yahweh says this: 'As I live, wasn't it my promise that he despised and my agreement that he broke? Therefore I'll cause him to be punished for what he did. 20 I'll spread my net out over him, and he'll be caught in my trap, and I'll take him to Bavel and handle his judgement there for the treason he committed when he betrayed me. 21 All of his refugees in his armies will be killed by the sword, and the ones who remain will be scattered in every direction. Then you people will know that I am Yahweh, because I've declared that that will happen."

The tree-tip part of the parable explained

22 The master Yahweh says this, 'So I myself will take away the highest part of the cedar tree, and I'll plant it away from its tender branches. I'll break it off, and I myself will plant it on a very high mountain. 23 I'll plant it on Yisrael's (Israel's) highest mountain so it'll grow branches and produce fruit, and it'll become a majestic cedar so that every winged bird will live under it. They'll nest in the shade of its branches, 24 then all the trees in the countryside will know that I am Yahweh. I bring down the high trees and I raise up the low trees. I wither the watered tree and I cause the wilted tree to bloom. I am Yahweh. I've declared that that will happen, and I will do it.' "

Individual responsibility

18:1 Then Yahweh gave me another message: 2 "What do you mean, you people who use this proverb about Yisrael (Israel)? You say, 'Fathers eat sour grapes, but it's the children's teeth that are set on edge'.

3 This is the master Yahweh's declaration: as I live, there'll certainly no longer be any occasion for you to use this proverb in Yisrael. 4 Listen, every life belongs to me: the father's life as well as the son's—they belong to me. The one who disobeys is the one who'll die.

The godly man

5 If there's a godly man who does what's fair and right, 6 who doesn't eat at the hilltop shrines, who doesn't request help from Yisrael's (Israel's) idols, who doesn't mess with someone else's wife or a menstruating woman, 7 who doesn't oppress anyone, who gives back to debtors what they put up as security for loans, who doesn't steal but rather gives his food to the hungry and gives clothes to those without them, 8 who doesn't charge too much interest if he lends money, and

38 RV 17:12-15 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 24:15-20; 2Ch 36:10.

Readers' Version

doesn't take too much profit for what he sells,
who promotes true justice within the community, 9 who follows my instructions and faithfully obeys my regulations, that man will be acquitted and will definitely live.[39] That's the
master Yahweh's declaration.

The wayward son of the godly man

10 But suppose that godly man has a violent
son who kills and sadly goes against all those
things above, 11 not following the example of
his godly father, but rather who's eaten at the
hilltop shrines and slept with someone else's
wife, 12 who oppresses the poor and needy, who
steals and robs, who doesn't return something
given as a pledge, who requests help from idols
and does disgusting things, 13 who lends out
money at too high interest, and who makes too
much profit on what he sells. Should that man
live? He certainly won't! He'll definitely die,
and his blood will be on his own head.

The peace/prosperity of child righteous/honest/sensible

14 But listen, suppose he has a son,
and his son sees all
the sins that his father's committed, and
though he sees them, he doesn't do those
things. 15 He hasn't eaten at the hilltop shrines,
and hasn't requested help from the Israeli people's idols, and hasn't slept with someone else's
wife, 16 he doesn't oppress anyone, or keep
things given as a pledge, or accept stolen
things, but instead gives his food to the hungry
and gives clothes to those without them, 17 he's
turned his back on crime, and doesn't charge
high interest, he follows my instructions and
obeys my regulations—he won't die for his father's evil actions, but he'll certainly live. 18 His
father, since he oppressed others by extortion
and robbed people, and did evil things among
his people—listen, he'll die in his sin.

19 But you people ask, 'Why doesn't the son
also have to pay the cost for his family's
crimes?' Well it's because the son promotes justice and godliness and follows all my instructions. He'll definitely live. 20 The one who sins
is the one who'll die. The children won't have
to be responsible for their parents' sin, and the
parents won't be responsible for their children's sins—the righteousness of those who act
rightly will be on themselves, and the wickedness of the wicked will be on themselves.[40]

Turning away from disobedience

21 But if the wicked person turns away from all
their disobedience, and follows all my instructions and does what's right and fair, then that
person will certainly live and not die. 22 All
their acts of disobedience won't be called to
mind against them. They'll live by the right
things they do. 23 That's the master Yahweh's
declaration.

Do I celebrate happily about the death of
wicked people, and not about them turning
away from their evil behaviour so that they can
live? 24 But if a righteous person turns away
from their righteousness, and disobeys and
does disgusting things like the wicked people
do, then will they live? All the good things that
had been done won't be called to mind when
they betray me in their treason, so they'll die in
the sins that they committed.

25 But you people complain that the master's
way isn't correct. Please listen, you Israeli people: is it my ways that aren't correct, or is it
your ways? 26 When the righteous person turns
away from their righteousness, and commits
injustice and dies because of it, then that person will die in the injustice that they've done.
27 But when a wicked person turns away from
the wicked things they've done and does what's
fair and what's right, then that person will preserve their life— 28 they've become aware of all
their disobedient behaviours and turned away
from them. That person certainly won't die, but
will live. 29 But the Israeli people insist, 'The
master's way isn't fair!' How is my way not fair,
you Israeli people? It's *your* ways that aren't
fair. 30 Therefore I'll judge each person among
you according to their ways, you Israeli people.
That's the master Yahweh's declaration.

39 **RV 18:9 · Cross-ref.** Lev 18:5.

40 **RV 18:20 · Cross-ref.** Deu 24:16.

Readers' Version

Change your direction and turn away from all
your disobedient behaviours so that they won't
be stumbling blocks of evil for you. 31 Throw off
all the disobedient things you people have
done. Work towards a new heart and a new
spirit for yourselves. Why should you die, you
Israeli people? 32 I take no pleasure in the death
of someone who dies. That's the master Yah-
weh's declaration, so turn away from your evil
behaviour and live.

A song of mourning for Yisrael's final kings

19:1 Now sing a mourn-
ful song for Yisrael's (Is-
rael's) leaders, 2 saying:
'Who was your mother? A lioness—she lived
with a lion's son.
There among the young lions, she reared her
cubs.
3 She's the one who raised one of her cubs to
become a young lion—
a lion who learned to tear apart his victims,
and then he devoured people.
4 Then the nations heard about him.
He got caught in their trap,
and they took him to Mitsrayim (Egypt) with
hooks.
5 The mother lion waited for his return,
but eventually she realised that he wasn't
coming back,
so she took another one of her cubs and made
him into a young lion.
6 This young lion roamed around amongst the
other lions.
He was a young lion and learned to tear his
victims—
he devoured people.
7 He seized their fortresses and ruined their
cities.
The land and its produce were abandoned
because of the sound of his roaring.
8 But the nations came against him from the
surrounding provinces.
They spread their nets over him—
he was caught in their pit.
9 With hooks in him, they put him in a cage,
and then they took him to the Babylonian
king.
They took him to the fortresses
so that his voice would no longer be heard in
Yisrael's (Israel's) hills.
10 Your mother was like a vine planted in your
vineyard beside the water.
It was fruitful and full of branches because
there was plenty of water.
11 It had strong branches that were used for
making rulers' scepters,
and it towered above the branches,
and its height could be seen due to the mass
of its foliage.
12 But the vine was uprooted in fury and
thrown down onto the ground,
and an eastern wind dried out its fruit.
Its strong branches were broken off and with-
ered,
and then burnt in a fire.
13 So now it's planted in the wilderness—
in a land of drought and thirst.
14 Fire went out from its large branches and
consumed its fruit.
There's no strong branches left on it—no
scepter for ruling with.'
That's a song for mourning, and should be sung
as such."

Israeli rebellion

20:1 Seven years after
we'd been taken to Bavel (Babylon), some Is-
raeli elders came to get me to ask Yahweh for
advice for them. 2 Then Yahweh gave me this
message: 3 "Son of humanity, tell the Israeli el-
ders that the master Yahweh says this: 'Have
you people come to get advice from me? As I
live, I won't allow you to ask for my advice.
That's the master Yahweh's declaration.'
4 Will you judge them? Will you judge, son of
humanity? Let them know about their ances-
tors' disgusting behaviour. 5 Tell them that the
master Yahweh says this: 'On the day that I
chose Yisrael (Israel) and made myself known
to them in Mitsrayim (Egypt), I raised my hand
to make a promise to Ya'akov's (Jacob's) de-
scendants. I told them, "I am Yahweh your
god"[41]— 6 on that day I raised my hand to make

41 **RV 20:5-6 · Cross-ref.** Exo 6:2-8.

Readers' Version

a promise to them that I would bring them out of Mitsrayim into a land that I'd carefully selected for them. It was flowing with milk and honey—it was the most beautiful of all the lands. 7 I told them, "Let each family throw away their Mitsri (Egyptian) idols, plus any other detestable things they have. Don't defile yourselves. I am Yahweh your god." 8 But they rebelled against me and were unwilling to listen to me. They didn't throw away the detestable things they had or abandon their Mitsri idols, so I determined to pour my fury out on them to satisfy my rage among them right there in Mitsrayim. 9 I did that to protect my reputation so it wouldn't be tarnished in the eyes of the nations where they were staying. I made myself clearly known to them[42] by bringing them out of Mitsrayim.

10 So I led them out of Mitsrayim and took them into the wilderness. 11 Then I gave them my instructions and regulations—anyone who follows them will live.[43] 12 I also established rest days as a sign between myself and them—for them to know that I am Yahweh who declares them different from others.[44] 13 But the Israeli people rebelled against me in the wilderness. They wouldn't follow my instructions, and they rejected my regulations, even though anyone who obeys them will live. They severely disrespected my rest days, so I said I'd pour my fury out on them in the wilderness in order to end them. 14 But I did that to protect my reputation so it wouldn't be tarnished in the eyes of the nations, in whose sight I had brought them out of Mitsrayim. 15 So I myself took action by making a promise to them in the wilderness not to bring them into the land that I'd been going to give them—a land flowing with milk and honey, which was the most beautiful out of all the lands.[45] 16 I promised that because they'd rejected my instructions and not followed my regulations, and they disrespected my rest days, because what they really wanted was their idols. 17 But I pitied them, so I didn't wipe them out in the wilderness.

18 I told their children in the wilderness, "Don't follow your parents' habits or behaviour, and don't defile yourselves with their idols. 19 I am Yahweh your god—follow my instructions, obey my regulations, 20 and keep my rest days different from other days so that they'll be a sign between me and you. That way you'll all know that I am Yahweh your god."

21 However, their sons and daughters rebelled against me. They didn't keep my instructions or follow my regulations, even though anyone who obeys them will live. They disrespected my rest days, so I determined to pour my fury out on them to satisfy my rage against them in the wilderness. 22 But I didn't proceed, for the sake of my reputation, so it wouldn't be mocked by the nations who saw me bring the Israelis out of Mitsrayim (Egypt). 23 So I took action in the wilderness, promising that instead I would scatter them among the nations and disperse them into other countries.[46] 24 I decided to do that since they hadn't obeyed my instructions, and since they'd rejected my regulations and disrespected my rest days—they really wanted their ancestors' idols.

25 Then I even gave them instructions that weren't good, and regulations that they couldn't live by. 26 I declared them to be defiled because of the gifts they gave (they sacrificed every woman's firstborn child in the fire) so that I could fill them with horror so they would know that I am Yahweh.'

27 Therefore, son of humanity, speak to the Israeli people and tell them that the master Yahweh says this: 'That was also how your ances-

42 RV 20:9 · Note them: Probably referring to those countries, but some translations interpret it to refer to the ones being brought out.

43 RV 20:11-13 · Cross-ref. Lev 18:5.

44 RV 20:12 · Cross-ref. Exo 31:13-17.

45 RV 20:15 · Cross-ref. Num 14:26-35.

46 RV 20:23 · Cross-ref. Lev 26:33.

Readers' Version

tors blasphemed me when they were unfaithful to me. 28 When I brought them into the land that I'd promised to give them, then whenever they saw any high hill and leafy tree, they offered their sacrifices. They provoked me with their offerings, and also burnt their fragrant incense there and poured out their drink offerings. 29 Then I asked them, "What's this high place where you present your offerings?" so the place is called Bamah (meaning 'High place') to this day.'

30 Therefore tell the Israeli people that the master Yahweh asks this: 'Why do you defile yourselves with your ancestors' customs? Why do you act like prostitutes, searching for disgusting things? 31 To this day, when you offer up your gifts (offering your sons as burnt sacrifices), you defile yourselves with all your idols. So why should I let you try to find me, you Israeli people? As I live, I won't allow you people to request my help or advice. That's the master Yahweh's declaration. 32 The thought that's forming in your mind will never happen. You people say, "Let's be like the other nations—like the clans in other countries who worship wood and stone."

Punishment and forgiveness

33 This is the master Yahweh's declaration: As I live, I'll certainly reign over you people with strict control, and with fury that'll be poured out on you. 34 I'll bring you out from the other people groups and will gather you out of the countries where you've been scattered. I'll do this with power, pouring out fury. 35 Then I'll bring you into the wilderness of the people groups, and there I'll judge you face to face— 36 just like I judged your ancestors in the Mitsri (Egyptian) wilderness, that's how I'll judge you people. That's the master Yahweh's declaration.

37 I'll cause you people to pass under my staff to be counted, and I'll make you obey the requirements of our agreement. 38 I'll purge the rebels from among you, as well as those who revolt against me. I'll send them out from the land where they're staying as foreigners, but they won't enter Yisrael (Israel). Then you people will know that I am Yahweh.

39 So to you Israeli people, the master Yahweh says this: 'Each of you should go to his own idols. Worship them if you refuse to listen to me, but you must no longer desecrate my sacred name with your gifts and your idols, 40 because this is the master Yahweh's declaration: all the Israeli people will worship me there on my sacred mountain in Yisrael. I'll be happy to accept your offerings there, along with your choice gifts dedicated to me. 41 I'll accept you like a soothing aroma when I bring you out from the people groups and gather you out of the countries where you've been scattered. I'll display my holiness among you for the nations to see. 42 You'll know that I am Yahweh when I bring you back to Yisrael—to the land that I promised to give to your ancestors. 43 There you'll call to mind your conduct and everything you defiled yourselves by doing, and you'll despise yourselves for all the evil things you've done. 44 Then you'll know that I am Yahweh, when I do this to you for the sake of my reputation, not because of your evil practices, and not because of your corrupt actions, you Israeli people. That's the master Yahweh's declaration.' "

The burnt forest

45 Then Yahweh gave me another message: 46 "Son of humanity, look towards the southern lands, and speak against the south—prophesy against the Negev forest. 47 Tell the forest that this is the master Yahweh's declaration: See, I'll set a fire among you. It'll burn up every tree among you, whether living or dead. The fiery flame won't be able to be put out—every area from the north to the south will be burnt. 48 Then everyone will see that I am Yahweh, when I light the fire, and it can't be extinguished.' "

49 Then I said, "Oh no, my master Yahweh, now they're wondering if I'm just someone who tells cute parables."

Yahweh's piercing sword

21:1 Then Yahweh gave me another message: 2 "Son of humanity, look towards Yerushalem (Jerusalem), and speak against the sacred places and prophesy against Yisrael (Israel). 3 Tell Yisrael that Yahweh says this: Listen, I'm

Readers' Version

against you. I'll draw my sword from its sheath to kill both the righteous and the wicked among you. 4 Yes, in order for me to eliminate both the righteous and the wicked from you, my sword will go out from its sheath against everyone from the south to the north, 5 then everyone will know that I, Yahweh, have drawn my sword from its sheath. It will no longer hold back.'

6 As for you, son of humanity, groan as if your pelvis has cracked. Groan bitterly in front of them. 7 That'll get the people asking you, 'What are you groaning about?' Then you'll tell them, 'Because of the news that's coming, because every stomach will go tense and every hand will tremble. Breathing will become difficult, and every knee will turn to jelly. Listen, it's coming, and that's what it'll be like. That's the master Yahweh's declaration.' "

8 Then Yahweh gave me another message: 9 "Son of humanity, prophesy and tell them that the master says this:

"A sword! A sword!
It will be sharpened and polished.
10 It will be sharpened in order to engage in great slaughter!
It will be polished in order to be like lightning!
Should we rejoice in my son's scepter?
The coming sword hates every such rod.
11 So the sword will be given to be polished,
and then to be grasped by the hand.
The sword is sharpened and polished
and will be handed to the one who kills!" ' "

12 Call for help and wail, son of humanity,
because that sword has come against my people.
It's against all of Yisrael's (Israel's) leaders—
they're thrown against the sword along with my people.
Therefore, hammer your fists against the wall,
13 because testing will come,
but what if the scepter doesn't last?
That's the master Yahweh's declaration.

14 Now, son of humanity, prophesy and clap your two hands together loudly,
because the sword will attack even a third time.
A sword for the ones to be slaughtered.
It's a sword for the many to be slaughtered,
piercing them wherever they run.
15 In order to melt their hearts and to multiply their fallen,
I've placed the sword for slaughter at all their gates.
Ah, it flashes like lightning.
It's held tightly for slaughter.
16 You, sword, strike to the right.
Strike to the left.
Go in whichever direction you're facing,
17 because I will also clap my two hands together,
and then I'll cease my fury.
I, Yahweh, declare it."

The sword of Bavel's king

18 Then Yahweh gave me another message: 19 "Now, son of humanity, assign two roads for Bavel's (Babylon's) king's sword to come on. The two roads will start in the same land, and a signpost will mark one of them as leading to a city. 20 Markos one road for the Babylonian army to come to Rabah, the Amoni city. Markos the other to lead the army to Yehudah (Judah) and the fortified city of Yerushalem (Jerusalem), 21 because the Babylonian king will stop at the crossroads, at the junction, in order to practice divination. He'll shake some arrows and ask direction from some idols, and he'll examine a liver. 22 With his right hand he'll take the sign for Yerushalem: to set battering rams against it, to open his mouth to order the slaughter, to sound a war cry, to set battering rams against the gates, to build a ramp, and to erect siege towers. 23 From the perspective of those in Yerushalem, it would seem to be a pointless sign, since they'd made a treaty with the Babylonians, but the king will accuse them of violating their treaty so he can besiege them.

24 Therefore the master Yahweh says this:
You've caused your guilt to be noticed by revealing your disobedience, so that your sins will be obvious through all your actions. Because you've done that, you'll be taken by force.

Readers' Version

25 As for you, Yisrael's (Israel's) profane and
wicked ruler, your time of going against me has
now ended and your day of punishment has
come. 26 The master Yahweh instructs you: Re-
move the turban and take off the crown. Things
will no longer be the same. I'll give power to
those who had none, and disgrace those who
had power. 27 A ruin. A ruin. Yes, I'll make it a
ruin. It won't be restored until the person
comes who's assigned to execute judgement.

Yahweh warns the Amonim

28 So you, son of humanity, prophesy and say, 'The master Yahweh says this to the Amonim concerning their coming disgrace: A sword, a sword is drawn. It's sharpened for the slaughter in order to devour, so it'll be like lightning.[47] 29 While prophets see empty visions for you and perform rituals to come up with lies for you, this sword will lie on the necks of the wicked who are about to be killed, whose day of punishment has come and whose time of disobedience is about to end.

30 Return the sword to its sheath. I'll judge
you in the place where you were created. In
your native land 31 I'll pour my indignation out
on you! I'll fan the fire of my rage against you
and hand you over to cruel men—craftsmen of
destruction. 32 You'll become fuel for the fire.
Your blood will be spilled right there in your
own land. You won't be remembered, because I,
Yahweh have declared it.' "

Yerushalem's evil ways

22:1 Then Yahweh gave me another message:
2 "Now you, son of humanity, will you judge the
city of blood? Will you judge Yerushalem
(Jerusalem)? Make it understand all its disgust-
ing behaviour. 3 Tell them that the master Yah-
weh says this: You're a city that sheds blood
right there in your centre, forcing your time of
judgement to come—a city that makes idols to
defile yourself. 4 You've become guilty because
of the blood you've poured out, and you've be-
come defiled by the idols you've made. You've
brought your days to a close, and the end of
your years has come, so I'll allow the other na-
tions to laugh at you and mock you. 5 You un-
clean city full of confusion, both people who
are near and those who are far away will deride
you.

6 Listen, each of Yisrael's (Israel's) rulers has
used their own resources to go to you,
Yerushalem, to shed blood. 7 They've dishon-
oured the fathers and mothers within you,[48]
and they've oppressed the foreigners there
among you. They've mistreated the orphans
and the widows within you.[49] 8 You've despised
my sacred things and disrespected my rest
days.[50] 9 Slanderous men have come into you in
order to pour out blood, and they eat at the
hilltop shrines. They do wicked things right
there in your centre. 10 Within you, men un-
cover their fathers' nakedness. Within you
they've violated women during their 'unclean'
menstrual period.[51] 11 Men who sleep with
their neighbours' wives, and men who sleep
with their own daughters-in-law, even men
who abuse their own sisters or half-sisters. All
these are done within you. 12 Those men are in-
volved in paid assassinations within you, plus
you've taken interest and gained too much
profit,[52] you've harmfully oppressed your
neighbours, and you've forgotten me. That's
the master Yahweh's declaration.

13 Listen, Yerushalem. I've reached out and
taken away the dishonest gain that you've
made, and the bloodshed that's done in your
centre. 14 Will your heart keep beating when I
personally deal with you? Will your hands be
able to resist trembling? I, Yahweh, am declar-
ing this, and I will do it. 15 I'll scatter you

47 **RV 21:28-32 · Cross-ref.** Jer 49:1-6; Eze 25:1-7; Amos 1:3-15; Zeph 2:8-11; Gen 19:36-38; Jdg 3:12-13; 10:6-11.

48 **RV 22:7 · Cross-ref.** Exo 20:12; Deu 5:16.

49 **RV 22:7 · Cross-ref.** Exo 22:21-22; Deu 24:17.

50 **RV 22:8 · Cross-ref.** Lev 19:30; 26:2.

51 **RV 22:10-11 · Cross-ref.** Lev 18:7-20.

52 **RV 22:12 · Cross-ref.** Exo 23:8; Deu 16:19; Exo 22:25; Lev 25:36-37; Deu 23:19.

Readers' Version

among the nations and disperse you through the lands—that's how I'll purge your uncleanness from you, 16 and you'll become unclean in the eyes of the nations. Then you'll know that I am Yahweh.' "

Yahweh's separating out the rubble

17 Then Yahweh gave me another message:
18 "Son of humanity, the Israeli people have become like dross to me. They're all just the leftovers of bronze, tin, iron, and lead among you—they'll be like the dross from silver in your furnace. 19 Therefore the master Yahweh says this, 'Because you people have become like dross, then listen: I'm about to gather you into the centre of Yerushalem (Jerusalem). 20 Just like men gather silver, bronze, iron, lead, and tin, and put it into a furnace to melt it, then blast the fire onto it in order to melt it, that's how I'll gather you in my anger and my rage, and I'll put you in there and melt you. 21 Yes, I'll gather you and blow my fire of fury onto you, and you'll be melted in the middle of it. 22 Just like silver's melted in a furnace, you'll be melted in it, and you'll know that I, Yahweh, have poured my wrath out onto you!' "

The sins of Yisrael's teachers

23 Then Yahweh gave me another message:
24 "Son of humanity, tell the land, 'You're a land that hasn't been cleansed. When you're judged, there won't be any rain. 25 There's a conspiracy among the prophets within the land, like a roaring lion tearing apart a victim. They consume life and take precious wealth—making many widows within it. 26 Its priests do violence to my law, and they profane my sacred things. They don't distinguish between sacred and profane things, and don't teach the difference between what God approved and what he didn't.[53] They ignore my rest days so I end up getting mocked among them. 27 Its leaders within it are like wolves tearing apart their victims. They pour out blood and destroy life, just to make a dishonest profit, 28 but its prophets have painted them over with whitewash. They see false visions and predict falsehoods to them, saying 'The master Yahweh says this' when Yahweh hasn't spoken. 29 The land's people have oppressed others through extortion and robbery, they mistreat the poor and needy, and they oppress foreigners by denying them justice. 30 Then I searched for an advocate from among them who'd build up a wall of righteousness and who'd admit the breaches made by the country and make an appeal on its behalf so I wouldn't destroy it, but I didn't find anyone. 31 So I'll pour my indignation out onto them. I'll finish them off with the fire of my indignation, and their own actions will seal their fate. That's the master Yahweh's declaration.' "

The parable of two prostitutes

23:1 Then Yahweh gave me another message:
2 "Son of humanity, once there was a woman who had two daughters 3 who, as young women, prostituted themselves in Mitsrayim (Egypt). Their breasts were squeezed and their virgin nipples were fondled there. 4 The older one was Oholah (referring to Shomron (Samaria) or Shomron) and her younger sister was Oholivah (referring to Yerushalem (Jerusalem)). Then they became my wives and had sons and daughters.

The sin and punishment of Shomron/Samaria

5 But Oholah prostituted herself even when she was mine. She lusted for her lovers: for the Assyrian warriors, 6 princes and captains dressed in fine clothes. They were attractive young men riding their horses, 7 and she gave them sexual favours. They were all the best of Ashur's (Assyria's) men, and she defiled herself with everyone she lusted for, and with all their idols. 8 She hadn't left her prostitute behaviour behind in Mitsrayim (Egypt), where they'd slept with her when she was young—caressing her virgin nipples and pouring their lust out on her.
9 That's why I handed her over to her lovers—those Assyrians that she lusted for. 10 They uncovered her nakedness, took her sons and daughters, and killed her with the sword. She'd become notorious among women,

53 **RV 22:26 · Cross-ref.** Lev 10:10.

Readers' Version

so they executed judgement on her.

Yerushalem's sin

11 Her sister Oholivah saw that, but she lusted more passionately and prostituted herself even more wildly than her sister. 12 She also lusted for the Assyrians, the governors and the dominating officials who rode horses and dressed impressively. All of them were strong, handsome men. 13 I saw that she'd defiled herself just like her older sister.

14 Then she increased her prostitution even more. She saw men carved on walls, figures of Kasdim (Chaldeans) painted in red, 15 wearing belts around their waists, with flowing turbans on their heads. All of them looked like chariot troop officers, similar to Babylonians (whose native land is the land of the Kasdim). 16 As soon as she saw those pictures, she lusted for those men, so she sent messengers out to them in the land of the Kasdim. 17 The Babylonians came to her and to her bed of lust, and they defiled her with their promiscuity. Yes, she'd defiled herself by what she'd done, so she turned herself away from them in disgust. 18 When she'd exposed her nakedness and openly been involved in prostitution, I turned away from her just like I'd turned away in disgust from her sister. 19 Then she increased her prostitution as she remembered when she was a young prostitute in Mitsrayim (Egypt), 20 and she lusted for her lovers whose private parts were long like those of donkeys, and whose emissions of semen were huge like those of stallions. 21 That's how you did those shameful things when you were young, when the Mitsrim (Egyptians) fondled your nipples and squeezed your young breasts.

Yahweh's judgement of Yerushalem

22 Therefore, Oholivah, the master Yahweh says this, 'Listen, I'll turn your lovers against you. I'll bring those that you rejected against you from every side: 23 the Babylonians and all the Kasdim (Chaldeans), Pekod, Shoa, and Koa, and all the Assyrians with them—strong, handsome men, governors and commanders, all of them officers and famous men, all of them riding on horses. 24 They'll bring many people against you with weapons, as well as chariots and wagons. They'll surround you with units with large shields, small shields, and helmets. I'll get them to punish you, and they'll punish you with their actions. 25 I'll direct my jealous anger at you, and they'll deal with you in fury. They'll cut off your noses and your ears, and even the survivors will be killed by the sword. They'll take away your sons and your daughters, and the remainder will be burnt. 26 They'll strip off your clothes and take away all your jewellery. 27 I'll remove your shameful behaviour from you, including your acts of prostitution with Mitsrayim (Egypt). You'll give up your longing looks towards them, and you won't think about Mitsrayim any more,' 28 because the master Yahweh says this, Listen, I'll hand you over to the ones you hate—back into the control of the ones you'd turned away from. 29 They'll show their hate for you as they take all your possessions and abandon you naked and bare—yes, your nakedness will be uncovered just like when you engaged in promiscuity and prostitution. 30 These things will be done to you because you acted like a prostitute—lusting after nations whose idols defiled you.

31 You followed a similar path to that of your older sister, so I'll give you the same punishment that I gave her.' 32 The master Yahweh says this, 'You'll suffer the same extreme suffering that your sister suffered. You'll become a laughingstock and a subject for derision—there's a lot of pain coming your way. 33 You'll be filled with drunkenness and sorrow, horror and devastation—the same suffering that your sister Shomron (Samaria) was made to drink. 34 You'll drink that cup of suffering and drain it empty, then you'll shatter it and tear your breasts with the pieces. That's the master Yahweh's declaration.'

35 So the master Yahweh says this, 'Because you've forgotten me and thrown me away behind your back, you'll bear the consequences of your shameful behaviour and your prostitution.' "

Revealing the disgusting actions of the sisters

36 Yahweh said to me, "Son of humanity, will you judge Oholah and

Readers' Version

Oholivah? Present them a list of their disgusting actions, 37 since they've committed adultery, and also have blood on their hands. They've committed adultery by worshipping their idols, and they've even caused their sons to pass through the fire to be considered as food for their idols. 38 Then on top of that, they defile my sanctuary, and at the same time, they disrespect my rest days. 39 When they'd slaughtered their children for their idols, then they came to my sanctuary on the same day to desecrate it. So listen, that's what they've done right there in my residence.

40 You sent messengers to go and bring men from far away. Now look, they indeed came—those who you prepared for by bathing, painting your eyes, and adorning yourself with jewellery. 41 You sat on a lovely couch bed with a table arranged in front of you where you placed my incense and my olive oil. 42 Then the sound of a noisy crowd was around her as all kinds of men, even Sava, were brought in from the wilderness, and they put bracelets on their hands and beautiful crowns on their heads. 43 Then I said about that experienced adulterer, 'Now they'll treat her as a prostitute, and she'll fornicate with them.' 44 They had sex with her like men do with a prostitute. In that way they had sex with the two immoral women, Oholah and Oholivah. 45 But righteous men will judge and punish them as adulteresses, and they'll punish them with the appropriate sentence for those who've shed blood, because they're adulteresses plus they have blood on their hands.

46 So the master Yahweh says this: I'll bring a group to attack Shomron (Samaria) and Yerushalem (Jerusalem) and give them up to be terrorized and plundered. 47 Then that group will stone them with stones and cut them down with their swords. They'll kill their children and burn down their houses. 48 That's how I'll remove shameful behaviour from the land, and discipline all the women so they'll no longer act like prostitutes. 49 They'll use your shameful behaviour against you. You'll all bear the guilt of the sins you did with your idols, and in that way you'll know that I am the master Yahweh."

The rusty cooking pot

24:1 Then Yahweh gave me another message on the 15th of January of the ninth year since King Yehoyakin had been taken captive. 2 "Son of humanity, write down the day and month for yourself, because on this exact day, the Babylonian king started his siege of Yerushalem (Jerusalem).[54] 3 So tell this parable to the rebellious Israeli people and explain that it comes from the master Yahweh:

Pour water into the cooking pot and place it on the fire.
4 Put in the leg and shoulder of a good sheep,
then fill it up with the best bones.
5 Yes, take the best one from the flock
and pile up the fuel underneath it—
keeping it boiling to make sure the bones in it cook well.

6 Now the master Yahweh says this: The city of blood won't end well—it's like a cooking pot that has rust in it, and that rust won't come out of it. Take piece after piece out of it, but don't be choosy about which pieces, 7 because the blood the city shed is all the way through its centre. It displayed the blood on a flat rock to be easily seen, rather than pouring it out on the ground where it could be covered over with dust, 8 so it makes me angry enough to get revenge: I placed *the city's* blood on the smooth rock, so it couldn't be covered.

9 Therefore, the master Yahweh says this: The city of blood won't end well. I'll also enlarge the pile of firewood to put underneath it. 10 Stack up the wood and kindle the fire. Cook the meat well and mix in the spices and let the bones be charred. 11 Then put the empty pot onto the hot coals in order to heat and scorch its bronze, so the impurities in it will be melted—its corrosion eaten away.' 12 That was a lot of work, but the fire didn't remove the corrosion from it. 13 Your shameful behaviour is in your uncleanness. Because you wouldn't accept it when I

54 **RV 24:2 · Cross-ref.** 2Ki 25:1.

Readers' Version

tried to cleanse you, you won't be purified anymore until I've satisfied my fury against you.
14 I, Yahweh, have declared it, and I will do it. I won't relent, nor will I rest from it. You'll be judged by your own practices and your own behaviour. That's the master Yahweh's declaration."

The death of Yehezkel's wife

15 Then Yahweh gave me another message:
16 "Listen, son of humanity, I'm taking your cherished wife from you with a deadly disease, but you mustn't mourn or weep, or let any tears show. 17 You must groan silently. Don't organise a funeral when she's dead. Put on your turban and your sandals, but don't veil your beard, or eat the bread of men who mourn who've lost their wives."
18 So I spoke to the people in the morning, and then my wife died in the evening. In the morning I did what I'd been commanded to do.
19 Then the people asked me, "Won't you tell us what these things mean—the way that you're behaving?"
20 "Yahweh gave me a message," I answered them, 21 "to tell the Israeli people that the master Yahweh says this to them: Listen, I'll desecrate my sanctuary—the pride of your power, the delight of your eyes, and the yearning of your soul—and also your sons and daughters who you left behind there in Yerushalem (Jerusalem) will be killed by the sword. 22 When that happens, you people will do exactly as I've done: you won't veil your beards, or eat the bread of mourning men, 23 but instead your turbans will be on your heads, and your sandals on your feet. You won't mourn or weep, because you'll melt away due to your disobedience, and everyone will groan for their relatives. 24 So Yehezkel (Ezekiel) will be a sign for you, because when that time comes, you'll do exactly the same as he's doing. Then you people will know that I am the master Yahweh.' "
25 "But you, son of humanity, on the day that I capture their temple, (which is their joy, their pride, and what they see and desire), and when I take away their sons and daughters, 26 a refugee will come to you here on that day to give you the news. 27 At that time, your mouth will be opened up to that refugee and you'll speak again—you'll no longer be silent. You'll be a sign for them so that they'll know that I am Yahweh."

Yahweh's judgement of nations[55] · Amon's punishment

25:1 Then Yahweh gave me another message:
2 "Son of humanity, keep looking towards the Amonim[56] and prophesy against them. 3 Tell them to listen to this message because this is what the master Yahweh says: You celebrated my sanctuary being desecrated, and the land of Yisrael (Israel) being desolate, and the kingdom of Yehudah (Judah) going into exile, 4 so because of that, listen: I'm giving you to a people in the east as their possession. They'll set up camp against you and set up their tents among you. They'll eat your fruit and drink your milk. 5 I'll make the Amoni capital city, Rabah,[57] into a camel pasture, and the Amoni people into a resting place for flocks. Then you people will know that I am Yahweh.
6 Because the master Yahweh says this: You clapped your hands and stamped your feet and celebrated with all the contempt within you against the Israeli nation, 7 therefore, listen Amon. I'll strike you down and give you as plunder to the other nations. I'll cut you off from the people groups and make you perish from among the countries. I'll destroy you, and you'll know that I am Yahweh.'

Moav's punishment

8 The master Yahweh says this, 'Because Moav (Moab)[58] and Se'ir say that the kingdom of Yehudah (Judah) is just like every other nation, 9 well listen, I'll destroy the border cities protecting Moav, starting with the splendour of Beyt-Hayeshimot, Ba'al-Me'on,

55 **RV 25:1 · Parallel** 25:1–32:32
56 **RV 25:2 · Cross-ref.** Jer 49:1-6; Eze 21:28-32; Amos 1:13-15; Zeph 2:8-11.
57 **RV 25:5 · Note** Now the modern city of Amman (in Jordan) has been built on Rabah's ruins.
58 **RV 25:8-11 · Cross-ref.** Gen 19:36-37; Isa 25:10-12; Jer 48:1-47; Amos 2:1-3; Zeph 2:8-11.

Readers' Version

and Kiryatayim. 10 I'll hand them over to the people in the east who've already been against the Amonim—I'll give them up as a possession so that the Amonim won't be remembered among the nations. 11 Yes, I'll execute judgements against Moav, then they'll know that I am Yahweh.'

Edom's punishment

12 The master Yahweh also says, 'Edom has taken vengeance against the kingdom of Yehudah (Judah) and has done wrong by doing that.[59] 13 Therefore, the master Yahweh says: I'll hit Edom with my hand and destroy every person and animal there. I'll make it a ruined, abandoned place, from Teyman all the way to Dedan—they'll be killed by the sword. 14 I'll use my people Yisrael (Israel) to place my vengeance on Edom, and they'll apply my anger and fury to Edom so they'll know my vengeance. That's the master Yahweh's declaration.'

Peleshet's punishment

15 The master Yahweh says this, 'The Pelishtim have chosen hateful vengeance and have put much effort into trying to destroy Yehudah (Judah).[60] 16 So this is what the master Yahweh says: Listen, I'll take action against the Pelishtim, and I'll cut off the Kereti and destroy the remnant along the coast. 17 I'll take severe vengeance against them with furious acts to punish them—they'll know that I am Yahweh, when I take my vengeance on them.' "

Tsor's punishment

26:1 At the beginning of the month in the eleventh year since King Yehoyakin had been taken captive, Yahweh gave me a message: 2 "Son of humanity, Tsor (Tyre)[61] has said against Yerushalem (Jerusalem), 'Nice one! Yerushalem's gates are broken. It's going my way—I can take advantage because it's been destroyed.'

3 Because of that, the master Yahweh says this: 'Listen, I'm opposed to you, Tsor, and I'll raise up many nations against you, just like the sea raises its waves. 4 They'll destroy Tsor's walls and tear down its towers, then I'll sweep its dust away and make it like a bare rock. 5 It'll become a place in the middle of the sea for people to spread their nets out to dry them, since I've declared it, and it'll become plunder for the nations. That's the master Yahweh's declaration. 6 Its young women who are in the countryside will be slaughtered by swords, and then they'll know that I am Yahweh.'

7 Yes, this is what Yahweh says: Listen, I'm bringing the Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar), king of kings, from the north, against Tsor, with horses and chariots, and with horsemen and a large army. 8 He'll kill your daughters in the countryside. He'll set up a siege program and build a ramp against your walls and lift up shields against you. 9 He'll use his battering rams to smash down your walls, and he'll tear down your towers with his axes. 10 They'll have so many horses that their dust will cover you. Your walls will shake with the noise of their horsemen, wagons, and chariots. When he rides through your gates, he'll pick his way over the stones like men do when entering a city whose walls have been broken down. 11 The hooves of his horses will trample all of your streets. He'll slaughter your people with the sword and your mighty stone pillars will be knocked to the ground. 12 They'll tear down your walls and destroy your nice homes—plundering your riches and looting your merchandise. Then they'll throw your building stones, wood, and rubble into the ocean. 13 I'll stop the sound of your songs, and the music from your harps won't be heard anymore. 14 I'll make you back into a bare rock—you'll become a place where nets are spread out to dry. You'll never be built again, because I, master Yahweh, have spoken. That's the master Yahweh's declaration.

15 The master Yahweh says this to Tsor (Tyre), 'Won't the islands shake with the sound of your downfall, and with the groans of the

59 RV 25:12-14 · Cross-ref. Gen 25:24-34; 36:39; Jer 49:7-22; Eze 35:1-15; Oba 1-14; Mal 1:2-5.

60 RV 25:15-17 · Cross-ref. Yoel 3:4-8; Amos 1:6-8; Jdg 13:1; 1Sam 4:1.

61 RV 26:2 · Cross-ref. Yoel 3:4-8; Amos 1:9-10.

Readers' Version

wounded when the terrible slaughter is happening in you? 16 Then all the leaders of the coastal kingdoms will step down from their thrones and remove their robes and take off their embroidered clothes. Instead, they'll clothe themselves in fear, they'll sit on the ground and tremble every moment, and they'll be appalled because of you. 17 Then they'll sing this song of mourning for you and say to you,

How you, who were inhabited by sailors, have been destroyed.

The famous city that was so strong, it's now gone from the sea.

The ones living in her once spread terror around themselves on everyone who lived nearby.

18 Now the coastal kingdoms tremble on the day of your downfall.

The islands in the sea are terrified by your passing.'

19 Yes, the master Yahweh says this: When I make you a desolate city, like the other cities that are uninhabited, when I raise up the deep seas against you, and when the great waters cover you, 20 then I'll take you down to the pit that ancient people went down to, because I'll make you live in the lowest realms of the earth like ancient ruins. Because of that, you won't come back and be splendid in the land of the living. 21 I'll send disaster onto you, and you won't exist anymore. Then people will look for you, but you'll never be found again.[62] That's the master Yahweh's declaration."

The end of the city of Tsor

27:1 Then Yahweh gave me another message:
2 "Now you, son of humanity, begin a funeral song about Tsor (Tyre), 3 and tell Tsor (which is on a coastal island—merchants to people groups on many other islands) that the master Yahweh says this to you:

Tsor, you've said, 'My beauty has reached perfection.'

4 Your borders are surrounded by the ocean.

Your builders have perfected your beauty.[63]

5 They made all your planks with cypress from Mt. Hermon (Senir).

They got a cedar from Levanon to make a mast for you.

6 They made your oars from the oak trees in Bashan.

They made your decks out of cypress wood from Kupros (Cyprus), and overlaid them with ivory.

7 Your sails were made from colourful linen from Mitsrayim (Egypt) that served as your banner.

The colours of blue and purple from the coasts of Elishah are used for the awning on your boat.

8 Those who were living in Tsidon (Sidon) and Arvad were your rowers.

The wise men of Tsor (Tyre) were within you—they were your pilots.

9 Experienced craftsmen from Geval sealed your seams.

All the ships and their sailors among you were carrying your merchandise for trade.

10 Warriors from Paras (Persia), Ludia, and Libya were in your army.

They hung their shields and helmets within you.

They displayed your splendour.

11 The men of Arvad and Helek in your army were on your walls surrounding you,

and the people from Gamadim were in your towers.

They hung up their shields on your walls all around you.

They completed your beauty.

12 "Tarshish was a trading partner with you because of your abundant wealth of goods. They traded silver, iron, tin, and lead for your wares. 13 Yavan (Greece), Tuval, and Meshek traded slaves, as well as bronze items, for your merchandise. 14 Beyt-Togarmah provided horses, stallions, and mules in exchange for your products. 15 People from Dedan were your traders on many coasts. You sent the merchan-

62 **RV 26:21 · Cross-ref.** Rev 18:21.

63 **RV 27:4 · Note** Here, the island city of Tsor is imagined as a ship in the ocean.

Readers' Version

dise and they sent back ivory tusks and ebony wood as payment. 16 Aram (Syria) was a dealer in your many products—they provided emeralds, purple dye, coloured cloth, fine fabric, pearls, and rubies for your merchandise. 17 Yehudah (Judah) and Yisrael (Israel) were trading with you. They provided wheat from Minit, cakes, honey, oil, and balsam for your merchandise. 18 Damesek (Damascus) was a trader of all your products, of all your enormous wealth, and of the wine from Helbon and the wool from Tsahar.[64] 19 Dan and Yavan from Uzal provided you with merchandise of wrought iron, cinnamon, and fragrant calamus seeds which became your merchandise. 20 Dedan was your dealer in woven saddle blankets. 21 Arav and all of Kedar's leaders were traders with you—they provided you with lambs, rams, and goats. 22 Traders from Sheva and Ramah came to sell you the best of every spice and all kinds of precious gems—they traded gold for your goods. 23 Haran, Kaneh, and Eden were traders with you, along with Sheva, Ashur (Assyria), and Kilmad. 24 Those were your traders in fancy robes made of violet cloth with woven colours, and in blankets of multicoloured, embroidered, and well-woven cloth in your marketplaces. 25 Tarshish's ships were the transporters of your merchandise.

So you were filled up—heavily laden with cargo there in the heart of the seas.

26 Your rowers have brought you into vast seas.

The east wind has wrecked you in the middle of them.

27 Your wealth, merchandise, and trade goods,
your sailors, pilots, and ship-builders,
your traders of merchandise and all the men of war who are in you, and all your crew—
they will sink into the depths of the sea at the time of your destruction.

28 The surroundings will shake
when they hear your pilot's cry of distress.

29 All the oarsmen will come down off their ships.

Mariners and all the pilots on the sea will stand on the land,

30 then they'll raise their voices towards you and will wail bitterly.

They'll throw dust up onto their heads.
They'll roll around to get covered in ashes.

31 They'll shave their heads bald for you and dress in rough sackcloth,[65]

and they'll weep bitterly over you and they will cry out with loud moans.

32 They will wail loudly for you and sing funeral songs about you.

Who is like the city of Tsor (Tyre), which has now been brought to silence in the middle of the sea?

33 When your merchandise went ashore from the sea, it pleased many people groups.

You enriched kings across the world with your great wealth and merchandise.

34 But when you were shattered by the seas, by deep waters,

your merchandise and all your crew sank.

35 All the inhabitants of the coastal kingdoms were appalled at you,

and their kings shuddered in horror—their faces trembled.

36 The merchants of the people hiss at you.

You've become a horror, and you won't exist anymore."

Against the pride of Tsor's king

28:1 Then Yahweh gave me another message:
2 "Son of humanity, tell Tsor's (Tyre's) ruler that the master Yahweh says this: Your heart is proud and you've said, "I'm a god. I'll sit in the seat of gods in the vital centre of the oceans." Even though you're a man and not a god, you tell yourself that you're a god.

3 Listen, you king of Tsor, are you wiser than Daniyel was? Are there any secrets that you don't already know? 4 You've used your wisdom and skill to make yourself wealthy, and amassed

64 **RV 27:18 · Note** Possibly, Tsahar (used only once in the Hebrew scriptures) could refer to the white colour of the wool.

65 **RV 27:30 · Note** All of these (dust, ashes, shaving, sackcloth) are traditional signs of mourning.

Readers' Version

gold and silver in your treasuries. 5 By great
wisdom and by your trading, you've multiplied
your wealth, but now you've become arrogant
because of your wealth.
6 Therefore, the master Yahweh says this: Be-
cause you've convinced yourself that you're in-
vincible like a god, 7 I'll bring foreigners against
you—terrifying warriors from other nations.
They'll bring their swords against the beauty of
your wisdom, and they'll defile your splendour.
8 They'll send you down to the pit, and you'll
die violently like those who die at sea. 9 Will
you really say, "I'm a god" to the face of one
who's about to kill you? You're a man and not
God, and you'll be at the mercy of the one who
runs you through. 10 You'll die like an ungodly
person killed by foreigners, because I've de-
clared it. That's the master Yahweh's declara-
tion.' "

The fall of Tsor's king

11 Then Yahweh gave
me another message:
12 "Son of humanity, sing a mourning song for
the king of Tsor (Tyre) and tell him that the
master Yahweh says this:
You were the model of perfection,
full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.
13 You were in Eden—God's garden.
Every precious stone covered you:
ruby, topaz, emerald, chrysolite,
onyx, jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and beryl.
Your settings and mountings were made from
gold.
They were prepared on the very day that you
were created.
14 I placed you on God's sacred mountain
like the winged creatures that I appointed to
guard humanity.
You were among the fiery stones where you
walked around.
15 You had integrity in your ways from the
day you were created
until injustice was found within you.
16 Through your great trade you were filled
with violence, and so you sinned.
Then I threw you out of God's mountain, like
someone who was defiled,
and I destroyed you, guardian winged crea-
ture,
and drove you from among the fiery stones.
17 Your heart was arrogant due to your
beauty.
You ruined your wisdom because of your
splendour.
I threw you down to the earth.
I put you in front of kings so they can see you.
18 Because of all your disobedience and your
dishonest trade,
you've defiled your sacred places,
so I've made fire come out from you to con-
sume you.
I'll turn you into ashes on the earth
in the sight of everyone who looks at you.
19 Everyone who knew you among the people
groups
will shudder to look at you now—
they will be horrified, and you won't exist any
longer.' "

Tsidon's punishment

20 Then Yahweh gave
me another message:
21 "Son of humanity, look towards Tsidon
(Sidon)[66] and prophesy against it. 22 Tell them
that the master Yahweh says this: 'Listen, I'm
against you, Tsidon, because I intend to be
praised by you, so your people will know that I
am Yahweh, when I execute justice within you
and demonstrate my holiness to you. 23 I'll send
a deadly disease to afflict you, and there'll be
blood in your streets, and people will fall dead
all around you. When the sword comes against
you from all around, then you'll know that I am
Yahweh.

The blessing for Yisrael

24 Then there'll no
longer be pricking briars
and painful thorns for the Israeli people from
all those around her who despise her, so then
they'll know that I am the master Yahweh.'
25 The master Yahweh says that when I gather
the Jewish people from the nations that they
were scattered among, and when they properly
honour me so the nations may see, then they'll

66 **RV 28:21 · Cross-ref.** Yoel 3:4-8; 1Ki 11:4-5; 1Ki 16:30-33.

Readers' Version

make their homes in the land I gave to my servant Ya'akov (Jacob). 26 Then they'll live securely within the land and build houses, plant vineyards, and live securely. When I execute justice on all the people all around who now despise them, then they'll know that I am their god Yahweh.' "

Mitsrayim's punishment

29:1 At the beginning of January in the twelfth year since King Yehoyakin had been taken captive, Yahweh gave me a message: 2 "Son of humanity, stand firmly against Mitsrayim's (Egypt's) king Par'oh (Pharaoh).[67] Prophesy against him and against all of Mitsrayim, 3 telling them that the master Yahweh says this: Listen, I'm against you, Par'oh, king of Mitsrayim—you, the great sea monster that lurks in the middle of the river, who says, "My river is my own. I've made it for myself." 4 I'll put hooks into your jaw, and the fish from your streams will cling to the scales on your side. I'll lift you up from the middle of your river, along with all the river's fish that cling to your scales. 5 I'll fling you into the wilderness—you and all the fish from your river. You'll fall on the open countryside—your corpse won't be taken or moved, but rather I'll give you as food to the birds and wild animals. 6 Then all of Mitsrayim's inhabitants will know that I am Yahweh, because they've been like a brittle reed to the kingdom of Yisrael (Israel).[68] 7 When Yisrael grabbed you, you broke and tore open their shoulder, and when they leaned on you, you broke and made their legs unsteady. 8 Therefore the master Yahweh says this: Listen, I'll send an army against you that will cut short both people's and animals' lives, 9 and Mitsrayim will become a desolate ruin. Then they'll know that I am Yahweh.

Because the sea monster said, "The river is mine, because I made it," 10 listen: I'm against you and against your river, so I'll give Mitsrayim over to desolation and waste, and you'll become a wasteland from the Migdol to Seveneh and the borders of Kush (Ethiopia). 11 No person or domestic animal will pass through it, and it won't be inhabited for forty years. 12 I'll make Mitsrayim a desolation in the middle of uninhabited lands, and its cities will become a desolation in the middle of wasted cities for forty years, then I'll scatter the Mitsri (Egyptian) people among the nations, and I'll disperse them through the lands.

13 But the master Yahweh says this: At the end of forty years I'll gather Mitsrayim from the people groups they were scattered among, 14 and I'll restore Mitsrayim's fortunes and bring them back to the region of Patros, to their native land. Then they'll become an insignificant kingdom there. 15 It'll be the least significant kingdom, and it won't become prominent again among the nations. I'll diminish them so that they'll no longer dominate other nations. 16 Requesting help from Mitsrayim will no longer be a reason for the kingdom of Yisrael (Israel) to be confident, instead, Mitsrayim will be a reminder of Yisrael's disobedience when they turned to Mitsrayim for help. Then they'll know that I am the master Yahweh."

Nevukadnetsar's defeat of Mitsrayim

17 At the beginning of May in the 27th year since King Yehoyakin had been taken captive,[69] Yahweh gave me a message: 18 "Son of humanity, the Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) stationed his army to do hard work against the fortified island city of Tsor (Tyre). Every head was rubbed until it was made bald, and every shoulder was made raw. Yet he and his army received no payment from Tsor for the hard work that he carried out against it, 19 therefore the master Yahweh says this, 'Listen, I'm giving Mitsrayim (Egypt) to the Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar and he'll take away its wealth, plunder its possessions, and carry off everything he finds there—that

67 **RV 29:2 · Cross-ref.** Isa 19:1-25; Jer 46:2-26.

68 **RV 29:6 · Cross-ref.** Isa 36:6.

69 **RV 29:17 · Note** 571 B.C.

Readers' Version

will be his army's wages. 20 I've given him the land of Mitsrayim as the wages for the work they did for me. That's the master Yahweh's declaration.

21 On that day I'll make power sprout up for the kingdom of Yisrael (Israel), and I'll put you among them to speak out so they'll know that I am Yahweh.' "

Yahweh's punishment of Mitsrayim

30:1 Then Yahweh gave me another message:

2 "Son of humanity, prophesy and say that the master Yahweh says this:

'Wail now because the coming days won't go well.

3 The day is near—the day is near for Yahweh.

It'll be a day of clouds—a time of doom for nations.

4 Then an army will come against Mitsrayim (Egypt),

and there'll be anguish in Kush (Ethiopia) when the people are killed in Mitsrayim—

when they take its wealth,

and when its foundations get torn apart.

5 Kush and Put, Ludia, all Arav, and Libya, together with the people belonging to the agreement—they'll all be killed by the sword. 6 Yahweh says this: The ones who support Mitsrayim militarily will fall, and the pride of Mitsrayim's strength will collapse. From Migdol to Seveneh their combined warriors will be killed by the sword. That's the master Yahweh's declaration. 7 Those allies will be appalled there among the abandoned lands, and their cities will be among all the other ruined cities. 8 Then they'll know that I am Yahweh, when I set fire to Mitsrayim, and when all its helpers are destroyed.

9 At that time, messengers will go out from in front of me in ships to terrorise Kush when they think they're secure, and there'll be anguish among them on the day of Mitsrayim's doom. Yes, take notice, it's coming. 10 The master Yahweh says this: I'll use the Babylonian King Nevukadnetsar (Nebuchadnezzar) to bring Mitsrayim's multitudes to an end. 11 He and his army with him, the terror of nations, will be brought in to destroy the land. They'll draw out their swords against Mitsrayim and fill the land with those they kill. 12 I'll make the rivers into dry ground, and I'll sell the land into the hands of wicked men. I'll make the land and its abundant produce desolate by the actions of strangers. I, Yahweh, have spoken.

13 The master Yahweh says this: I'll destroy idols, and I'll bring an end to the worthless idols in Nof (Memphis). There won't be a prince in the land of Mitsrayim any longer, and I'll put terror into Mitsrayim. 14 Then I'll make the Patros region desolate and set fire to Tsoan city, and I'll execute judgement against No (Thebes) (the capital of southern Mitsrayim). 15 I'll pour out my fury on Mitsrayim's fortress Sin, and cut off the crowd at No. 16 Then I'll set fire to Mitsrayim: Sin will be in great agony, No will be broken up, and Nof will face enemies every day. 17 The young men of Aven and Pi-Beset cities will be killed by the sword, and their populations will be taken into captivity. 18 In Mitsrayim's Tahfanhes, the day will hold back its light when I break Mitsrayim's power and control there, and its pride in its strength will be finished. There'll be a cloud covering it, and its daughters will be taken away into captivity. 19 I'll execute acts of judgement in Mitsrayim, then they'll know that I am Yahweh.' "

Yahweh breaks Mitsrayim's power

20 At the beginning of May in the eleventh year since King Yehoyakin had been taken captive,[70] Yahweh gave me a message: 21 "Son of humanity, I've broken the Mitsri (Egyptian) king Par'oh's (Pharaoh's) arm. Listen, it hasn't been put in a splint, or set to heal with a bandage, so that it'll become strong enough again to hold a sword. 22 Therefore the master Yahweh says this, 'Listen, I'm against the Mitsri king Par'oh and I'll break both his strong arm and the previously broken one, and I'll make the sword fall from his grip. 23 Then I'll scatter Mitsrayim (Egypt) among the other nations and disperse their people among the lands. 24 I'll strengthen

70 **RV 30:20 · Note** (Back in time to) 587 B.C.

Readers' Version

the Babylonian king's arms and place my sword in his hand so that I can destroy Par'oh's arms. He'll groan in front of the Babylonian king with the groans of a dying man. 25 I'll strengthen the arms of the Babylonian king, while Par'oh's arms will fall. Then they'll know that I am Yahweh, when I put my sword into the hand of the king of Bavel (Babylon) and he uses it against Mitsrayim. 26 I'll scatter Mitsrayim among the other nations and disperse their people through the lands. Then they'll know that I am Yahweh."

Mitsrayim gets compared to fallen Ashur

31:1 At the end of June in the eleventh year since King Yehoyakin had been taken captive,[71] Yahweh gave me a message: 2 "Son of humanity, ask the Mitsri (Egyptian) king Par'oh (Pharaoh) and his multitudes around him, 'Who else is as powerful as you and your people? 3 Listen, Ashur (Assyria) was like a cedar in Levanon with beautiful branches, giving shade to the forest—extremely tall, and the branches formed its treetop. 4 A deep water supply made it grow tall. Rivers flowed all around its area, because their channels stretched out to all the trees in the countryside. 5 It grew taller than any of the other trees in the countryside, and its branches grew long and thick because of having plenty of water in its shoots. 6 Every kind of bird nested in its branches, while every living thing in the countryside gave birth to its young under the foliage of that tree. All the powerful nations lived under its shade. 7 It was beautiful in its greatness and due to the length of its branches, because its roots had access to many water sources. 8 Cedar trees in God's garden[72] couldn't equal it. None of the cypress trees matched its branches, nor could its branches be equalled by the plane tree. There was no other tree in God's garden that could compare to its beauty. 9 I made it beautiful with its many branches, and all the trees in God's garden in Eden envied it.

10 Therefore the master Yahweh says this: Because it was so tall, and it set its treetop between its branches, and because it grew proud of its height, 11 I handed it over to a powerful nation to deal with it according to what its wickedness deserves. I've thrown it out, 12 and foreigners who were the terror of all the nations cut it off and left it to die. Its branches fell onto the mountains and all the valleys, and lay broken in all the land's ravines. Then all the nations on earth came out from under its shade and went away from it. 13 All the various kinds of birds rested on the trunk of the fallen tree, and every kind of animal in the countryside came to its branches. 14 That happened so that no other trees that grow by the waters will raise up their foliage to the height of the tallest trees, and that no other trees that grow beside the waters will reach up to that height. They've all been assigned to death, to the earth below, among humanity's children, with those that go down into the pit.

15 The master Yahweh says this: On the day when the cedar went down to the place of the dead, I brought mourning to the earth. I covered the deep waters over it, and I held back the oceans. I held back the great waters, and I brought mourning to Levanon for it. So all the trees in the countryside mourned because of it. 16 I brought shuddering to the nations at the sound of its downfall, when I threw it down to the place of the dead, along with those who went down into the pit. So I comforted all the trees from Eden in the lowest parts of the earth. Those had been the choicest and best trees from Levanon—the trees that drank the waters. 17 They also went down with the big tree to the place of the dead, to the ones who'd been killed by the sword. Those were its strong arm—those nations who'd lived in its shade.

18 Mitsrayim (Egypt), which of the trees in Eden was your equal in glory and greatness? You'll be brought down with Eden's trees to the lowest parts of the earth among the uncircumcised. You'll live there with those who were

71 **RV 31:1 · Note** 587 B.C.

72 **RV 31:8 · Cross-ref.** Gen 2:9.

Readers' Version

killed by the sword.'
That's the fate of Par'oh (Pharaoh) and all his multitudes. That's the master Yahweh's declaration."

Mourning over Mitsrayim and its king

32:1 At the beginning of March in the twelfth year since King Yehoyakin had been taken captive,[73] Yahweh gave me a message: 2 "Son of humanity, sing a loud mourning song about the Mitsri (Egyptian) King Par'oh (Pharaoh) and tell him,

'You're like a young lion among the nations,
but you're like the sea monster in the oceans—
you churn up the water—
you stir up the waters with your feet, making them muddy.
3 The master Yahweh says this:
I'll spread my net over you in the assembly of many people groups,
and they'll haul you up in my net.
4 I'll abandon you in the land.
I'll throw you into the countryside
and cause every kind of bird to settle on you,
and animals of every kind of will gorge themselves on you.
5 I'll dump your flesh on the hills,
and fill the valleys with your corpse.
6 Then I'll drench your land with your blood across to the hills,
and the ravines will be filled with your blood.
7 Then when I eliminate you, I'll cover the heavens and darken their stars.
I'll cover the sun with clouds, and the moon won't shine its light.[74]
8 I'll darken all the shining lights in the skies over you,
and I'll put darkness over your land. That's the master Yahweh's declaration.
9 I'll disturb the hearts of many people groups in lands that you don't know about
when I bring about your destruction among the nations—among lands you haven't known.
10 I'll shock many people groups with what I'll do to you.
Their kings will shudder in horror concerning you when I swing my sword towards them.
On the day of your downfall they'll be trembling continuously because of you.
11 Yes, the master Yahweh says this to you, Mitsrayim (Egypt):
The Babylonian king's sword will come against you.
12 I'll cause large numbers of you to be killed by warriors' swords—each warrior a terror of nations.
Those warriors will devastate the pride of Mitsrayim and destroy all its many people.
13 I'll destroy all the livestock from beside the plentiful waters.
No human foot will stir the waters up again,
nor will cattle hooves disturb them.
14 Then I'll calm their waters and make their rivers run like oil.
That's the master Yahweh's declaration.
15 When I make Mitsrayim's territory into an abandoned place,
when the land is stripped of all its produce,
when I attack all its inhabitants, they'll know that I am Yahweh.
16 There'll be a funeral song—the daughters of the nations will sing mournful songs about it.
They'll sing sadly about Mitsrayim—over all its multitudes they'll sing dirges.
That's the master Yahweh's declaration.' "

Those in the place of the dead

17 In the middle of that same month,[75] Yahweh gave me a message: 18 "Son of humanity, weep for the numerous Mitsrim (Egyptians) and bring them down to the lowest parts of the earth. Bring Mitsrayim (Egypt) and the daughters of majestic nations down along with those who've already gone down into the pit. 19 Ask them: Mitsrayim, are you really more beautiful than anyone else? Go down and lie down with

73 **RV 32:1 · Note** 585 B.C.

74 **RV 32:7 · Cross-ref.** Mat 24:29; Rev 6:12-13; 8:12.

75 **RV 32:17 · Note** 585 B.C.

Readers' Version

the uncircumcised.
20 They'll fall among those who were killed by
the sword. The sword has been drawn. Mit-
srayim has been handed over to the sword—its
enemies will seize it and its multitudes. 21 The
strongest of the warriors in the place of the
dead will declare about Mitsrayim and its allies,
'They've come down here. They'll lie with the
uncircumcised—with those who were killed by
the sword.'
22 Ashur (Assyria) is there with all its people,
with its graves all around it—all of them were
killed by the sword. 23 Those whose graves are
set in the pit's recesses[76] are there, along with
all its people. Its graves surround all of those
who were killed by the sword—those who
brought terror onto the land of the living.
24 Eylam is there with all its multitudes, with
its graves all around it—all of them were killed.
That's the place for those who were killed by
the sword, who've gone down uncircumcised to
the lowest parts of the earth, who brought
their terrors onto the land of the living, and
who carry their own shame, together with the
ones going down into the pit. 25 They prepared
a bed for Eylam and all its multitudes among
those who were slain—its graves surround it.
All of them are uncircumcised, pierced by the
sword, because they brought their terrors onto
the land of the living. So they carry their own
shame, together with the ones going down into
the pit among all those who've been killed,
those who are going down into the pit. Eylam is
among all those who were killed.
26 Meshek, Tuval, and all their multitudes are
there with their graves all around them. All of
them are uncircumcised, killed by the sword,
because they brought their terrors onto the
land of the living. 27 They don't lie with the
fallen warriors of the uncircumcised who've
gone down to the place of the dead with all
their weapons of war, and with their swords
placed under their heads and their iniquities
over their bones, because they were the terror
of warriors in the land of the living.
28 So you, Mitsrayim (Egypt), will be broken
amongst the uncircumcised. You'll lie alongside
those who were pierced by the sword.
29 Edom is also there with its kings and all its
leaders. Despite their strength, they've been
placed with those killed by the sword. They lie
there along with the uncircumcised—with
those who've gone down into the pit.
30 All the northern leaders are there, along
with all the Tsidonim (Sidonians) who went
down with the ones who'd been pierced. They
were powerful and made others afraid, but now
they're there in shame—uncircumcised along
with those who were pierced by the sword.
They carry their own shame, together with the
ones going down into the pit.
31 Par'oh (Pharaoh) will look and be com-
forted about all his multitudes who were
pierced by the sword—Par'oh and all his army.
That's the master Yahweh's declaration.
32 Yes, I put him there as my agent to terrify
those in the land of the living, but Par'oh and
all his multitudes will be laid down among the
uncircumcised—among those pierced by the
sword. That's the master Yahweh's declara-
tion."

The promise of God of his people[77] · Yehezkel as Yisrael's watchman[78]

33:1 Then Yahweh gave
me another message:
2 "Son of humanity, tell
this to your people:
'When I send an army against any country,
then the people of that country choose one of
their men to become a watchman for them.
3 He looks for any attacker coming onto the
land, and then he blows his horn to warn the
people. 4 If the people hear the sound of the
horn but don't take any notice, and if the at-
tacker comes and kills them, then each one's
blood is on their own head. 5 Yes, if someone
heard the horn but paid no attention, that per-
son's blood is on them, but if those people do

76 RV 32:23 · Cross-ref. Isa 14:15.

77 RV 33:1 · Parallel 33:1–37:27

78 RV 33:1 · Parallel Eze. 3:16-21

Readers' Version

pay attention, they'll save their own lives.
6 However, if the watchman sees the attacker
coming, but doesn't blow the horn, that is, if
the people weren't warned, and if the attacker
approaches and takes anyone's life, then that
person dies in their own sin, but I'll require
their blood from the watchman.'
7 Now, talking to you, son of humanity: I've
made you a watchman for the Israeli people.
You'll hear the words from my mouth and then
warn them on my behalf. 8 If I say to a wicked
person, 'You wicked person, you're certainly
about to die,' and if you don't announce it so as
to warn that wicked person about their be-
haviour, then that wicked person will die in
their sin, but it'll be you that I hold responsible
for their death. 9 But if you warn the wicked
person about their behaviour, so that they
might turn back from it, and if that person
doesn't turn back from their behaviour, then
they'll die in their sin, but you yourself will
have saved your own life.

Each person is responsible for their own actions

10 So, son of humanity,
you tell the Israeli peo-
ple, 'You're saying this,
"Our errors and our disobedience have come
back on us and they're hurting us. How can we
go on living like this?" ' 11 Tell them that this is
the master Yahweh's declaration: 'As I live, I
don't delight in the death of wicked people. If
they turn away from their wicked behaviour,
then they'll live! So turn back, yes turn away
from your wicked behaviour. Why should you
Israeli people die?'
12 So now, son of humanity, you tell your peo-
ple, 'Righteous people's righteousness won't
save them if they sin. Wicked people's wicked-
ness won't cause them to die if they turn away
from their sin. No, the righteous person won't
be able to live because of his righteousness if he
sins. 13 If I say that a righteous person will
surely live, and if they trust in their righteous-
ness and then commit injustice, I won't call to
mind any of the good things they did—that per-
son will die for the wickedness they committed.
14 Again, if I say to the wicked, "You will surely
die," but if they then turn away from their sins
and do what's just and right, 15 like returning
loan guarantees that were wickedly demanded,
or like making restitution for what they've
stolen, and then if they obey the instructions
that give life and no longer disobey, then those
formerly wicked people will surely live—they
won't die. 16 None of the sins that they've com-
mitted will be called to mind against them.
Those who've acted justly and rightly, will cer-
tainly live.
17 But your people say, "The master's way
isn't fair!" but it's your ways that aren't fair.
18 When the righteous person turns away from
doing what's right and becomes disobedient,
then they'll die in their sin. 19 When the wicked
person turns away from doing evil and does
what's just and right, they'll live because of
those things. 20 Yes, you people say, "The mas-
ter's way isn't fair!" but I'll judge each of you Is-
raeli people according to your behaviour."

The demolition of Yerushalem

21 In mid-January of the
twelfth year of our cap-
tivity in Bavel (Babylon), someone who'd es-
caped from Yerushalem (Jerusalem) came to
me and told me that the city had been cap-
tured.[79] 22 Yahweh had held me in a vision the
evening before the fugitive came, but my
mouth was opened by the time he came to me
at dawn, so by then, I was able to speak again.

More desolation to come

23 Then Yahweh gave
me another message:
24 "Son of humanity, the people inhabiting
those ruins back in Yisrael (Israel) are saying,
'Avraham was only one person, and he inher-
ited the land, but there's lots of us now. The
land has been given to us as an inheritance.'
25 Therefore tell them that the master Yah-
weh says this: You eat blood, and you pay your
respect to your idols, then you pour out peo-
ple's blood. Should you then inherit that land?
26 You people rely on your swords for protec-
tion, and you've done disgusting things—each
man defiles his neighbour's wife. Should you

79 RV 33:21 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 25:3-10; Jer 39:2-8; 52:4-14.

Readers' Version

really possess that land?'
27 Tell them that the master Yahweh says this:
As I live, surely the ones in the ruins will be
killed by swords, and I'll give those in the coun-
tryside to the wild animals as food, and those in
fortresses and in caves will die from deadly dis-
eases. 28 Then I'll turn the country into a deso-
lation and a horror, and the pride that came
from its power will end, because Yisrael's
mountains will be deserted, and there'll be no
one to walk through them.' 29 Then they'll
know that I am Yahweh, when I make the coun-
try a desolation and a wasteland because of all
the disgusting things they've done.

Listening but not obeying

30 So now son of hu-
manity, your people are
out beside the walls and the gates of their
houses talking about you, and they're all telling
each other, 'Let's go and listen to the prophet's
message that comes from Yahweh.' 31 So my
people will come to you, as they often do, and
will sit in front of you and listen to your words,
but they won't obey them. The right words are
on their lips, but their hearts are going after
unjust profit. 32 Yes, you're like a lovely song to
them, a beautiful sound that's played well on a
stringed instrument, so they'll listen to your
words, but none of them will obey them. 33 So
when all that happens, watch out, because it
will indeed happen. Then they'll realise that a
prophet's been among them."

The 'shepherds' of Yisrael (Israel)

34:1 Then Yahweh gave
me another message:
2 "Son of humanity, prophesy against Yisrael's
(Israel's) shepherds. Prophesy and tell them
that the master Yahweh says this to the shep-
herds: Yisrael's shepherds who are shepherding
themselves won't end well. Shouldn't shep-
herds guard the flock? 3 You eat the best sheep
meat and dress in woollen clothes. You slaugh-
ter the fat lambs. You don't shepherd at all.
4 You haven't taken care of those with diseases,
nor do you heal those who are ill. You don't
bandage up the ones with broken limbs, and
you don't restore the outcasts or search for
those who've gone missing. Instead, you use
strength and violence to rule over them. 5 Then
they were scattered without a shepherd,[80] and
after they were scattered, they became food for
all the wild animals in the countryside. 6 My
flock has strayed across all the mountains and
onto every high hill, and it's dispersed over the
entire surface of the earth, yet no one is search-
ing for them.
7 Therefore, you shepherds, listen to Yah-
weh's message to you: 8 This is the master Yah-
weh's declaration: As I live, my flock has be-
come plunder and food for all the wild animals
in the countryside, because there wasn't any
shepherd and because none of my shepherds
tried to find any of my flock that had gotten
lost. Instead it was themselves that the shep-
herds looked after, and they didn't shepherd
my flock. 9 Therefore, you so-called 'shep-
herds', listen to Yahweh's message: 10 The mas-
ter Yahweh says this: Listen, I'm against those
shepherds. I'll require compensation from
them for my flock, and then I'll dismiss them
from shepherding the flock. Those shepherds
won't shepherd themselves any longer either,
because I'll take my flock away from their
mouths, so that my flock won't become food for
them any longer.

The evil shepherds

11 So the master Yah-
weh says this: Listen, I myself will search for
those lost from my flock, and I myself will look
after them, 12 like a shepherd searches for his
sheep when he's among his scattered flock. So
I'll look for my flock and I'll rescue them from
all the places where they were scattered during
the dark times. 13 I'll bring my people out from
among the nations. I'll gather them from for-
eign lands and bring them back to their land.
I'll put them in pastures on Yisrael's (Israel's)
mountainsides, by the streams, and in every
settlement in the land. 14 I'll put them in good
pastures—Yisrael's high mountains will be
their grazing places. They'll lie down there in
places good for grazing, in abundant pastures,
and they'll graze on Yisrael's hills. 15 I myself

80 **RV 34:5 · Cross-ref.** Num 27:17; 1Ki 22:17; Mat 9:36; Mrk 6:34.

Readers' Version

will shepherd my flock, and I myself will give them rest. That's the master Yahweh's declaration.
16 I'll search out the lost and restore the outcast. I'll bandage up those who are broken and heal those who are sick, but I'll destroy those who are fat and well. I will shepherd with justice.
17 So now this is what the master Yahweh says, You, my flock, listen, I'll be a judge between one sheep and another, and between rams and billy goats. 18 Isn't it enough to feed on the good pasture? Do you have to trample down any remaining grass? Or drink from clear waters, then muddy the streams with your feet? 19 Must my flock eat what you've trampled and drink what you've muddied with your feet?
20 Therefore the master Yahweh says this to them: Listen, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the thin ones, 21 because you shepherds have pushed them with your sides and shoulders, and you've gored all the weak ones with your horns until you succeeded in scattering them away from the land. 22 I'll save my flock and they'll no longer be taken as plunder, and I'll judge between one sheep and the next. 23 I'll set one shepherd over them—my servant David. He'll look after them, and he'll be their shepherd.[81] 24 Then I, Yahweh, will be their god, and my servant David will be a leader among them.[82] I, Yahweh, have declared that.
25 Then I'll make a peace treaty with them and remove the wild animals from the land, so that they'll be able to live securely in the wilderness and sleep safely in the forests.
26 I'll also bless both them and the places around my hill, and send out showers in the right season—they'll be showers of blessing. 27 Then the trees in the countryside will produce their fruit, the soil will yield its produce, and my sheep will be secure in their land. When I break off the ties holding the yoke onto their necks, and when I rescue them from the control of those who enslaved them, then they'll know that I am Yahweh. 28 They'll no longer be plunder for the other nations, and the wild animals on the land will no longer devour them. Then they'll live securely, and no one will make them afraid. 29 I'll provide a land for them that's known for its crops, so they won't be victims of famine, and they won't be mocked by other nations. 30 Then they'll know that I, Yahweh their god, am with them. The Israeli people are my people. That's the master Yahweh's declaration.
31 You are my sheep, the flock of my pasture, and my people, and I am your god. That's the master Yahweh's declaration.' "

Edom's coming punishment

35:1 Then Yahweh gave me another message:
2 "Son of humanity, look out towards Mt. Se'ir[83] and prophesy against it. 3 Tell it that the master Yahweh says this: Listen, I'm against you Edom, represented by Mt. Se'ir, and I'll work against you to make you a desolation and a waste. 4 I'll turn your cities into ruins, and you yourself will become desolate. Then you'll know that I am Yahweh.
5 You've always been hostile to the Israeli people, and when they were distressed you decided to attack them with swords—at the time their punishment was coming to an end.
6 Therefore, this is the master Yahweh's declaration: As I live, I'll prepare you for bloodshed, and bloodshed will chase after you. Since you didn't hate bloodshed, bloodshed will come to you. 7 I'll make Edom completely desolate when I cut it off so that no one will want to pass through it. 8 I'll fill its mountain ranges with people who were killed—those killed by the sword will fall on your high hills and valleys and in all your streams. 9 I'll make your land perpetually desolate. Your cities won't be inhabited, and then you'll know that I am Yahweh.

81 **RV 34:23 · Cross-ref.** Rev 7:17.
82 **RV 34:24 · Cross-ref.** Eze 37:24.
83 **RV 35:2 · Cross-ref.** Isa 34:5-17; 63:1-6; Jer 49:7-22; Eze 25:12-14; Amos 1:11-12; Oba 1-14; Mal 1:2-5.

Readers' Version

10 You've said, "These two nations and these
two lands will become mine, and we'll possess
them," even when Yahweh was there with
them. 11 Therefore, this is the master Yahweh's
declaration: As I live, I'll act according to your
anger and according to your jealousy that you
had in your hatred of Yisrael (Israel), and I'll
show myself to them when I judge you—
12 then you'll know that I am Yahweh. I've
heard all the insults you spoke against Yisrael's
hill country, when you said, "They've been de-
stroyed—they've been given over to us to de-
vour." 13 You raised yourselves up against me
with what you said, and you multiplied the
words you said against me, and I heard all of
them.

14 The master Yahweh says this: I'll make you
into a desolate place while the rest of the world
cheers. 15 Just like you rejoiced over the Israeli
people's inheritance when it was made deso-
late, I'll do the same to you. You'll become a
desolation, Mt. Se'ir and all of Edom—all of it.
Then they'll know that I am Yahweh."

God's blessing for Yisrael (Israel)

36:1 "Now, son of hu-
manity, prophesy to Yis-
rael's (Israel's) mountains and say, 'Mountains
of Yisrael, listen to Yahweh's message. 2 The
master Yahweh says this: The enemy has said,
"Aha," when talking about you, and "The an-
cient hilltop shrines have become ours." '

3 Therefore prophesy and tell them that the
master Yahweh says this: Because of your deso-
lation and because of the attacks that came on
you from all sides, you've ended up belonging
to other nations—you've been the subject of
slanderous lips and tongues, and of people's
stories. 4 Therefore, mountains of Yisrael, listen
to the message from the master Yahweh: The
master Yahweh says this to the mountains and
the high hills, to the streambeds and valleys, to
the places that have been destroyed and are
now uninhabited, and to the forsaken cities
that have become plunder and a subject of
mocking for the other nations that surround
them— 5 the master Yahweh says this: I've cer-
tainly spoken in the heat of my anger against
the other nations, against Edom and everyone
who took my land for themselves as a posses-
sion—against all those who had both celebra-
tion in their heart and disdain in their spirit as
they seized my land so they could claim its pas-
turelands for themselves.'

6 Therefore, prophesy to Yisrael and tell the
mountains and the high hills, the streambeds
and the valleys, that the master Yahweh says
this: Listen, in my fury and in my anger I'm
declaring this because you've endured insults
from other nations. 7 Therefore, the master
Yahweh says this: I myself will take action and
promise that the nations that surround you will
certainly be made to carry their own shame.
8 But you Israeli mountains, you'll grow
branches and bear fruit for my Israeli people,
since they'll soon come back to you, 9 because,
listen, I'm for you, and I'll treat you
favourably—you'll be ploughed and sown with
seed. 10 I'll multiply your population—all the Is-
raeli people. The cities will be inhabited again
and the ruins rebuilt. 11 I'll increase both peo-
ple and animals on you mountains so that
they'll multiply and be fruitful. Then I'll cause
you to be inhabited like you were previously,
and I'll make you prosper more than you did in
the past so that you'll know that I am Yahweh.
12 I'll bring my Israeli people to walk on you.
They'll possess you, and you'll be their inheri-
tance, and you'll no longer cause their children
to die.

13 The master Yahweh says this: They're
telling you, "You mountains devour people, be-
reaving your nation of children," 14 therefore
you won't consume people any longer, and
you'll no longer make your nation mourn their
deaths. That's the master Yahweh's declaration.
15 I won't allow you to hear the insults from the
other nations any longer—you'll no longer have
to bear the people groups shaming you, and
you won't cause your nation to stumble. That's
the master Yahweh's declaration."

16 Then Yahweh gave me another message:
17 "Son of humanity, when the Israeli people in-
habited their land, they defiled it with their
customs and their activities. In my eyes, their
customs were like the uncleanness of a

Readers' Version

woman's menstruation, 18 so I poured out my
fury against them for the blood that they'd
poured out on the land, and for how they'd pol-
luted it with their idols. 19 I scattered them
among the nations—they were dispersed
through the lands. I judged them according to
their customs and their actions. 20 Then they
went to those other nations, and wherever they
went, they profaned my holy name when peo-
ple asked about them, 'Are these really Yah-
weh's people? After all, they've been thrown
out of his land.' 21 But I had compassion for my
holy name that the Israeli people had defiled
among the other nations, when they went
there.

22 Therefore tell the Israeli people that the
master Yahweh says this: I'm not doing this for
the sake of you Israeli people, but for my sacred
name, which you've profaned among the na-
tions everywhere you've gone. 23 My great
name, which you people have profaned among
the nations, I'll make holy even among the na-
tions where you profaned it. Then the nations
will know that I am Yahweh, when they see you
recognise my holiness. That's the master Yah-
weh's declaration. 24 I'll take you back out of
those nations and gather you from every land,
and I'll bring you into your land. 25 Then I'll
sprinkle pure water on you so you'll be cleaned
from all of your impurities, and I'll purify you
from all your idols. 26 I'll give you people a new
heart and a new spirit in your innermost parts,
and I'll take the stony heart away from your
bodies and replace it with a heart of flesh.[84]
27 I'll put my spirit in you and enable you Is-
raelis to follow my instructions and keep my
regulations. 28 Then you'll inhabit the land that
I gave to your ancestors—you'll be my people
and I'll be your god. 29 I'll save you from all of
your uncleanness, and then I'll summon the
grain and multiply it—I'll no longer assign
famine to you. 30 I'll multiply the fruit on the
trees and the produce from the soil so that
you'll no longer be shamed by other nations
seeing you suffering famine. 31 Then you'll
think about your wicked customs and your ac-
tivities that weren't good, and your faces will
display your loathing of your own sins and your
disgusting habits. 32 But make sure you know
this: I'm not doing all that for *your* sake, so you
Israeli people should be ashamed and disgraced
because of your behaviour. That's the master
Yahweh's declaration.

33 The master Yahweh says this: When I pu-
rify you from all your disobedience, I'll enable
you to inhabit the cities again and to rebuild
the ruined places, 34 and the idle land will be
tilled until it's no longer a wasteland for every-
one to see as they go past. 35 Then instead
they'll say, "This land was desolate, but it's be-
come like the garden of Eden—the abandoned
cities and the uninhabited ruins that were torn
down are now fortified and inhabited." 36 Then
the other nations around you will know that I
am Yahweh, because I built up the ruins and re-
planted the abandoned places. I, Yahweh, have
declared it and I will do it.

37 The master Yahweh also says this: The Is-
raeli people will again ask me to do this for
them: to increase their population like sheep.
38 Just like the flock that's kept separate to be
used for sacrifices (like the flock in Yerushalem
(Jerusalem) at its scheduled feasts), so too the
ruined cities will be filled with flocks of people
and they will know that I am Yahweh."

The valley with bleached bones

37:1 One day Yahweh
gave me another vision,
and he took me out by his spirit and put me
down in the middle of a valley that was full of
bones. 2 Then he led me all around them, and
wow, there were so many bones in the valley,
and they were totally dried out! 3 "Son of hu-
manity," he asked me, "can these bones become
living people again?"

"My master Yahweh," I replied, "only you
would know that."

4 Then he told me, "Prophesy over these
bones and tell them, 'Dry bones. Listen to Yah-
weh's message. 5 The master Yahweh says this
to these bones: Listen, I'm about to put breath

84 **RV 36:26-28 · Cross-ref.** Eze 11:19-20.

Readers' Version

into you, and you'll live. 6 I'll connect sinews to you and put flesh onto you. I'll cover you with skin and put breath into you so you'll live. Then you'll know that I am Yahweh.' "

7 So I prophesied as I was instructed, and wow, a sound like something rattling started as the bones moved together—bone against bone! 8 I looked and, wow, the bones now had sinews on them, and flesh grew up over that, and then skin covered them! But there was still no breath in them.

9 Then Yahweh told me, "Prophesy to the wind, son of humanity, prophesy and tell the air, 'The master Yahweh commands this: Breath, come from the four compass points, and breathe into these who've been killed, so they'll come to life.' "

10 So I prophesied just like I was commanded. Then breath came into them and they came to life. Then they stood on their feet—a very large army.

11 Then Yahweh informed me, "Son of humanity, these bones are the entire Israeli population. Listen, they're saying, 'Our bones have dried up and our hope is gone. We've been cut off.' 12 Therefore prophesy and tell them, 'The master Yahweh says this: Listen, I'll open your graves and lift you, my people, out from them, then I'll bring you back to Yisrael (Israel). 13 Then, my people, when I open your graves and bring you out of them, you'll know that I am Yahweh. 14 I'll place my spirit within you so you'll live, and I'll cause you to rest in your land when you know that I am Yahweh. I declare it, and I will do it. That is Yahweh's declaration.' "

The two sticks indicating unity of Yisrael and Yehudah

15 Then Yahweh gave me another message: 16 "So now, son of humanity, take a stick for yourself and write on it, 'For Yehudah (Judah) and for all their associated people.' Then take another stick and write on it, 'For Yosef (Joseph), the branch of Yisrael (Israel; Heb. Efrayim), and for all their associated people.' 17 Then hold both of them together so that they seem like one stick in your hand. 18 When your people ask you and insist, 'Aren't you going to tell us what these props of yours mean?' 19 then tell them, 'The master Yahweh says this: Look, I'm taking Yosef's branch that's in Yisrael's hand along with the tribes of Yisrael his companions, and joining it to Yehudah's branch, so that they'll make one branch, and they'll become one in my hand.'

20 Hold the branches in your hand that you wrote on while they watched. 21 Tell the people, 'The master Yahweh says this: Look, I'm about to take the Israeli people out from the nations where they went. I'll gather them from the surrounding lands and bring them back to their land. 22 I'll unite them as a single nation in the land, on the mountains of Yisrael, and there'll be one king as king over all of them, and they'll no longer be two nations—they'll no longer be divided into two kingdoms. 23 Then they'll no longer defile themselves with their idols, with their disgusting things, or with any of their other sins. I'll save them from all of their faithless actions[85] with which they've sinned, and I'll purify them so they'll be my people and I'll be their god. 24 My servant David will be king over them, so there'll be one shepherd over them all,[86] and they'll follow my instructions and keep my regulations and obey them. 25 They'll live in the land that I've given to my servant Ya'akov (Jacob) (also called Yisrael), where your ancestors had stayed. They'll live in it forever—they, their children, and their grandchildren, and my servant David will be their permanent leader. 26 I'll establish a peace treaty with them—a never-ending agreement with them. I'll establish them and multiply them and put my sacred place among them forever. 27 My residence will be with them—I'll be their god, and they'll be my people.[87] 28 Then

85 RV 37:23 · Note The Hebrew text has 'living places' rather than 'faithless actions' (from the Septuagint), but it's difficult to make sense of the Hebrew.

86 RV 37:24 · Cross-ref. Eze 34:24.

87 RV 37:27 · Cross-ref. 2Cor 6:16; Rev 21:3.

Readers' Version

the other nations will know that I am Yahweh who sets Yisrael apart, when my sacred place is permanently among them.' "

The defeat of all of Yisrael's opponents[88] · Invasion by Gog and his army

38:1 Then Yahweh gave me another message:
2 "Son of humanity, look toward the land of Magog where King Gog is the main leader of Meshek and Tuval,[89] and prophesy against him. **3** Tell him that the master Yahweh says this: Listen, I'm against you, Gog, leader of Meshek and Tuval, **4** so I'll turn you around and put hooks into your jaws. Then I'll bring you out with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all of them dressed in full armour—a huge group with large and small shields, all of them holding swords. **5** Paras (Persia), Kush (Ethiopia) (Kush), and Libya are with them, all of them with shields and helmets, **6** as well as Gomer and all its troops, and Beyt-Togarmah, from the far parts of the north, and all its troops. Many people groups are with you. **7** Tell Gog to get ready as commander, and to assemble and prepare his troops. **8** You'll be summoned many days later, then after some years you'll go to a land that's recovered from war and where the people have come back from many nations—gathered back to Yisrael's (Israel's) mountains that had continuously been a ruin. But the land's people will indeed be brought out of the nations, and they'll all live there safely again. **9** Then you'll go in like a storm with your large army—you'll all be like a cloud covering the land.

10 The master Yahweh says this: But plans will start to form in your heart on that day and you'll devise wicked schemes. **11** Then you'll think, 'I'll take my army up onto the open ground—we'll attack the people living quietly and peacefully—all of them living where there are no walls or barriers, and no city gates. **12** I'll capture booty and steal plunder and use my forces against those ruins that have been newly inhabited, and against those people who've returned from the nations—people who are gaining livestock and property, and who are living at the centre of the world.' **13** People from Sheva and Dedan, and traders from Tarshish and its villages will ask you, 'Have you come to plunder? Have you assembled your armies to take away spoil, to carry off gold and silver, to take their livestock and property and to haul away plenty of plunder?'

14 Therefore, son of humanity, prophesy and tell Gog that the master Yahweh says this: On that day, when my people Yisrael are living securely—but you won't take notice of that—
15 you'll come from your place far away in the north with a large army—all of them riding on horses, yes, a very numerous force. **16** Then you'll attack my Israeli people like a cloud that covers the land. I'll send you against my land near the end of the era, so that the nations might know me when I show myself through you, Gog—they'll see with their own eyes that I always demand what's right. **17** The master Yahweh says this: Aren't you the one that I spoke about in the past through my servants, the Israeli prophets who prophesied for years in their own times, that I would bring you against them?

Yahweh's punishment of Gog

18 This is the master Yahweh's declaration:
When Gog attacks Yisrael (Israel), my fury will mount up into a rage. **19** In my zeal and in the fire of my anger, I declare that on that day there'll be a terrible earthquake in Yisrael, **20** and the fish in the sea and the birds in the skies, the wild animals in the countryside including all the creatures that crawl on the earth, and every person who's on the surface of the land will tremble in front of me. The mountains will be thrown down and the cliffs will fall, until every wall falls to the ground. **21** I'll summon an army against Gog on all my mountains. Every man's sword will be against his brother. That's the master Yahweh's declaration. **22** Then I'll punish Gog with deadly dis-

88 RV 38:1 · Parallel 38:1–39:29

89 RV 38:2 · Cross-ref. Rev 20:8.

Readers' Version

eases and bloodshed, as well as overwhelming rain and hailstones and burning sulfur that I'll rain down on him and his troops and the many nations that joined with him. 23 Yes, I'll display my greatness and purity, and I'll make myself known to those many nations, so they'll know that I am Yahweh.

The defeat of Gog

39:1 "Now, son of humanity, prophesy against Gog and say that the master Yahweh says this: Listen, I'm against you, Gog, leader of Meshek and Tuval. 2 I'll turn you around and drag you along—I'll bring you from the far north and take you up to Yisrael's (Israel's) mountains, 3 Then I'll knock your bow out of your left hand and make the arrows fall out of your right hand. 4 You and all your troops and soldiers who are with you will die on Yisrael's mountains. I'll give you to the birds of prey and the wild animals in the countryside for food. 5 You'll die there in the countryside, because I myself declare it. That's the master Yahweh's declaration. 6 Then I'll send fire out onto Magog and on those living in safety in the coastal regions, and then they'll know that I am Yahweh. 7 I'll make my holy name known among my people Yisrael, and I'll no longer allow my holy name to be profaned—the nations will know that I am Yahweh, the holy One in Yisrael.

8 Listen, the day is coming, and all that will take place. That's the master Yahweh's declaration. 9 The people living in Yisrael's cities will go out and they'll use those weapons to kindle and make fires and burn them—small shields, large shields, bows, arrows, the clubs and spears—they'll make fires with them for seven years. 10 They won't need to gather firewood from the countryside or cut down trees from the forests, since they'll burn the weapons. They'll take from those invaders who wanted to take from them, and plunder those who wanted to plunder them. That's the master Yahweh's declaration."

Gog's burial

11 Then at that time, I'll make a grave for Gog there in Yisrael (Israel)—a valley for those who journey to the east of the sea. They'll bury Gog there with all his multitudes, and they'll call it the 'Hamon-Gog' (or, 'Gog's horde') valley. That mass grave will block people who want to cross over. 12 It'll take seven months for the Israelis to bury them to make the area clean— 13 all the land's people will bury them. It'll be a memorable day for them when I'm honoured. That's the master Yahweh's declaration. 14 At the end of the seven months, they'll designate men to continually go through the region to find people who were travelling through, but who died and their bodies remained above the ground, so that they can bury them to make the land clean. 15 As those men pass through the land, when they see any human bone, they'll put a marker by it, until gravediggers come and bury it in the Hamon-Gog valley. 16 There'll even be a city there named 'Hamonah' (which means, 'horde' or 'multitude'). In that way, they'll make the land clean again.

17 Now, son of humanity, the master Yahweh says this to you: Tell all the winged birds and all the wild animals in the countryside, 'Gather together and come. Gather from all around to the sacrifice that I myself am making for you—a large sacrifice on Yisrael's mountains, so that you can eat human flesh and drink blood.[90] 18 You'll eat warriors' flesh and drink the blood of the world's leaders as if they were rams, lambs, goats, and bulls that were all fattened in Bashan. 19 Then you'll eat fat until you're full and drink blood until you're drunk—that'll be the sacrifice that I'll slaughter for you birds and animals. 20 You'll be satisfied at my table with horses, chariot drivers, warriors, and every man of war. That's the master Yahweh's declaration.'

Yisrael's restoration

21 I'll display my power among the nations, and all the nations will see my judgement that I'll put into process and how I'll put that into action against them. 22 Then from that time onwards, the Israeli people will know that I am their god Yahweh.

90 **RV 39:17-20 · Cross-ref.** Rev 19:17-18.

Readers' Version

23 The nations will know that the Israeli people
went into captivity because of how they be-
trayed me with their disobedience, so I dis-
tanced myself from them and handed them
over to their adversaries so that they all died in
the battle. 24 When I distanced myself from
them, I treated them exactly as their defile-
ment and rebellion deserved.
25 Therefore the master Yahweh says this:
Now I'll restore Ya'akov's (Jacob's) fortunes,
and I'll have compassion on all of Yisrael's (Is-
rael's) descendants, when I act with zeal to pro-
tect my pure reputation. 26 Then they'll bear
their shame and all the treason in which they
betrayed me. They'll forget all that when they
rest in their land in safety, with no one to ter-
rify them 27 when I restore them from the peo-
ple groups and gather them from their ene-
mies' lands, and I show myself in the sight of
many nations to always do what's right.
28 Then they'll know that I am Yahweh their
god, because I sent them into captivity among
the other nations, but then I'll gather them
back to their own land. I won't leave any of
them among the nations. 29 I'll no longer dis-
tance myself from them when I pour out my
spirit on the Israeli people. That's the master
Yahweh's declaration."

The revelation concerning the coming temple and nation[91] · Yehezkel is taken to Yerushalem

40:1 In mid-April of the
twenty-fifth year of our
captivity (the fourteenth
year after Yerushalem
(Jerusalem) was cap-
tured), Yahweh used his
power to take me there, 2 yes, God took me to
Yisrael (Israel) in visions. He put me on a very
high mountain where there seemed to be city
buildings towards the south,[92] 3 and he took me
there. Then wow, there was a man standing in
the city gateway who looked like bronze! He
was holding a linen cord and a measuring rod.[93]
4 The man told me, "Son of humanity, look
with your eyes and listen with your ears, and
fix your mind on everything that I'm revealing
to you, because you were brought here so I
could reveal them to you. Report everything
you see here to the Israeli people."

The eastern gateway

5 There was a wall sur-
rounding the temple
area. The measuring rod in the man's hand was
just over three metres long. (It was six long cu-
bits—each long cubit was a cubit long plus a
handbreadth.) So he measured the wall, and it
was one measuring rod thick and one high.[94]
6 Then he went to the temple gate that faced
east. He went up its steps and measured the
gate's threshold—one rod across. 7 The guard
chambers were each one rod long and deep,
and just under three metres wide. The temple
gate threshold by the temple porch was one rod
across. 8 He measured the porch inside the gate
and it was one rod long, 9 and the porch over
the gate was one rod deep. The doorposts were
each a metre wide. (This was the porch at the
gate facing the temple.) 10 There were three
guard chambers on either side of the east gate,
and each of them was the same size, and the
walls that separated them were the same size.
11 Then the man measured the width of the
gateway entrance and it was five metres, and
the length of the gateway entrance was almost
seven metres. 12 He measured the wall that ran
along the front of the chambers at half a metre
high. The chambers measured three metres on
each side. 13 Then he measured the gateway
from the roof of one chamber to that of the
next chamber, and it was thirteen metres from
the entrance of the first chamber to that of the
second. 14 Then he measured the wall that went
between the guard chambers, and it was over
thirty metres long as far as the gate's porch.
15 The entrance from the front of the gate to
the other end of the gate's porch was
twenty-seven metres. 16 There were closed win-

91 **RV 40:1 · Parallel** 40:1–48:35
92 **RV 40:2 · Cross-ref.** Rev 21:10.
93 **RV 40:3 · Cross-ref.** Rev 11:1; 21:15.
94 **RV 40:5–42:20 · Cross-ref.** 1Ki 6:1-38; 2Ch 3:1-9.

Readers' Version

dows facing the chambers and toward their pillars within the gates all around, and likewise for the porches. There were windows all around the inside, and each of the door jambs was decorated with carvings of palm trees.

The temple courtyard

17 Then the man brought me to the outer courtyard of the temple. Look, there were rooms, and the courtyard was paved, with thirty rooms next to the pavement. 18 The pavement reached to the side of the gates, and its width was the same as the gates' length. That was the lower pavement. 19 Then the man measured the distance from the front of the lower gate to the front of the inner gate: it was just over fifty metres on the eastern side, and the same on the northern side.

The northern gateway

20 Then he measured the length and width of the gate that was at the northern end of the outer courtyard. 21 There were three chambers on each side of that gate, and the gate with its porch measured the same as the main gate: twenty-seven metres long and thirteen metres wide. 22 Its windows, porch, chambers, and its palm trees matched the eastern gate. Seven steps went up to it and to its porch. 23 There was a gate to the inner courtyard in front of the northern gate, just as there was at the eastern gate. The man measured from one gate to the other gate, and it was fifty-four metres.

The southern gateway

24 Next the man took me to the gateway at the southern entrance, and its walls and porch measured the same as the other outer gates. 25 There were closed windows in the gateway and its porch just like the other gates. The southern gate with its porch was twenty-seven metres long and thirteen metres wide. 26 There were seven steps up to the gate and its porch, and carvings of palm trees on the walls on each side. 27 There was a gate to the inner courtyard on the southern side, and the man measured fifty-four metres from that gate to the gate at the southern entrance.

The gateways to the inner courtyard

28 Then the man brought me to the inner courtyard by way of its southern gate, which had the same measurements as the other gates. 29 Its chambers, walls, and porches measured the same as the other gates—there were windows all around in the porch. The inner gate with its porch was twenty-seven metres long and thirteen metres wide. 30 There were also porches all around the inner wall—they were all thirteen metres long and almost three metres wide. 31 The porch facing the outer courtyard had carved palm trees on its walls, and eight steps going up to it.

The eastern gate to the inner courtyard

32 Then the man brought me to the inner courtyard by the eastern side and measured the gate, which had the same measurements as the other gates. 33 Its chambers, walls, and porches measured the same as the other gates, and there were windows all around. The inner gate with its porch was twenty-seven metres long and thirteen metres wide. 34 Its porch that faced the outer courtyard had carved palm trees on each side of it, and eight steps going up it.

The northern gate to the inner courtyard

35 Next the man brought me to the northern gate and measured it, and it measured the same as the other gates. 36 Its chambers, walls, and porch measured the same as the other gates, and there were windows all around. The gateway with its porch was twenty-seven metres long and thirteen metres wide. 37 Its porch that faced the outer courtyard had carved palm trees on each side of it, and eight steps going up it.

Rooms for preparing sacrifices

38 There was a room with a door by each of the inner gateways which was where they rinsed the burnt offerings. 39 There were two tables on each side of each porch, which were for slaughtering the offerings: the burnt offering, the sin offering, and the guilt offering. 40 By the wall of the courtyard, going up to the gate to the north, there were two tables. Also on the other side there were two tables at the gate's porch. 41 There were four tables by the gate on each side—they slaughtered animals on

Readers' Version

those eight tables. 42 There were four cut-stone tables for the burnt offerings, each just under a metre long and wide, and standing half a metre tall. They kept the tools which they used to slaughter the burnt offerings for the sacrifices on those stone tables. 43 Some two-pronged hooks a handbreadth in length were fastened all around in the porch, and the flesh of the offerings would be put on the tables.

The priests' rooms

44 Within the inner courtyard but on the outside of the inner gate were singers' rooms—one on the northern side facing south, and the other on the southern side facing north. 45 Then the man told me, "This room facing south is for the priests who are on duty in the temple. 46 The room facing north is for the priests on duty at the altar, that is, for Tsadok's descendants—they're the only Levites who approach Yahweh to serve him."

The inner courtyard

47 Next he measured the square courtyard at fifty-four metres long and wide, with the altar in front of the temple.

The temple entrance

48 Then the man took me to the temple porch and measured its doorposts—they were each two and a half metres thick. The entryway itself was seven metres wide,[95] and the walls on each side of it were one and a half metres wide. 49 The porch was eleven metres wide and six metres deep, with steps going up to it and pillars standing on each side of it.

Inside the temple

41:1 Then the man took me into the temple's holy place and measured the doorposts at three metres thick on each side. 2 The doorway was five metres wide and the wall on each side was two and a half metres long. Then the man measured the dimensions of the holy place—twenty-one metres long and eleven metres wide. 3 Then the man went into the very sacred inner place and measured the door at one metre wide, and the doorway was three metres wide. The walls on either side were nearly four metres wide. 4 Then he measured the square room's length and width of eleven metres, measuring to the temple hallway. Then he said to me, "This is the most sacred area."

The temple rooms

5 Then the man measured the wall of the house at three metres thick. The width of each side room around the house was two metres. 6 There were side rooms on three levels, one room above another, thirty rooms on each level. There were ledges around the temple wall to support all the side rooms, as the supports weren't built into the temple wall. 7 So the side rooms widened and went around going up, because the house went around higher and higher all around—the rooms widened on each higher level, and a stairway went up through the middle level to the highest level. 8 Then I saw a raised part all around the temple, the foundation for the side rooms. It measured a full rod in height—just over three metres. 9 The width of the wall of the side rooms on the outside was two and a half metres. There was an open space outside those rooms in the temple. 10 On the other side of that open space were the priests' outer side rooms. That space was eleven metres wide all around the temple. 11 There were doors into the side rooms from another open space with one doorway on the north side, and the other on the south. The width of that open area was two and a half metres all around.

The western side

12 The building that faced the courtyard on the western side was thirty-six metres wide. Its wall was two and a half metres thick all around, and it was forty-seven metres long.

The temple building measurements

13 Then the man measured the temple as being fifty-four metres long. The separate building, its wall, and the courtyard combined also measured fifty-four metres across. 14 The width of the front of the courtyard in front of the temple was also fifty-four metres.

15 Then the man measured the length of the building behind the temple, to its west, and in-

95 **RV 40:48 · Note** Following the LXX, as the 1.5m (three cubits) in the Hebrew appears likely to be a copying mistake.

Readers' Version

cluding the galleries on either side, it came to fifty-four metres.

The sacred inner place and the porch, 16 the inner walls and the windows, including the narrow windows, and the galleries all around on three levels, were all panelled in wood. 17 Above the entryway to the inner sanctuary and spaced along the walls there was a repeating pattern. 18 It was decorated with winged creatures and palm trees—with a palm tree between each winged creature, and each winged creature had two faces: 19 the human face looked toward a palm tree on one side, and the young lion face looked toward a palm tree on the other side. They were carved all around the entire temple. 20 From the ground to above the doorway, winged creatures and palm trees were carved on the outer wall of the temple. 21 The door posts of the main temple room were square, all with the same appearance. 22 The wooden altar was one metre on each side and stood one and a half metres high. Its corner posts, base, and frame were all made of wood.

Then the man said to me, "This is the table that stands in Yahweh's presence."

The temple doorways

23 Both the main room and the sacred place had double doors— 24 each consisting of two parts that swung on hinges. 25 There were carvings of winged creatures and palm trees on the doors, just like on the walls, and there was a wooden roof over the front porch. 26 There were narrow windows and palm trees on either side of the porch, like the side rooms of the temple, and they also had overhanging roofs.

Two buildings near the temple

42:1 Next the man sent me out to the outer courtyard on the northern side, and he brought me to rooms in front of the outer courtyard and the northern outer wall. 2 That building with a north-facing entrance was fifty-four metres long and twenty-seven metres wide. 3 Some of those rooms faced the inner courtyard and were eleven metres away from the sanctuary. There were three levels of rooms, and the ones above looked down on the ones below and were open to them, having a walkway. Some of the rooms looked out onto the outer courtyard. 4 A five metre wide passage ran in front of the rooms and was fifty-four[96] metres long. The rooms' doors faced north. 5 But the upper halls were smaller, because the walkways there used more space than they did in the bottom and middle levels of the building. 6 The third storey halls had no pillars (unlike the courtyards), so the rooms at the highest level were smaller than those on the bottom and middle levels. 7 The outside wall ran along the rooms toward the outer courtyard that was in front of the rooms, and was twenty-seven metres long. 8 The row of rooms along the outer courtyard was twenty-seven metres long, and the row of rooms facing the sanctuary was fifty-four metres long. 9 There was an entrance to the lowest rooms from the eastern side, coming from the outer courtyard. 10 There was also a set of rooms along the outer courtyard wall on the eastern side of the outer courtyard, in front of the sanctuary's inner courtyard, 11 with a walkway in front of them. They looked similar to the rooms on the northern side and had the same measurements, as well as the same exits and arrangements and doors. 12 There were also doorways into rooms on the south side that were similar to what was on the north side. There was an inside passage with an outer door—the passage had doors into all the rooms. At the eastern end of the passage there was a door from the outside.

13 Then the man told me, "The northern rooms and the southern rooms that are in front of the outer courtyard are sacred rooms where the priests who work nearest to Yahweh may eat the very sacred food. They'll put the very sacred things there—the food offering, the sin offering, and the guilt offering—because it's a very sacred area. 14 When the priests enter it, they must not go back out of the sacred area to

96 RV 42:4 · Note The Hebrew text seemed to be missing a word here (as it didn't make sense), so the word from the (approx. 300 B.C.) Septuagint translation was used.

Readers' Version

the outer courtyard, without laying aside the clothes in which they served, since those clothes are sacred. So they must dress in other clothes before going back into the public areas."

Measuring outside the temple

15 The man completed measuring the temple interior and then took me out to the eastern gate and measured all the surrounding area there.
16–19 He measured each side of the wall with his measuring rod, and it was 270m[97] long on each of the eastern, northern, southern, and western sides. 20 So the four sides that were measured (and thus the wall around it) was 270m on each side, and the wall separated the sacred area from the public area.

God's powerful splendour of God at the temple

43:1 Then the man took me to the gate that opened to the east.
2 Wow! The splendour of Yisrael's (Israel's) god appeared towards the east. His voice was like the roar of rushing water, and the land shone with his brilliance.[98] 3 What I saw in this vision was like what I'd seen in my earlier visions, first by the Kevar Canal, then later when he[99] came to destroy Yerushalem (Jerusalem). I fell to my knees with my face to the ground. 4 So Yahweh's brightness entered into the temple via the eastern entrance.
5 Then the spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court, and wow, Yahweh's brilliance was filling the temple. 6 Then as the man was standing there beside me, I heard someone speak to me from inside the temple, 7 and the voice told me, "Son of humanity, this is the place where I'll sit on my throne and rest my feet—where I'll live in the middle of the Israeli people forever. Yisrael's descendants and their kings will no longer profane my sacred name with their faithlessness or with the corpses of their kings at their hilltop shrines. 8 They'll no longer profane my sacred name by putting their entrance next to my entrance, and their doorposts next to my doorposts, with nothing but a wall between me and them. They profaned my sacred name with their disgusting actions, so I destroyed them with my anger.
9 Now they're to remove their prostitution and their kings' corpses from in front of me, and I'll live among them forever.
10 "Son of humanity, describe that temple to the Israeli people so they'll be ashamed of their disobedience and think about those plans. 11 If they're ashamed of everything they've done, then reveal the design of that temple to them—its details, its entrances and exits, its complete design, and all its decrees and rules. Then right in front of them, write that down so they'll see its complete design and all its rules, and then obey them. 12 This is the regulation for the temple: From the peak of the hill to all the surrounding border around it, it'll be very sacred. Listen, that's the regulation for the temple.

The altar dimensions

13 These are the altar's measurements, using the same kind of measuring rod that was used for the temple area: There's a gutter around the altar that's both half a metre deep and wide. There's a rim around it that's 23cm wide. That'll be the base for the rest of the altar.[100]
14 The lower part of the gutter is one metre high to the lower ledge that surrounds the altar. The lower ledge is half a metre wide. From that ledge to the upper ledge, it's two metres. That ledge is also half a metre wide. 15 The altar body at the top is another two metres high and has a hornlike projection jutting up from each of its corners. 16 The sides of the square body are six metres long. 17 The upper ledge that

97 RV 42:16 · Note Following the Septuagint here, which seems more accurate (unless he now has a shorter measuring rod).

98 RV 43:2 · Cross-ref. Eze 10:3-4,18-19; 11:22-23; Rev 1:15.

99 RV 43:3 · Note It's only one letter difference, but the Hebrew has 'I' here which seems wrong and is adjusted in some later manuscripts.

100 RV 43:13-17 · Cross-ref. Exo 27:1-2; 2Ch 4:1.

Readers' Version

borders the altar body is also a square, eight metres long on each side, and has a rim all around that's 27cm wide. There's a gutter measuring half a metre at the bottom of the altar. There are steps leading up to the east side of the altar."

The purification of the new altar

18 Then the man told me, "Son of humanity, the master Yahweh says that those are the dimensions for when they make the altar for presenting the burnt offering on, and for sprinkling blood onto.[101] 19 You must give a bull from the cattle as a sin offering for the Levitical priests who are Tsadok's descendants—those who approach me to serve me. That's the master Yahweh's declaration. 20 Then you'll take some of the bull's blood and place it on the altar's 'horns' and on the four top edges and the surrounding rim. You'll purify it and make it allowable in my presence. 21 Then take that sin offering bull and burn it in the designated part of the temple area outside the sanctuary.
22 Then on the second day, you'll get from the goats a male goat without any blemishes, and offer it as a sin offering—the priests will purify the altar just as they purified it with the bull.
23 When you finish that purification, offer an unblemished bull from the cattle and an unblemished ram from the flock, 24 and offer them to me, Yahweh. The priests will throw salt onto them and present them as a burnt offering to Yahweh. 25 Then every day for the next seven days you must bring a billy goat to the priest to be sacrificed for an offering, so I'll accept the altar. You must also sacrifice a young bull and a ram, each without any defect, that the priests will provide. 26 They must atone for the altar for seven days and purify it, and in that way they must consecrate it to me. 27 After doing all that, from the eighth day onward the priests will prepare you people's burnt offerings and your peace offerings on the altar, and I'll accept you. That's the master Yahweh's declaration."

The locked gate

44:1 Then the man took me back to the outer sanctuary gate facing east, but it was shut, 2 and Yahweh told me, "This gate has been sealed shut—it won't be opened. No person will go through it, because Yisrael's (Israel's) god Yahweh entered through it, so it's now closed. 3 Only Yisrael's ruler will sit by it to eat food in front of Yahweh, but he'll enter via the gate's porch, and leave the same way."

Foreigners disallowed in the temple

4 Then he took me to the front of the temple by way of the northern gate, and I looked, and wow, Yahweh's brilliance filled his temple, and I fell to my knees with my face bowed towards the ground.
5 Then Yahweh told me, "Son of humanity, pay attention and look with your eyes and listen with your ears to everything that I'm declaring to you: all the instructions about Yahweh's temple and all its regulations. Take special note of the temple's entrance and exits. 6 Then tell the rebellious Israelis that the master Yahweh says this: Let all your disgusting actions be enough for you Israeli people— 7 that you brought foreigners with uncircumcised hearts and uncircumcised flesh to be in my sanctuary, profaning my temple, while you people were offering me food, fat, and blood. You people have broken my agreement with all your disgusting actions. 8 You haven't carried out your duties regarding my sacred things, but instead, you people appointed others to take up your duties, and you assigned them to care for my sacred place.
9 "The master Yahweh says this: No foreigner, from any of those who live among the Israeli people, may enter my sacred place if they're not physically circumcised or if they haven't declared themself to be one of my people.

Demotion of the Levites

10 The Levites went far from me—wandering away from me and going after their idols, but they'll be punished. 11 They're still servants in my sanctuary, watching the temple gates and serving inside, and they slaughter the burnt of-

101 RV 43:18-27 · Cross-ref. Exo 29:35-37.

Readers' Version

ferings and the people's sacrifices, and they'll stand in front of the people and serve them. 12 However, because they sacrificed to their idols, they became sinful stumbling blocks for the Israeli people, therefore I've promised to take action against them, and they'll pay for their disobedience. That's the master Yahweh's declaration. 13 They mustn't come near to me to act as my priests or to approach any of my sacred things, the most sacred things. Instead, they'll bear their shame and their guilt for the disgusting things they've done, 14 but I'll place them as housekeepers in the temple—for all its mundane duties and all the menial work that's done in it.

Tsadok's descendants as priests

15 Then the Levitical priests, those descendants of Tsadok who fulfilled the duties of my sanctuary when the Israeli people were wandering away from me, they'll approach me to worship me. They'll stand in front of me to offer me the fat and the blood. That's the master Yahweh's declaration. 16 They'll come to my sanctuary and approach my table to worship me and to fulfill their duties to me. 17 When they come to the gates of the inner courtyard, they'll have to dress in linen clothing,[102] because they mustn't wear wool inside the courtyard gates or in the temple. 18 They must wear linen turbans on their heads and linen underclothes around their waists. They mustn't dress in clothing that makes them sweat. 19 When they go back out to the outer courtyard to go back again to the people, they must take off the clothes they wore when they served—they must take them off and lay them down in a sacred room,[103] so they don't make other people sacred by contact with their special clothing.

20 The priests mustn't shave their heads or allow their hair to hang loosely, but they must keep the hair on their heads neatly trimmed. 21 No priest should drink wine before he comes to the inner court.[104] 22 Also, priests can't marry widows of men who weren't priests, or women who've been divorced—they're permitted to marry only Israeli women who've never been married, or widows of other priests.

23 They must teach the people the difference between things that are sacred and things that are not, and teach them how to know what things are acceptable to me and what things are not.[105] 24 In a dispute they must judge in accordance with my instructions and regulations. They must keep my law and my statutes at every religious celebration, and they must observe my sacred rest days.

25 Priests mustn't defile themselves by going near a person's dead body. However, if the dead person was his father or mother, son or daughter, or brother or unmarried sister, then they can defile themselves, 26 and after they've been purified, they must wait for seven days. 27 Then after that, when he goes into the inner courtyard to serve in the sacred place, he must bring a sin offering for himself. That's the master Yahweh's declaration.

28 The priests must not own any land—I am their inheritance and I'll be their property.[106] 29 They'll have the food offerings, the sin offerings, and the guilt offerings to eat, plus everything in Yisrael (Israel) that's devoted to Yahweh will be theirs.[107] 30 The best of the firstfruits from every harvest and every contribution from the people will belong to the priests, and you Israelis will give the first of your bread dough[108] to the priests so that blessing may rest on your home. 31 Priests must not eat the

102 **RV 44:17-18 · Cross-ref.** Exo 28:39-43; Lev 16:4.

103 **RV 44:19 · Cross-ref.** Lev 16:23.

104 **RV 44:21 · Cross-ref.** Lev 10:9.

105 **RV 44:23 · Cross-ref.** Lev 10:10.

106 **RV 44:28 · Cross-ref.** Num 18:20.

107 **RV 44:29-30 · Cross-ref.** Num 18:8-19.

108 **RV 44:30 · Note** Probably after it's cooked???

Readers' Version

meat of any bird or animal that's found dead or that's been killed by any other animal.[109]

Yahweh's section of land

45:1 When you throw dice to divide up the land as an inheritance for the tribes, you must make an offering of land to Yahweh. That offering will become a sacred part of the land: thirteen kilometres by ten kilometres in size.[110] That entire area will become sacred. 2 Within that area, a 270m wide square area that'll surround the sacred place will be left empty, with a further border around it twenty-seven metres wide. 3 Inside that first, larger area, measure a rectangle thirteen kilometres by five kilometres for the sanctuary—the most sacred place. 4 It'll be a sacred place in the nation for the priests who serve Yahweh, who come near Yahweh to serve him. It'll be a place for their houses and a sacred area for the sacred place. 5 The other half, which is also thirteen kilometres long and five kilometres wide, will be for towns for the Levites who serve in the temple.

6 You'll designate an area thirteen kilometres long by half a kilometre wide for the city that will be next to the area reserved for the holy place. This city will belong to all the Israeli people.

The leader's section of land

7 The leader's land will be on both sides of the area reserved for the holy place and the city—on the west and the east. Its length will be the same as those portions that it's parallel to. 8 That area will belong to Yisrael's (Israel's) leader so the leaders won't keep oppressing my people, but rather they'll give the rest of the land to be divided among the tribes. 9 The master Yahweh says this: That's plenty for you, leaders of Yisrael! Replace your violence and strife with justice and righteousness. Quit your evictions of my people. That's the master Yahweh's declaration.

Dealing with produce and animals

10 You Israelis must use accurate scales and measuring containers.[111] 11 The baskets for measuring dry things and containers for measuring liquids (called an 'efah' for dry things and a 'bath' for liquids, both a tenth of the large 220 litre 'homer') must be the same volume—each must hold twenty-two litres. 12 For weights, the shekel weight must be ten grams. (Twenty 'gerahs' makes one shekel, then sixty shekels makes one 'mina'.)

13 You Israelis must present to the leader one measure of wheat or barley for every sixty measures that you harvest, 14 one measure of olive oil for every one hundred measures that you produce, 15 plus one sheep or goat from the flock for every two hundred animals from the watered regions of Yisrael (Israel), to be used for any burnt offering or peace offering to make atonement for the people. That's the master Yahweh's declaration.

16 All the people in the country will give that contribution to Yisrael's leader. 17 It'll be the leader's responsibility to supply the animals for the burnt offerings, the grain offerings, and the drink offerings at the festivals and the new moon celebrations, and on the rest days—all the Israeli people's scheduled festivals. He'll provide for the sin offerings, the grain offerings, the burnt offerings, and the peace offerings to make the Israeli people right with God.

The festivals[112]

18 The master Yahweh says this: On the first day of the first month of the year, you must take an unblemished bull from the herd and perform a sin offering to purify the temple. 19 The priest will take some of the blood of that sin offering and place it on the doorposts of the temple and on the four corners of the border of the altar, and on the doorposts of the gate to the inner court. 20 You'll do this again on the seventh day of

109 **RV 44:31 · Cross-ref.** Lev 22:8.

110 **RV 45:1 · Note** The 'ten kilometres' (twenty thousand cubits) from the Septuagint appears to correct the Hebrew which has half of that, but then v3 and v4 wouldn't make sense.

111 **RV 45:10 · Cross-ref.** Lev 19:36.

112 **RV 45:18 · Parallel** Exo. 12:1-20; Lev. 23:33-43

Readers' Version

that month for each person's accidental sin, or sin by ignorance. In that way you'll make the temple pure in God's sight.

21 Then on the fourteenth day of that first month, you Israelis will have a seven-day celebration, when you'll eat bread made without any raising agent.[113] 22 That same day, the leader will prepare a bull as a sin offering for himself and for all the people in the country. 23 For the seven days of the celebration, the leader will prepare a burnt offering for Yahweh: Seven bulls and seven unblemished rams each day for seven days, and a male goat each day as a sin offering. 24 Then the leader will perform a food offering of twenty-two litres of flour with seven litres of olive oil for each bull and each ram.

25 On the fifteenth day of the seventh month of the year, at the 'temporary shelters' celebration, the leader will perform offerings on those seven days: Sin offerings, burnt offerings, food offerings, and offerings of oil.[114]

The leader and the festivals

46:1 The master Yahweh says this: The eastern gate of the inner courtyard will be shut for the six days of work, but it'll be opened on rest days and on the day of the new moon. 2 The leader will enter the outer courtyard by the path to that gate and its outside porch, and he'll stand at the doorposts of the inner gate while the priests perform his burnt offering and peace offering. Then he'll worship right there at the inner gate and then leave again, but the gate won't be shut until evening. 3 The people will also worship in front of Yahweh at the entrance to that gate on rest days and new moons. 4 The burnt offering that the leader offers to Yahweh on the rest day will be six unblemished lambs and an unblemished ram. 5 The grain offering that he gives with the ram is twenty-two litres of flour, and with the lambs it should be as much as he pleases, along with one litre of olive oil for every twenty-two litres of flour. 6 On the day of the new moon he must offer a bull, six lambs, and a ram—all without any defects. 7 He must also provide a grain offering of twenty-two litres of flour with the bull, the same with the ram, and as much as he wants with the lambs, along with a litre of olive oil with every twenty-two litres of flour. 8 The leader enters by the path to the gate and its porch, and he must leave by the same path.

9 But when the land's people come in front of Yahweh at the scheduled festivals, anyone entering through the north gate to worship must leave through the south gate, and anyone entering through the south gate must leave through the north gate. No one is allowed to turn back to the gate through which they entered, because everyone must keep going straight ahead until they get out. 10 The leader must be amongst them in their midst—when they go in, he must go in, and when they leave, he must leave. 11 During the festivals that you hold for me, the king must present twenty-two litres of flour along with a bull or a ram, and as much flour as he wants to with the lambs, along with a litre of olive oil with every twenty-two litres of flour.

12 When the leader gives a voluntary offering to Yahweh (either a burnt offering or a peace offering), the eastern gate will be opened for him. He'll offer his burnt offering or his peace offering just like he does on the rest day. Then he must go out, and after he's gone out, the gate will be shut.

The daily sacrifice

13 In addition, every morning someone[115] must provide a one year old lamb with no defects to be completely burnt up as an offering to Yahweh. 14 Also every morning someone must provide an offering of four litres of flour mixed with a litre of olive oil, and that's a permanent requirement. 15 They'll prepare the lamb, the grain offering,

113 **RV 45:21 · Cross-ref.** Exo 12:1-20; Num 28:16-25.

114 **RV 45:25 · Cross-ref.** Lev 23:33-36; Num 29:12-38.

115 **RV 46:13 · Note** Some of the earliest translations (the Septuagint and the Vulgate) have 'he' here, suggesting it must be the leader.

Readers' Version

and the oil, every morning—a permanent daily burnt offering.

The leader and the country

16 The master Yahweh says this: If the leader gives a gift to any of his sons, it becomes his inheritance—that is, it'll become his sons' property because it's an inheritance. 17 But if he gives a gift from his inheritance to one of his servants, then it'll belong to that servant until the year of liberty, and then it'll return to the leader.[116] His inheritance must definitely be for his own sons. 18 The leader mustn't take the people's inheritance away from them, evicting them from their own property—he must provide for his sons from his own property so that my people won't be forced off their own inherited land."

The temple kitchens

19 Next the man brought me through the entrance at the gate to the sacred rooms for the priests which were north-facing, and what's more, there was a place toward the west. 20 He told me, "That's the place where the priests must boil the guilt offering and the sin offering and where they must bake the grain offering. They mustn't bring the offerings into the outer courtyard, because then the people would become sacred (and not be able to leave)."

21 Then he brought me to the outer courtyard and led me past the four corners of that courtyard, and I saw that in every corner of the courtyard there was another enclosed area, 22 and each was twenty-two metres long and sixteen metres wide. 23 Around the inside of each of those enclosed areas was a stone ledge, with cooking hearths all around under the ledge. 24 The man told me, "Those are the places where the temple workers will boil the people's sacrifices."

The healing river

47:1 Then the man took me back to the temple entrance, and there was water flowing out from under the front edge of the building toward the east, and the water was flowing down the south side of the temple, to the right of the altar.[117] 2 So he took me out through the northern gate and led me around the outside to the eastern gate, and look, the water was flowing from this gate on its south side. 3 As the man started walking toward the east holding his measuring line in his hand, he measured off five hundred metres and led me through the water, which was ankle-deep. 4 Then he measured another five hundred metres and led me through the water, which was now knee-deep, and then after another five hundred metres it was up to the waist. 5 Finally he measured off another five hundred metres, but the water had become deep enough to swim in and too deep to cross—it was now a river that couldn't be walked through. 6 The man asked me, "Son of humanity, have you taken note of all this?"

Then he led me out and had me return along the riverbank. 7 As I walked back, wow, now the riverbank had many trees on each side. 8 The man told me, "This water flows eastward and down into the Rift Valley. It'll flow into the Dead Sea and will make it into fresh water. 9 As a result, every kind of living creature that swarms will live where that water flows. There'll be lots of fish when that water flows into the Dead Sea as it causes the salty water to become fresh water—everything will live wherever that river goes. 10 Then the fishermen from Eyn-Gedi will stand there by the water, and there'll be a place to dry out the fishing nets near Eyn-Eglayim. There'll be many kinds of fish in the Dead Sea—plentiful just like the fish in the Mediterranean Sea. 11 However, the Dead Sea's swamps and marshes won't be made fresh—they'll be for providing salt. 12 Beside that river on both banks, all kinds of fruit trees will grow. Their leaves will never wilt, and they'll never fail to fruit—in fact they'll bear fruit every month because that water from the temple flows to them. Their fruit will be good to eat, and their leaves will help with heal-

116 RV 46:17 · Cross-ref. Lev 25:10.

117 RV 47:1 · Cross-ref. Zech 14:8; Yhn 7:38; Rev 22:1.

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ing.[118]

Land boundaries

13 The master Yahweh says that this will be the way that you divide the land up for Yisrael's (Israel's) twelve tribes: Yosef (Joseph) will have a double allocation.
14 You're to equally divide the land that I took action to give to your ancestors—from now on that land will come to you Israelis as an inheritance.
15 These will be the land boundaries: On the north side, it'll extend from the Mediterranean Sea east along the road towards Hetlon, and then on to Tsedad, 16 to Berotah, and then on to Sivrayim, which is on the border between Damesek (Damascus) and Hamat. The boundary will run as far as Hatsar-Hatikon, which is on the border of the Havran region. 17 So the boundary will extend from the Mediterranean Sea to Hatsar-Eynan on the border between Hamat to the north and Damesek to the south. That'll be the northern boundary.
18 On the eastern side, the boundary will extend between Havran and Damesek, south along the Yarden (Jordan) River between the Gilead region and Yisrael's territory, along the Dead Sea as far as Tamar.[119] That'll be the eastern boundary.
19 On the southern side, the boundary will extend from Tamar to the springs near Merivah-Kadesh. Then it'll extend west along the brook of Mitsrayim (Egypt) to the Mediterranean Sea. That'll be the southern boundary.
20 On the western side, the boundary will be the Mediterranean Sea, north to a point near Levo-Hamat.
21 This is how you'll divide this land for yourselves among Yisrael's tribes: 22 You must assign the land as a permanent possession for yourselves and also for any foreigners who are living and raising their children among you. You must consider them to be like native born Israelis, and they must be assigned land among Yisrael's tribes. 23 Wherever foreigners are living, you must give them some land to belong to them permanently. That's the master Yahweh's declaration."

Land allocated to Yisrael's tribes

48:1 Here's a list of Yisrael's (Israel's) tribes and the territory that each tribe is to receive. The northern boundary of Yisrael will start at the Mediterranean Sea and go east to Hetlon city, then to Levo-Hamat, and farther on to Hatsar-Eynan, which is south of Damesek (Damascus), and it'll continue to Hamat. Each tribe will receive land that will extend from the eastern boundary of Yisrael west to the Mediterranean Sea.

The tribe of Dan will receive land alongside Yisrael's northern border. 2 South of their area will be the territory for the tribe of Asher.
3 South of Asher's land will be territory for the tribe of Naftali (Naphtali). 4 South of Naftali's land will be territory for the tribe of Menasheh (Manasseh). 5 South of Menasheh's land will be territory for the tribe of Efrayim (Ephraim).
6 South of Efrayim's land will be territory for the tribe of Re'uven. 7 South of Re'uven's land will be territory for the tribe of Yehudah (Judah).

The chosen place

8 South of Yehudah's (Judah's) land will be an area that the entire nation will give to me—you Israelis will set it apart for special use. The temple will be in the middle of the area that's thirteen kilometres wide and as long as the other land allocations.
9 The special area that you Israelis will give to Yahweh will be thirteen kilometres long and five kilometres wide. 10 This special area will be allocated to the priests: you'll assign them an area of land measuring thirteen kilometres on the northern and southern sides, and five kilometres on the western and eastern sides. Yahweh's temple will be in the middle of that special area. 11 The temple area will be for the priests, Tsadok's descendants, who are dedicated to serving me. (They're the ones who served me faithfully and didn't turn away from me like the Levites and the others did.) 12 The

118 **RV 47:12 · Cross-ref.** Rev 22:2.

119 **RV 47:18 · Note** Tamar: the Hebrew has 'the Eastern Sea'.

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priests' allocation will be a portion of that very sacred land, extending to the Levites' border.
13 The land assigned to the Levites will be the same size as the land that the priests will receive. (So together, these two portions of land will be thirteen kilometres long and about ten kilometres wide.) 14 They mustn't sell or barter it—none of this best part of Yisrael's (Israel's) land must ever be used for any other purpose, because it's all sacred to Yahweh.

15 Another strip of land thirteen kilometres long and almost three kilometres wide will be allotted for other people living in the special area to use. They may build homes and have pasturelands there, and there'll be a city in the middle of that area. 16 The city will be square, over two kilometres long on each side, 17 with an open area around it, within the special area, that will be about 130m wide in each direction.
18 Outside the city, there'll be two strips that'll extend five kilometres on each of the east and west sides, and the produce from those strips will be food for the people working in the city.
19 Those who come from the various tribes to work in the city may also work in this farmland. 20 That entire special area, including the land given for Yahweh's use and the city, will be a square that's thirteen kilometres long on each side.

21 The tracts of land to the east and to the west of Yahweh's area and the city will belong to the leader. One area will extend thirteen kilometres east to Yisrael's eastern boundary, and the other will extend thirteen kilometres west to the Mediterranean Sea. Yahweh's area, which contains the temple, will be in the middle. 22 The area that belongs to the leader (that surrounds the Levites' property and the city in the middle of it) will be between the tribe of Yehudah (Judah) to the north and the tribe of Benyamin to the south.

23 South of Yahweh's area, each of the other tribes will receive one section of land that extends from the eastern boundary of Yisrael west all the way to the Mediterranean Sea.

Just south of Yahweh's area will be territory for the tribe of Benyamin. 24 South of Benyamin's land will be the land for the tribe of Shim'on (Simeon). 25 South of Shim'on's land will be the land for the tribe of Yisakar (Issachar). 26 South of Yisakar's land will be the land for the tribe of Zevulun. 27 South of Zevulun's land will be the land for the tribe of Gad.
28 Gad's southern boundary will extend from Tamar south to the waters of Merivah-Kadesh, and farther west to the brook of Mitsrayim (Egypt), and then on to the Mediterranean Sea.
29 That describes the territory you'll allocate to Yisrael's tribes to become their permanent inheritance. That's the master Yahweh's declaration.

The city gateways

30 These will be the exits from the city: On the northern side (which will be just over two kilometres long),
31 there'll be three gates named after the tribes of Re'uven, Yehudah (Judah), and Levi. 32 On the eastern side (the same length) there'll be three gates named after the tribes of Yosef (Joseph), Benyamin, and Dan. 33 On the southern side (the same length) there'll be three gates named after the tribes of Shim'on (Simeon), Yisakar (Issachar), and Zevulun.
34 On the western side (the same length) there'll be three gates named after the tribes of Gad, Asher, and Naftali (Naphtali).[120] 35 The distance around the city will be nine kilometres.

From that time onwards, the city's name will

120 RV 48:30-34 · Cross-ref. Rev 21:12-13.

Readers' Version

be ‘Yahweh is there’.

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