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Yeshayah

(Isaiah)

Introduction

The author of this document was Yeshayah, son of Amots (Amos). Called 'Yeshayah' in older English translations, 'Yeshayah' means 'Yahweh saves'. He was one of Yahweh's prophets and lived in Yerushalem (Jerusalem) in the southern kingdom known by the name of its largest tribe, Yehudah (Judah). This document was written between 740 B.C. and 680 B.C., and is divided into three main parts:
1. *Chapters 1–39*: This section tells how Yehudah was threatened by Ashur. Yeshayah saw that that was due to the people's disobedience and failure to put their trust in Yahweh. Yeshayah warns the people and their teachers that they need to live godly lives that valued doing the right things, and promoting true justice. He warns them that if they don't listen to Yahweh's messages, destruction would indeed come to them. Yeshayah also predicts the birth of a descendants of David who would be followed by the people at some future time, plus he mentions a future period when there's peace across the entire world.
2. *Chapters 40–55*: In this second section, Yeshayah predicts the coming capture of many people from Yehudah, and how they'll be taken to exile in Bavel. Yeshayah explains that even in those times, the people mustn't become weak and lose hope, because Yahweh has a plan to save his people and return them there to Yerushalem to start a new life there. The theme of these chapters is how Yahweh controls what happens to his people and has a future plan for them, and included in that is that all nations will receive blessing from God by means of Yisrael (Israel).
3. *Chapters 56–66*: Yeshayah also predicts the circumstances of those who God returns to Yerushalem. He passes on Yahweh's instructions concerning godly living, true justice, observing the rest day, sacrificing, and praying. It's in this section that we can read the source of Yeshua's (Jesus') speech about his being chosen in order to declare the good news (Yeshayah 61:1-2; Luke 4:18-19.)

Main components of this document

Warnings and promises *1:1–12:6*
The cursing of nations *13:1–23:18*
Yahweh's judgement of the world *24:1–27:13*
The other still warnings and promises *28:1–35:10*
Yehudah's king Hizkiyah (Hezekiah) and the Assyrians *36:1–39:8*
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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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1:1 This is the vision of Yeshayah (Isaiah) (son of Amots), which he saw concerning Yehudah (Judah) and Yerushalem (Jerusalem) in the days of Uziyah,[1] Yotam (Jotham),[2] Ahaz,[3] and Hizkiyah (Hezekiah),[4] kings of Yehudah.

Yahweh scolds Yehudah · Southern kingdom

2 Hear, heavens, and listen, earth, because Yahweh has spoken:
"I've raised sons and brought them up,
^but they've rebelled against me.
3 The bull knows his owner,
and the donkey knows its master's feeding trough,
but Yisrael (Israel) doesn't know—
my people don't understand."
4 This sinful nation won't come to a good end.
these people who excel at disobeying.
Descendants of those in the habit of doing evil things.
Children who act corruptly.
They have abandoned Yahweh.
They have despised Yisrael's holy one.
They have estranged themselves from him.
5 Why do you want more beatings?
Why do you keep rebelling?
Your whole head is sick,
and your motivation is weak.
6 From the sole of the foot up to the head nothing is healthy.
Bruises and sores and fresh wounds haven't been cleaned out,
and they haven't been bandaged or treated with olive oil.
7 Your country is totally ruined with your cities all burnt down.
Right in front of you, strangers are taking all the harvest from your field—
leaving devastation and destruction behind.
8 Tsiyon's (Zion's) daughter is left isolated
like a hut in a vineyard,
like a shed in a cucumber field,
like a besieged city.
9 If it wasn't for the fact that Commander-in-chief Yahweh left a few survivors behind,
we would have been wiped out like both Sedom and Amorah (Gomorrah).[5]
10 Hear what Yahweh has to say, you who are like Sedom's rulers.
Listen to God's instructions, you who are like Amorah's people:
11 "What do your many sacrifices mean to me?" asks Yahweh.
"I've had enough of the burnt offerings of rams,
and the fat of fattened animals,
and I'm not pleased by the blood of bulls or lambs or goats.[6]
12 Who told you all that you had to appear in front of me?
Who said that you all should come and trample through my courtyards?
13 Don't keep bringing me worthless offerings.
They smell terribly bad to me.
New moon holidays and sabbaths, calling of assemblies—
I can't stand your disobedience mixed with your festive celebrations.
14 My spirit hates your religious holidays and your feasts on the calendar.
They've become a burden to me that I'm tired of carrying.
15 So when you spread out your hands, I just hide my eyes from you all.
Even though you multiply prayers, I don't listen
because your hands are full of blood.
16 Wash yourselves and get cleaned up.
Remove the evil of your actions from in front of me.
Stop doing evil things.
17 Learn to do good.
Strive for justice.
Correct the oppressor.
Serve justice for the fatherless.
Stand up for the widow in court."
18 Yahweh says, "Come, now, and let's work things out together.
Even though your sins are like scarlet, they'll become as white like snow.
Even though they're red like crimson, they'll become like wool.
19 If you're willing and ready to obey,
you'll all eat the best food from the land,
20 but if you refuse and rebel,
war will be what eats you all.
That's what Yahweh is telling you."

Disobedient Yerushalem

21 How did the faithful city become a prostitute?
She who was full of justice—
with righteousness embedded in her,
but now ended up as murderers.
22 Your city's silver has turned into junk metal.

1 RV 1:1 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 15:1-7; 2Ch 26:1-23.
2 RV 1:1 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 15:32-38; 2Ch 27:1-9.
3 RV 1:1 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 16:1-20; 2Ch 28:1-27.
4 RV 1:1 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 18:1–20:21; 2Ch 29:1–32:33.
5 RV 1:9 · Cross-ref. Gen 19:24; Rom 9:29.
6 RV 1:11-14 · Cross-ref. Amos 5:21-22.

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You wine is now mixed with water.
23 Your leaders are rebels and companions of thieves.
Everyone loves bribes and kick-backs.
They don't defend the fatherless,
and don't even think about standing up for the widow.
24 Here's the declaration of the Yisrael's (Israel's) powerful master, Commander-in-chief Yahweh:
"Oh well, I'll get relief from my opponents,
and avenge myself on my enemies;
25 I'll turn my actions against you,
and refine your junk metal with chemicals
to remove all your impurity.
26 Then I'll restore your judges like they were before,
and your counsellors like they were at the start.
Afterwards you'll be a faithful city called 'The city of integrity'."
27 Tsiyon (Zion) will be set free by justice,
and those who repent, set free by doing what is right.
28 But those who rebel or disobey will be shattered,
and those who abandon Yahweh will come to their end,
29 because they'll be ashamed of the shrines that you liked at the sacred oak trees,
and you'll all be disgraced by the gardens that you chose to worship idols in.
30 You'll all be like an oak tree with withered leaves,
and like a garden that has no access to water.
31 The strong man will be like kindling and his work like a spark,
and both of them will burn together in a fire that no one can put out.

Yahweh's mountain is central[7]

2:1 This is the message the Amots's son Yeshayah (Isaiah) saw concerning Yehudah (Judah) and Yerushalem (Jerusalem):
2 Near the end of time, the mountain where Yahweh's house is
will be established as the most important mountain.
It will become more famous than any other hill,
and all the nations will flow to visit it.
3 Many different peoples will come and say,
"Come on, let's go up to Yahweh's mountain—
to the temple of Ya'akov's (Jacob's) God,
so he can teach us his ways and we can walk in his paths."
Because God's instructions will emanate from Tsiyon (Zion),
and Yahweh's message will spread out starting from Yerushalem (Jerusalem).
4 He'll judge between the nations,
and will settle cases for many different peoples.
They'll hammer their swords into plough blades,
and their spears into pruning hooks.[8]
The nations will stop attacking each other,
and they won't go to war again.
5 You descendants of Ya'akov (Jacob),
come and walk in Yahweh's light.

The day of Yahweh's judging

6 Yes, you've abandoned your people,
Ya'akov's (Jacob's) descendants,
because they're too influenced by eastern ideas
and they practice divination like the Pelishtim,
and they make deals with sons of foreigners.
7 Their land is full of silver and gold,
and there's no limit to its wealth.
The land also is full of horses,
and there's no limit to its chariots,
8 Their land is full of idols.
They worship the craftsmanship of their own hands—
what their fingers have made.
9 Then a person will be bowed down,
and a man will be humbled,
but not forgiven.
10 Go into a cave in the rocks,
or hide in a hole in the ground
from the terror from Yahweh
and from the blinding light of his majesty.[9]
11 Proud people will be humbled,
and the arrogant will be take a lesson,
and Yahweh alone will be honoured on that day.
12 because Commander-in-chief Yahweh has chosen a day
for judgement against those who are proud and aloof,
and against every arrogant person—they'll all be humbled.
13 It's also against all the high and mighty cedars in Levanon,
and all the oak trees in Bashan,
14 against all the massive mountains
and all the high hills,
15 against every high tower
and fortified wall,
16 against all the ships from Tarshish
and all those beautiful sailing ships.
17 Humankind's pride will be humbled
and the arrogance of people will be cut off,
and only Yahweh will be honoured at that time.
18 All the idols will be completely eliminated.
19 Yes, men will go into the caves in the rocks
and into holes in the ground,
to escape from the terror of Yahweh,
and from the blinding light of his majesty,
when he takes action to terrify the earth.
20 On that day, people will throw away

7 **RV 2:1 · Parallel** Mic. 4:1-3

8 **RV 2:4 · Cross-ref.** Yoel 3:10.

9 **RV 2:10 · Cross-ref.** Rev 6:15; 2Th 1:9.

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their gold and silver idols which they made to worship.
They'll throw them into rabbit holes and bat caves.
21 Then they'll crawl into the crevices in the rocks
and into the openings in the ragged cliffs,
to escape from the terror of Yahweh,
and from the blinding light of his majesty,
when he takes action to terrify the earth.
22 Don't put your faith in humankind who need air to breathe,
because what can they do about anything?

Judgement on Yerushalem and Yehudah

3:1 Yes, listen, the master, Commander-in-chief Yahweh will take supply and support
away from Yerushalem (Jerusalem) and from Yehudah (Judah)—
all the supply of bread and of water,
2 the top warriors and regular soldiers,
the judges and prophets,
the diviners and elders,
3 the unit captains and respected officials,
the counsellors and expert craftsman,
and any skillful enchanters.
4 "Then I'll put young people in place as their leaders,
and children will rule over them.
5 After that, the people will be oppressed—
one person fighting another,
and a man being taken advantage of by his neighbour.
The lad will insult the elderly,
and the dishonourable insult the honourable.
6 Indeed, a man will seize his brother in his own father's house:
'You have a coat so be our ruler,
and this ruin will be under your control.'
7 That will cause him to shout out,
'I have no intention of helping. I don't even have enough food and clothes for my own household.
and in my house there is no bread and there is no clothing.
Don't try to make me the ruler of the people.' "
8 Yes, Yerushalem (Jerusalem) has stumbled,
and Yehudah (Judah) has fallen,
because their words and actions are against Yahweh,
defying his royal authority.
9 You can tell their intentions by the look on their faces,
and they talk about their disobedience like the people in Sedom did.
They don't try to hide it.
Their lives won't end well because they've brought suffering on themselves.
10 Tell those who do what's right
that they'll be rewarded for their good deeds.
11 But the wicked won't end well.
They'll be repaid appropriately for their actions.
12 Even children will oppress my people,
and women rule over them.
Those who guide you lead my people astray
and confuse your progress to make you follow the wrong path.

Yahweh judges his people

13 Yahweh is getting ready to make his case
and is standing ready to judge the peoples.
14 He will come to pronounce judgement on the elders of his people and their leaders:
"Yes, all of you, you've taken all the fruit from the vineyard—
the plunder from the poor is in your houses.
15 Why do you crush my people
and rub the poor people's faces into the ground?"
That's the declaration of my master, Commander-in-chief Yahweh.

A warning for Yerushalem's women

16 Then Yahweh said:
"Because Tsiyon's (Zion's) daughters are proud,
and they walk with their chins stuck out and with flirting eyes—
walking and mincing their steps and tinkling their feet,
17 Then my master will shave the heads of Tsiyon's daughters,
and Yahweh will make their foreheads bald."
18 At that time my master will remove their fancy ankle bracelets and headbands, crescent necklaces
19 and earrings, bracelets and veils,
20 scarves, armlets, and sashes, perfume bottles and charms,
21 rings on their fingers and in their noses,
22 festive robes and capes, veils and purses,
23 fine clothes and underwear, and their turbans and shawls.
24 When that happens, there'll be a stink instead of fragrance,
a rope instead of a nice sash,
baldness instead of a styled hairdo,
sackcloth instead of fancy clothes,
brands on the skin instead of beauty,
25 Your men will die from the sword
and your warriors in the battle.
26 The city gates will mourn and wail,
and she'll end up just sitting their on the ground, alone.
4:1 When that happens, seven women will take hold of one man, saying,
'We'll eat our food and wear our clothes.
Just let us marry you so we can take your name
to remove our shame.'

Yahweh blesses Yerushalem again

2 At that time, Yahweh's branch will become beautiful and glorious,
and the produce of the land will be a source of pride and delight for what remains of the Israelis. 3 All who remain in

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Tsiyon (Zion), i.e., the remnant in Yerushalem (Jerusalem),
will then be his people who are destined to continue to live.
4 Surely my master will wash away the filth of Tsiyon's
daughters, and clean up the blood stains from the middle of
Yerushalem using the spirit of judgement and the spirit of
fire. 5 Then over all of Mt. Tsiyon and her assemblies there,
Yahweh will place a canopy over all the splendour—creating
cloud during the day, and smoke and the brightness of a
flaming fire during the night.[10] 6 During the day, it'll be a
shelter that gives shade from the heat, as well as being a
cover and place to get out of the storm and rain.

The song about Yahweh's vineyard

5:1 Let me sing, please, to my dearest one,
a song for my darling about his vineyard.
My dearest had a vineyard on very fertile hillside.[11]
2 He dug it over and cleared it
and planted it with choice vines.
He built a watchtower in the middle of it
and also hewed a wine-pressing pit in a rocky portion.
Then he waited for it to produce grapes,
but it produced sour, wild grapes.
3 So now, you who lives in Yerushalem (Jerusalem)
and man from Yehudah (Judah),
judge, please, between me and between my vineyard.
4 What more could have been done for my vineyard,
that I haven't already done for it?
I waited for it to produce grapes,
but why did it produce wild grapes?
5 So now, listen please,
because I'll tell you what I'm going to do to my vineyard:
I'll remove the hedge around it and burn it in a fire.
I'll tear its wall down so people can trample over it.
6 Then I'll allow it to become overgrown.
It won't be pruned or hoed, and thistles and thorns will
grow through it.
Then I'll command the clouds not to rain on it any more.
7 Yes, Commander-in-chief Yahweh's vineyard is Yisrael
(Israel),
and the people from Yehudah (Judah) are his nice plants.
Then he waited for justice, but look, slaughter came.
He waited for people to do what's right, but listen, scream-
ing came.

People's bad activities

8 Those who acquire houses won't end well,
or those who add to their fields until there's no room left.
→Then the poor are made to remain alone in the middle of
the country.
9 I heard Commander-in-chief Yahweh say:
'Surely many houses will end up empty—
even large and nice ones won't have anyone living in them.
10 A large vineyard will produce a measly amount of juice,
and ten baskets of seed will only give a harvest of one bas-
ket of grain.
11 Those who get up early in the morning to get a strong
drink won't end well,
yes, those who loiter into the night as wine inflames them.
12 They celebrate with harp and lyre,
tambourine and flute and wine,
but they don't care about anything that Yahweh does,
in fact, they don't even know what he's done for them.
13 Therefore, my people will be exiled because of their for
lack of understanding,
and its honourable people are hungry,
and the parched crowds are thirsty.
14 Therefore, the grave has enlarged its appetite
and opened its mouth without limit.
and its elite and its crowd will descend into it,
along with its noisy crowd and those celebrating.
15 Everyone will be brought into submission and humbled.
All the proud people will be humiliated,
16 and Commander-in-chief Yahweh will be honoured for
his justice.
God will demonstrate his holiness by doing what is right.
17 Then the lambs will feed in their pastures,
and fattened calves will graze around the houses.
18 Those who pull in wickedness with cords of lies won't
end well,
and nor will those who drag disobedience along behind
them with cart ropes.
19 They say, 'Let him hurry,
let him speed up his work so we can see what he's doing,
and let the counsel of the holy one of Yisrael (Israel) ap-
proach,
and let it come and let us know.'
20 Those who call evil good, and good evil, won't end well.
Nor will those who make darkness for light and light for
darkness,
or who set bitter as sweet and sweet as bitter!
21 Those who are wise in their own eyes won't end well,
nor those who think they're clever.
22 Those who are experts at drinking wine won't end well,
nor those whose strength is mixing strong drinks,
23 or those who take a bribe then say a wicked person is in-
nocent,
or those that deny justice to innocent people.
24 Therefore, the roots of their families will rot,
and their flowers will flower away like dust
just like how a tongue of fire devours stubble in a field
and the dry grass goes up in flame,
because they've rejected Commander-in-chief Yahweh's in-

10 RV 4:5 · Cross-ref. Exo 13:21; 24:16.

11 RV 5:1-2 · Cross-ref. Mat 21:33; Mrk 12:1; Luk 20:9.

structions,
and they've despised the message from the holy one of Yisrael (Israel).
25 That's why Yahweh got very angry at his people,
and he's taken action against them and has struck them.
The mountains tremble and their corpses become like garbage in the streets.
In all these things, his anger doesn't subside,
and he doesn't withdraw the actions he's started.
26 He'll signal to faraway nations
and will whistle to those at the ends of the earth.
Then wow, how quickly they'll show up.
27 Those enemy armies won't get tired or stumble.
They won't stop for a rest or to sleep.
They never take their weapons off,
or loosen the straps on their sandals.
28 Their arrows are sharp,
and all their bows are strung.
Their horses have hooves as hard as flint,
and their chariot wheels are like a windstorm.
29 Their roar sounds like a lion,
and they growl like young lions.
They seize their prey and carry it off,
→and there's no rescuer in sight.
30 They will roar above their prey on that day,
like the roaring of the ocean.
If someone looks across the land they'd only see darkness and distress.
The light has been darkened by the clouds.

The showing of God to Yeshayah

6:1 In the year that King Uziyah died,[12] I saw my master sitting on a tall, elevated throne, and his long robe covered the temple floor. 2 There were 'serafs' standing above him. They each had six wings—they used two to cover their faces, two to cover their feet, and two to fly with. 3 They were calling out to each other,
"Commander-in-chief Yahweh is holy, yes, fully holy.
The whole earth is filled with his splendour."[13]
4 Whenever one of them spoke, the sound of their voices make the doorways shake, and the temple was filled with smoke,[14] 5 and I said,
"This isn't going to end well for me. Yes, I'm doomed because I am a man with unclean lips,
and I live among a people with unclean lips,
and yet my eyes have seen the king: Commander-in-chief Yahweh."
6 Then one of the 'serafs' flew to me. He was holding a hot coal that he'd taken off the altar with a pair of tongs. 7 He touched my mouth with that coal and said,
"Look, this has touched your lips,
and your guilt has been taken away
and the price has been paid for your sin."
8 Then I heard my master ask, "Who will I send? Who will go on our behalf?"
"I'm here," I answered. "Send me."
9 Then he said,
"Go and tell that nation:
'Listen closely, but don't understand,
and see clearly, but don't perceive.'[15]
10 Fatten the heart of this people,
and dull its ears and dim its eyes.
Otherwise it might see with its eyes
and hear with its ears
and understand with its heart,
→and turn and be healed."
11 So I asked, "Until when, master?"
And he replied:
"Until cities are desolate—without inhabitants,
and the houses are without people,
→and the land is a ruined wasteland,
12 and Yahweh has driven the people far away,
→and the middle of the country is almost totally deserted.
13 If there's still a tenth of the people in it,
→then disaster will turn back and burn everything.
Like an elm or an oak tree that's been cut down but still has a stump—
→so too the sacred remnant is the nation's stump."

A message for Ahaz

7:1 During the reign of King Ahaz (son of Yotam (Jotham), son of Uziyah) in Yehudah (Judah), King Retsin from Aram (Syria) and King Pekah (son of Remalyah) from Yisrael (Israel), went up to Yerushalem (Jerusalem) attack it, but they weren't able to conquer it.[16]
2 It was reported to David's descendants that Aram stands by with Yisrael (Israel; Heb. Efrayim), and the king and the people trembled just like the trees in the forest shaking in the wind.
3 Then Yahweh told Yeshayah (Isaiah), "Please go out with your son She'ar-Yashuv to meet Ahaz at the end of the channel from the upper pool, near the road to the field where they wash clothes, 4 and tell him, 'Be careful and calm and don't be afraid. Don't let your courage melt away because of these two tails of smoldering firebrands, i.e., by the anger of Retsin and Aram and Remalyah's son. 5 Yes, they've plotted together against you, saying, 6 "Let's go up against Yehudah

12 **RV 6:1 · Cross-ref.** 2Ki 15:7; 2Ch 26:23.
13 **RV 6:3 · Cross-ref.** Rev 4:8.
14 **RV 6:4 · Cross-ref.** Rev 15:8.
15 **RV 6:9-10 · Cross-ref.** Mat 13:14-15; Mrk 4:12; Luk 8:10; Yhn 12:40; Acts 28:26-27.
16 **RV 7:1 · Cross-ref.** 2Ki 16:5; 2Ch 28:5-6.

together and terrify her. Let's break into her and crown
Teve'el's son as king right there in the middle of her." '
7 However, my master Yahweh says:
'That's not going to happen.
They won't succeed
8 because Aram's capital is Damesek (Damascus)
and Damesek' leader is Retsin.
Nevertheless, with sixty-five years Yisrael will no longer
exist as a nation.
9 Yisrael's capital is Shomron (Samaria).
and Shomron's leader is Remalyah's son.
If you don't keep believing,
then you'll end up not standing.' "

Imanu-El will precede the thorns

10 Later, Yahweh spoke again to
Ahaz, 11 "Ask your god Yahweh for a
sign of confirmation for yourself. Request an incredible mir-
acle."
12 "No, I won't ask," Ahaz replied. "I refuse to test Yahweh."
13 Then Yeshayah (Isaiah) said, "You descendants of David
need to listen. It's bad enough that you're wearing out the
people, but why are you also annoying my god? 14 Because of
that, my master will take the initiative himself to choose a
sign: listen, a young, virgin woman[17] will become pregnant
and give birth to a son, and will name him 'Imanu-El' (which
means 'God is with us'.).[18] 15 He'll know how to refuse evil
and do good by the time that he can eat yoghurt and honey.
16 However, before the child is old enough to do that, the
countries of the two kings that you're afraid of, will become
deserted.
17 But instead, Yahweh will bring the Assyrian king to at-
tack you and your people, and David's dynasty will be under
its greatest stress since Yisrael (Israel; Heb. Efrayim) broke
away from Yehudah (Judah)."
18 When that happens, Yahweh will whistle for a fly that's
in Mitsrayim's (Egypt's) distant streams, and for a bee that's
in Ashur (Assyria). 19 They'll all come and settle down in de-
serted valleys and cracks in the rocks, and in all the thorn-
bushes and watering holes.
20 At that time, my master will use a hired razor from be-
yond the Perat (Euphrates) to shave the head and legs of the
Assyrian king, and to remove his beard.
21 In those days, a farmer will preserve a single, young cow
alive, and a couple of sheep. 22 However, because they'll pro-
duce so much milk, they'll produce yoghurt, because every-
one left in the country will eat yoghurt and honey.
23 During that period, every block of land with a thousand
grapevines that would have been worth a thousand silver
coins, will just be full of thistles and thorns. 24 Because it'll
be so overgrown with briers, men will hunt there with their
bows and arrows. 25 All the hills that had been cultivated,
will now be off limits because of all the thistle and thorns,
and sheep and cattle will be left there to tread it down.

Yeshayah's son is born

8:1 Then Yahweh told me, "Get your-
self a large, stone tablet and inscribe
the name 'Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz' (which means 'Quickly
plunder and grab the loot') on it, 2 and I'll get my reliable
witnesses to attest for me: the priest Uriyah, and Yev-
erekyah's son Zekaryah (Zechariah).
3 Then I slept with my wife, the prophetess, and she got
pregnant and in due course, gave birth to a son. Yahweh told
me, "Name him Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz, 4 because before
he's old enough to call out 'papa' or 'mama', the riches from
Damesek (Damascus) and the plunder from Shomron
(Samaria) will all be taken to be presented to the Assyrian
king.

Invasion by the Assyrians

5 Then Yahweh continued to speak to
me again, saying, 6 "Yehudah (Judah)
has refused the gentle waters of Shiloah and instead requests
help from King Retsin and Remalyah's son King Pekah, 7 so
therefore my master will send the waters of a large, powerful
river onto them: the Assyrian king and all his majestic
power. It'll come like a flood filling all the channels then
overflowing all its banks. 8 It will sweep across Yehudah,
flooding yet moving on until it reaches your neck. Its edges
will cover your entire country, Imanu-El."
9 Raise the war cry, peoples, and be terrified,
and listen, all you distant places in the world.
Prepare yourselves for war and to be shattered.
Prepare yourselves for war and to be shattered.
10 Make whatever plans you want, but they'll come to
nothing.
Give a presentation but it won't stand, because God is with
us.

Yahweh warns Yeshayah

11 Yes, Yahweh spoke strongly to me,
and warned me not to behave like
other people, saying, 12 "Don't say 'conspiracy' everyone
time that other people do, and don't be afraid when they're
afraid, and don't live in dread.[19] 13 Only honour Comman-
der-in-chief Yahweh, and be concerned about him and fear
him. 14 He'll be like your safe retreat. He'll be both the stone
that strikes and the rock that makes both Yisrael (Israel) and
Yehudah (Judah) stumble,[20] and like a trap for the inhabi-
tants of Yerushalem (Jerusalem). 15 Many people will stum-
ble over that stone and that rock and fall and be broken, or
be snared and captured."

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17 **RV 7:14 · Note** See https://textandcanon.org/does-isaiah-predict-the-virgin-birth.

18 **RV 7:14 · Cross-ref.** Mat 1:23.

19 **RV 8:12-13 · Cross-ref.** 1Pe 3:14-15.

20 **RV 8:14-15 · Cross-ref.** 1Pe 2:8.

Readers' Version

Warning about consulting mediums

16 Tie up this report and seal up
these instructions for my apprentices.
17 I'll wait for Yahweh to act. He's distanced himself from
Ya'akov's (Jacob's) descendants, but I'll continue to expect
his help.[21]
18 Both I myself, and the children that Yahweh has given
me,[22] are like directions and warning signs for Yisrael (Is-
rael), that come from Commander-in-chief Yahweh who lives
on Mt. Tsiyon (Zion).
19 When they tell you all to consult mediums and for-
tunetellers who chirp and mutter, shouldn't the people con-
sult their god rather than the dead guiding the living?

The time of sadness

20 Shouldn't it be the written in-
structions that they talk about? If they're not following this
message, dawn will never arrive for them, 21 and they'll be
distressed and hungry as they pass it by. Then because
they're hungry and angry, they'll curse their king and their
god as they look upwards. 22 They'll look back to the ground,
and wow, only see trouble and darkness—gloom, distress,
and thick darkness thrusting out at them.
9:1 However, it won't not cover over those who are dis-
tressed. Previously he humiliated the Zevulun and Naftali
(Naphtali) regions, but later, he'll honour the way of the
sea—beyond the Yarden (Jordan) river—Galil of the na-
tions.[23]

The coming king

2 The people who walked in darkness
have seen a powerful light.
The light has shone on those who've lived in a land of dark-
ness.[24]
3 You have multiplied the nation itself.
You've increased its happiness.
They celebrate in front of you
like the happiness at harvest time.
Like their excitement when dividing the plunder,
4 because you've shattered the chains on its neck,
and the stick whacking its shoulders.
You've broken the rod of his oppressor
like when you defeated Midyan.
5 Yes, every warrior's boot treading loudly will be burnt,
along with every piece of clothing with blood on it,
6 because a child is born for us.
A son is given to us
and the government will be on his shoulder.
He'll be called 'Amazing adviser',
'Greatest God', 'Forever father', 'Prince of peace'.
7 His government will be without borders—
with peace that's never broken.
He'll rule on David's throne, and over his kingdom,
to establish it and sustain it with justice and with fairness
from now onwards.[25]
The zeal of Commander-in-chief Yahweh will do that.

Yahweh's anger at Yisrael

8 My master sent a message against
Ya'akov (Jacob),
and it dealt with Yisrael (Israel),
9 and all the people will know it—
Yisrael (Israel; Heb. Efrayim) and those who live in Shom-
ron (Samaria).
With a proud and arrogant heart they'll say,
10 "The bricks have fallen, but we'll rebuild with beautiful
chiselled stone.
The sycamores are felled, but we'll replace them with ex-
pensive cedar."
11 But Yahweh will send King Retsin against them as an ad-
versary,
and will stir up their enemies—
12 the Arameans on the east and the Pelishtim on the west,
and they'll be a big mouth that'll gobble Yisrael (Israel) up.
Even then, Yahweh's anger won't subside.
He'll still be taking action against them.
13 The people still won't return to the one who struck
them,
and they won't strive to know Commander-in-chief Yah-
weh
14 so he'll cut off Yisrael's head and tail—
high palm branches and low reeds, all on the same day.
15 Yisrael's leaders are that head,
and the lying prophets are that tail.
16 These people's guides have led them the wrong way,
so the ones being guided were destroyed.
17 Therefore, my master won't be happy about their young
men,
nor will he have compassion for their fatherless and their
widows,
because everyone one of them is godless and does evil
things,
and every mouth speaks out foolish things.
With all that going on, his anger never goes away,
and he continues to take action against them
18 because wickedness burns like fire.
It burns up the thistles and thorns,
and it spreads to the trees in the forest
as smoke swirls up into the air.
19 Commander-in-chief Yahweh's anger causes the entire
land to be scorched,

21 **RV 8:17 · Cross-ref.** Heb 2:13.

22 **RV 8:18 · Cross-ref.** Heb 2:13.

23 **RV 9:1 · Cross-ref.** Mat 4:15.

24 **RV 9:2 · Cross-ref.** Mat 4:16; Luk 1:79.

25 **RV 9:7 · Cross-ref.** Luk 1:32-33.

and then the people become the fuel for the fire
as each man doesn't even spare his own brother.
20 They devoured on the right but were still hungry.
They ate on the left, but it didn't fill them up,
so everyone ate the flesh on their own arms.
21 Menasheh (Manasseh) fought Efrayim (Ephraim), then Efrayim found Menasheh,
then they fought together against Yehudah (Judah).
Even through all that, his anger didn't subside,
and he continues to take action against them.
10:1 Those who make wicked laws won't end well,
nor will administrators who write troublesome edicts,
2 suppressing the rights of the needy,
and robbing the poor among my people of justice,
making widows become plunder,
and preying on the fatherless.
3 Then what will you all do for the judgement day,
and for the destruction coming from far away?
Who will you all flee to for help then,
and where will you leave your wealth?
4 All they can do is to crouch among the prisoners,
or fall among the killed.
In all these things, Yahweh's anger doesn't subside,
and he continues to take action against them.
5 Ashur (Assyria) won't end well.

Yahweh uses but judges Ashur

The rod of my anger and the staff of my rage is in their hands,[26]
6 I've sent their king against an arrogant nation
and against the people that I'm angry with.
I order him to plunder the plunder and to prey on the prey,
and to trample them—trodden down like the mud in the streets.
7 However, that's not what's in his mind,
and he doesn't even think about those things,
because he's bent on destruction
and the elimination of not just a few nations.
8 In fact, he says,
"Aren't all my commanders like kings?
9 We destroyed Kalno liked we did at Karkemish,
Hamat like Arpad, and Shomron (Samaria) like Damesek (Damascus).
10 I've already punished idolatrous kingdoms,
and their idols and images were more impressive that those in Yerushalem (Jerusalem) and Shomron,
11 so just like I did to Shomron and its idols,
I'll will also do to Yerushalem and its idols."
12 In due course, when my master has finished all his work against Mt. Tsiyon (Zion) and against Yerushalem, I'll deal with the result of the Assyrian king's proud plans and the arrogant attitude that he displays, **13** because he says,

"It was my own strength and initiatives that got me this far,
and by using my wisdom, because I was discerning.
Now I've removed the boundaries of the peoples,
and I've stolen their treasures,
and like a powerful animal, I've brought down the inhabitants.
14 My hand has seized the wealth of the nations
just like someone taking the eggs out of a nest.
I gathered it from all over the world
but no one fluttered a wing, or opened a mouth and chirped.
15 Will the axe say it's greater than the person who swings it?
Will the saw praise itself more than the one who uses it?
As if a rod could move those who are lifting it up,
or a staff could lift up what's not made from wood.
16 Therefore, my master, Commander-in-chief Yahweh
will make his muscular warriors waste away,
and instead of the Assyrian king getting glory,
he'll get his fingers burnt like with a burning flame.
17 Then Yisrael's (Israel's) light will become a fire,
and its holy one a flame,
→and it will burn and devour his thorns and his briers in one day.
18 His beautiful forest and his fruitful land
will be steadily destroyed,
like a sick person who wastes away.
19 There'll be so few trees left in his forest that even a child could count them.
20 At that time, the remnant of Yisrael (Israel), i.e., the survivors of

Only a remnant will return

Ya'akov's (Jacob's) descendants, will no longer rely on that king who makes them suffer, but instead will rely on Yahweh, Yisrael's holy one. **21** A remnant of Yisrael will return to their powerful god. **22** Although the Israelis are currently very numerous, only a remnant will return.[27] Destruction has been decreed because justice must prevail **23** Yes, complete destruction has been decreed by my master Yahweh and he's about to apply it throughout the country.
24 Because of that, my master, Commander-in-chief Yahweh says, "My

Yahweh will punish Ashur

people living in Tsiyon (Zion), don't be afraid of the Assyrians. They'll beat you with a rod and raise their staff against you like the Mitsrim (Egyptians) did **25** for a little while longer, and then I'll be upset with the Assyrians and my anger will lead to their destruction. **26** Commander-in-chief Yahweh will wave a whip against them, like when the Midyanites were struck at Orev rock, and wave his staff over the sea like they did leaving Mitsrayim (Egypt). **27** Then at

26 RV 10:5-34 · Cross-ref. Isa 14:24-27; Nah 1:1–3:19; Zeph 2:13-15.

27 RV 10:22-23 · Cross-ref. Rom 9:27.

Readers' Version

that time, he'll lift his load off your shoulders and his yoke from off your neck, and that yoke will be broken as you begin to thrive again.

Enemy invasion

28 The enemy has come to Ay, passed through Migron, storing their supplies north of Yerushalem (Jerusalem) at Mikmas. **29** They've crossed over the pass. They camped at Geva. Ramah is trembling, and Giveah of Sha'ul (Saul) has fled.

30 Cry out for help daughter of Galim,
pay attention Layshah,
you'll suffer Anatot.
31 Madmenah flees,
the residents of Gevim are taken to safety.
32 Yet today he will stand at Nov,
shaking his fist at the daughter of Tsiyon (Zion)—
the hill of Yerushalem (Jerusalem).
33 Listen, my master, Commander-in-chief Yahweh will cut off the branches with a crash,
and the tallest of the tall will be cut down,
and the high and mighty will be brought low.
34 He'll chop down the thicket in the forest with an axe,
→and Levanon will be felled by the mighty one.

The future, peaceful kingdom

11:1 Then a shoot will come out from the stump of Yishay (Jesse),
and a branch from his roots will grow to produce fruit.[28]
2 Yahweh's spirit will be with him—
a spirit of wisdom and understanding,
a spirit of good advice and strength,
a spirit of knowledge and striving to obey Yahweh.
3 He'll be happy to respect and honour Yahweh.
He won't judge just by what can be seen,
or make decisions just from what can be heard,
4 but he'll judge the ordinary people with justice
and decide fairly for the poor in the world.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips, he'll execute the wicked.[29]
5 His waistbelt will be doing what's right,
and the strap for his hips will be faithfulness.
6 At that time, the wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the young goat,
and the cow and the young lion and the calf,
→all there together, and a little child will lead them.[30]
7 The cow and the bear will graze together.
Their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.
8 A child will play over the cobra's hole,
and the toddler will stretch his hand over the viper's nest.
9 There'll be no more pain or destruction on all my sacred mountain,
because the world will be full of knowledge about Yahweh,
just as the waters cover the sea.[31]

The return of a remnant

10 Then on that day, Yishay's (Jesse's) root will stand as a signal to the peoples. Nations will search for him,[32] and his residence will be wonderful. **11** At that time, my master will again exercise his power to recover a remnant of his people who remain in Ashur (Assyria), Mitsrayim (Egypt), Patros, Kush (Ethiopia), Eylam, Shin'ar, Hamat, and from various islands.
12 He'll raise a banner for the nations,
and gather the Israelis who were banished—
assembling the Yehudim (Jews) who were scattered right around the world.
13 Yisrael's (Israel's; Heb. Efrayim) jealousy will go, and Yehudah's (Judah's) enemies will be eliminated.
Yisrael will no longer be jealous of Yehudah, and Yehudah will no longer treat Yisrael as enemies.
14 They will swoop down the slopes to attack the Pelishtim on the west.
Together they'll plunder the peoples in the east.
They'll take over Edom and Moav (Moab),
and the Amonim will become their subjects.
15 Then Yahweh will completely destroy the gulf from the Mitsri (Egyptian) sea,
and wave his hand with his scorching wind over the Perat (Euphrates) river
→and divide it into seven streams that can be crossed in sandals.[33]
16 There'll be a highway for the remnant of his people coming from Ashur (Assyria),
just like when Yisrael (Israel) came out of Mitsrayim (Egypt).

Song of praise

12:1 Then on that day you'll say,
"I'll praise you, Yahweh, because although you were angry at me,
your anger subsided and you've comforted me.
2 Yes, God is the one who saves me.
I will trust him and not be afraid
because my strength and the one I sing about is Yah—Yahweh,
and he's rescued me from my enemies.[34]

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28 RV 11:1 · Cross-ref. Rev 5:5; 22:16.
29 RV 11:4 · Cross-ref. 2Th 2:8.
30 RV 11:6-9 · Cross-ref. Isa 65:25.
31 RV 11:9 · Cross-ref. Hab 2:14.
32 RV 11:10 · Cross-ref. Rom 15:12.
33 RV 11:15 · Cross-ref. Rev 16:12.
34 RV 12:2 · Cross-ref. Exo 15:2; Psa 118:14.

Readers' Version

3 Then you'll cheerfully get water
from the springs of salvation.
4 "Give thanks to Yahweh," you'll say at that time.
"Ask him for help.
Tell all the people groups what he's done.
Tell everyone how wonderful he is.
5 Sing to Yahweh because he's done amazing things.
Make sure everyone in the world knows about them.
6 Yell and shout happily, you inhabitants of Tsiyon (Zion),
because Yisrael's (Israel's) holy one is powerful among you."

Yahweh's punishment of Bavel

13:1 This is the heavy message about Bavel (Babylon), which Amots' son Yeshayah (Isaiah) saw:[35]
2 Raise a banner on the bare mountain.
Call out to them and wave your hand,
and enter the gates of the princes.
3 I have commanded my sanctified ones
as well as angrily summoning warriors—
my boasting, arrogant ones.
4 There's a loud noise from the mountains,
like that from many people.
It's the sound of uproar from the kingdoms—
nations that are gathering.
Commander-in-chief Yahweh is mustering an army for battle.
5 They're coming from a far country,
from the end of the heavens.
They're the instruments of Yahweh's judgement,
coming to destroy the entire country.
6 Start wailing because Yahweh's day is close,
and destruction from the powerful one will come.[36]
7 That's why all hands hang limp,
and the heart of every person melts.
8 They'll have pangs of dismay,
and agony will seize them like a woman who writhes in labour.
They'll stare at their neighbours in astonishment
with their faces flushed red.
9 Yes, Yahweh's day is coming—
a cruel day with of fierce anger and rage,
to make the earth a desolate place
as sinners are destroyed from it.
10 The stars in the sky and their constellations
won't shine their light.
The sun coming out will be dark,
and the moon won't be shining its light.[37]
11 I will punish the world for its evil
and the wicked for their disobedience.
I'll put an end to the pride of the arrogant,
and bring down the arrogance of the ruthless.
12 I'll make humans more rare than pure gold,
and people more scarce than the gold from Ofir.
13 So I'll make the sky wobble,
and the earth will be shaken out of its place
by the fury of Commander-in-chief Yahweh
on the day of his raging ≈anger.
14 Then like a gazelle being hunted
or sheep without a shepherd,
everyone will turn to their own people group
and they'll all flee back to their own countries.
15 Everyone who's discovered (in Bavel (Babylon)) will be run through with a spear,
and everyone who's caught will be killed by the sword.
16 Their children will be smashed to pieces right in front of them.
Their homes will be looted and their wives raped.
17 Listen, I'm stirring the Madim (Medes) up against them,
who don't value silver or care about gold.
18 Their arrows will strike down the young men.
They'll have no mercy on your infants,
and won't show any pity on your children.
19 Yes, that admirable kingdom of Bavel (Babylon),
the pride of the Kasdim (Chaldeans),
will be destroyed by God like Sedom and Amorah (Gomorrah) were.[38]
20 It'll never be inhabited again,
or lived in from one generation to the next.
The Arabs won't even set up their tents there,
and the shepherds won't rest their flocks there.
21 But desert animals will live there,
and jackals will live in the houses.
Ostrich chicks will grow there
and wild goats will romp around there.
22 Hyenas will howl in its towers,
and jackals in the nice palaces.
Her time is coming to an end,
and her lifetime won't be extended.

Return from exile

14:1 Yahweh will have compassion on Ya'akov (Jacob),
and will choose Yisrael (Israel) again,
and settle them on their own land.
Foreigners will join with them,
and attach themselves to the Israeli people.
2 The nations will take them back to their own place,
and in Yahweh's land, the Israelis will take them as male

35 **RV 13:1–14:23 · Cross-ref.** Isa 47:1-15; Jer 50:1–51:64.
36 **RV 13:6 · Cross-ref.** Yoel 1:15.
37 **RV 13:10 · Cross-ref.** Eze 32:7; Mat 24:29; Mrk 13:24-25; Luk 21:25; Rev 6:12-13; 8:12.
38 **RV 13:19 · Cross-ref.** Gen 19:24.

Readers' Version

and female servants.
They'll take their captors captive,
and they'll rule over their oppressors.
3 Then at the time when Yahweh gives you a break from
your anguish and suffering,
and from the hard labour you did as slaves,
4 then you'll taunt Bavel's (Babylon's) king with this song,
"How the oppressor has stopped,
and how his fury has ceased.
5 Yahweh has broken the wicked peoples' staff,
the golden rod of the rulers.
6 In your rage, you struck the people groups with
never-ending blows,
ruling the nations in anger—persecuting them without re-
straint.
7 Now the whole world is in restful peace.
People have broken out with a shout of celebration.
8 Even the cypress trees are happy about your demise,
as the cedars in Levanon.
Now that you're powerless,
→no one comes up to cut us down.
9 Down below, the grave is excited
waiting for your arrival.
It wakes up the dead for you—all the kings of the earth,
raising them from their thrones—all the kings of the na-
tions.
10 They'll all speak and tell you
that you have been made weak like them,
in fact become completely like them.
11 Your reputation has been brought down to the grave,
along with the sound of your harps.
Maggots are spread to be your mattress,
and worms are your blanket.
12 How you've fallen from heaven, you shining son of the
dawn.[39]
You've been cut down to the ground, you who defeated na-
tions.
13 You had said to yourself,
'I will climb up to the heavens above God's stars.
I will elevate my throne and I will rule on the mountain
where they assemble on Tsafon's heights.
14 I'll go up above the tops of the clouds,
I'll make myself like the most high one.'
15 Nevertheless you've been taken down to the grave—
to the remotest parts of the pit.
16 Those who see you there will stare at you.
They'll ponder your fate—
if you're the man who make the earth tremble?
The one who made kingdoms shake?
17 The one who turned the world into a wilderness,
and tore down its cities?
The one wouldn't release his prisoners of war to go home?
18 All the kings of the nations have laid down in honour—
each one in his own tomb,
19 but you have been thrown out of your grave,
like an unwanted branch that's thrown away.
Those killed with the sword surround you like how clothes
wrap around a person.
They went down to the stones in the pit like a trampled
corpse.
20 You won't be buried with them because you've ruined
your land.
You've killed your people—
the offspring of the wicked will never be mentioned again.
21 Prepare for the slaughter of his children because of their
fathers' disobedience,
in case they rise up and possess the earth,
and fill the world with their cities.

Yahweh will destroy Bavel

22 Commander-in-chief Yahweh declares, "I will take action against them and erase Bavel's (Babylon's) name and their remnant and their future offspring. 23 I'll make it into a place where owls live, and pools of water, and I'll sweep her with the broom of destruction." That's the declaration from Commander-in-chief Yahweh.

Destroyed by God the ones from-Asirya

24 Commander-in-chief Yahweh has promised,
"Everything that I intended will certainly happen,
and what I've planned will come to pass.
25 To break Ashur (Assyria)[40] in my land,
and trample them down on my hills.
Its yoke will be lifted from their necks
and its burden lifted from their shoulder.
26 That's the plan for the whole world,
and Yahweh's hand is ready to strike all the nations.
27 Commander-in-chief Yahweh has made his plans and
who could prevent him?
His arm is stretched out and who could turn it back?

Yahweh will destroy the Pelishtim

28 In the year that King Ahaz died,[41] this message came:
29 All you Pelishtim, don't celebrate that the rod that
struck you is now broken,
because out of the root of that snake, a viper will grow,
and its result will be a darting adder.[42]
30 Then the poor will graze in my pastures,

39 **RV 14:12 · Cross-ref.** Rev 8:10; 9:1.

40 **RV 14:25 · Cross-ref.** Isa 10:5-34; Nah 1:1–3:19; Zeph 2:13-15.

41 **RV 14:28 · Cross-ref.** 2Ki 16:20; 2Ch 28:27.

42 **RV 14:29-31 · Cross-ref.** Jer 47:1-7; Eze 25:15-17; Yoel 3:4-8; Amos 1:6-8; Zeph 2:4-7; Zech 9:5-7.

Readers' Version

and the needy will lie down in safety.
I will kill your root with famine,
and it will kill your survivors.
31 Wail, you gate. Cry out, you city.
Peleshet, all of you will melt away,
because smoke comes from the north,
and no soldier is alone in his ranks.
32 What will Peleshet answer to the messengers from that nation?
Remember that Yahweh has founded Tsiyon (Zion),
and it's in her that the afflicted among his people will find safety.

Yahweh will destroy Moav

15:1 Here is a message for Moav (Moab):[43]
So, in a night Ar in Moav will be laid waste, destroyed.
So, in a night Kir in Moav will be laid waste, destroyed.
2 They've gone up to the temple, and Divon up to the hills to weep.
Moav wails about Nevo and Meydeva.
All their heads are bald.
All their beards are cut off.
3 In their streets they wear sackcloth.
On their (flat) roofs and in the square, everyone wails,
→coming down in tears.
4 Heshbon and El'aleh cry out—their voice is heard as far as Yahats.
So too, the soldiers from Moav call out as their spirit trembles inside them.
5 My heart cries out for Moav, those who flee to Tsoar and to Eglat-Shelishiyah,
because they weep as they climb the Luhit ascent,
yes, on the road to Horonayim, they cry loudly from their suffering.
6 The Nimrim spring has dried up so the grass has withered.
The vegetation has disappeared so there's no more greenery.
7 Because of that, they take the wealth they've made and their savings,
→and they carry it away across the stream with the willows.
8 Yes, the cry has surrounded the Moav (Moab) region,
and her wailing has carried as far as Eglayim and Be'er-Elim,
9 because the Dimon stream is full of blood,
→However, I'll bring more on Dimon.
I'll send a lion for Moav's survivors,
and for the remnant of the land.

Moav's hopeless situation

16:1 Send a ram to Yehudah's (Judah's) ruler
from Sela in the wilderness to the mountain of the daughter of Tsiyon (Zion).
2 Then just like birds flutter away from a nest that's disturbed,
so too the Moav (Moab) women will head to the fords at the Arnon river.
3 Bring some advice. Make a decision.
Make some shade that's dark in the middle of the day.
Hide the fugitives.
Don't expose the refugees.
4 Let Moav's refugees live among you.
Be a shelter for them from the destroyer,
because the oppressor will give up.
Destruction will cease.
The oppressors will disappear from the land.
5 A king will be established based on loyal commitment.
A descendant of David who will rule with faithfulness—
one who judges fairly and strives for justice,
and who quickly does what is right.
6 We've heard about Moav's (Moab's) excessive pride,
and their haughtiness and arrogance,
but their boasting is empty.
7 So Moav mourns for itself—all of them.
They long for the raisin-cakes from Kir-Hareset.
They're completely overcome
8 because Heshbon's fields have dried up
as have Sivmah's grapevines.
The rulers of nations have trampled down its best grapevines.
They reached Yazer—wandering through the wilderness.
Its shoots spread out—passing over the ocean.
9 So I'll weep along with those weeping in Yazer for Sivmah's grapevines.
I'll water you with my tears, Heshbon and El'aleh,
because they're shouting about your summer fruits and your harvest.
10 People will no longer be happy in their orchards,
and celebrations will disappear from the vineyards.
There won't be any singing or shouting in the wine-pressing pits,
and the shouting of those treading the grapes will cease.
11 My stomach tightens like a harp string when I think about Moav.
My insides groan about Kir-Hareset.
12 The people of Moav wear themselves out praying at their hilltop shrines.
They go to their temple to pray, but it doesn't help them.
13 That's what Yahweh already said about Moav (Moab),
14 and now he says that within three years like a hired labourer, Moav's honour will disappear, because out of their large population, only a small and insignificant group will remain.

43 **RV 15:1–16:14 · Cross-ref.** Isa 25:10-12; Jer 48:1-47; Eze 25:8-11; Amos 2:1-3; Zeph 2:8-11.

Readers' Version

Bad news for Damesek

17:1 A message for Damesek (Damascus):[44]
Listen, Damesek will cease to be a city
and will become a heap of rubble.
2 Aroer's cities will be abandoned to sheep and goats.
They'll lie down there and there'll be no one around to frighten them.
3 Forts will disappear from Yisrael (Israel; Heb. Efrayim)
and Damesek will lose its kingdom.
The remnant from Aram (Syria) will be a prize for the Israelis.
That's what Commander-in-chief Yahweh says.
4 At that time, Ya'akov (Jacob) (meaning Yisrael's (Israel's) people) will become insignificant.
The fat on his body will waste away.
5 Initially the harvester cut off all the stalks of grain and gathered them together,
→then an individual came along picking up any dropped stalks,
→in the Refaim valley.
6 There'll be a few stalks left over,
like beating an olive tree to ge the two or three olives at the top,
or four or five on the upper branches.
That's what Yisrael's (Israel's) god Yahweh says.
7 At that time humankind will look at their maker,
and turn their eyes to the holy one of Yisrael.
8 They'll stop trusting the altars that they themselves made,
They'll stop noticing the Asherah poles and incense altars crafted with their own fingers.
9 At that time, their fortified cities will be abandoned like a deserted part of the forest,
and their summits will be abandoned and desolate as Yisrael advances,
10 because you've forgotten the god who saved you,
and you didn't remember the rock that you used for protection.
So you sow pleasant plantations
and plant vine cuttings from a stranger.
11 You nurture what you've planted,
and in the morning, your seed will have sprouted,
but the harvest will become a heap in a time of sickness,
and the pain will be incurable.

The defeat of enemies nations

12 The confusion of many peoples won't end well.
they roar like the roaring oceans
and the nations rumble like the rumble of a large waterfall.
13 Yes, the nations rumble like many rivers,
but he'll scold them and they'll flee away.
and be chased like how the wind chases chaff over the hills
and like whirling dust blown ahead of a storm.
14 Then in the evening, oh my, terror!
but it's gone by morning.
That's what happens to those who plunder us,
and the outcome for those who rob us.

Yahweh's message to Kush/Cush

18:1 You won't end well, you land of whirring wings
that's on the far side of Kush's (Ethiopia's) rivers.[45]
2 You who send ambassadors across the ocean
skimming over the water in papyrus vessels.
You swift messengers, go to the nation where the people are tall and smooth-skinned—
a people who are feared—a very powerful nation
from a land that's divided by rivers.
3 All you inhabitants of the world
and those who live on the earth,
look when a signal is raised on the hills,
and listen when you hear a trumpet sounding.
4 This is what Yahweh told me:
I'll remain quite and pay attention from my place,
like when heat shimmers with light,
like a cloud of mist in the heat at harvest time.
5 Before the harvest starts, when the blossoming has finished,
and the flowers are forming into grapes,
then he'll cut off the unwanted shoots with the pruning knife
and cut away the long tendrils.
6 They'll be left there for the birds of prey from the hills,
and the wild animals across the land.
The birds of prey will spend the summer on them,
and then the animals across the land will spend the winter on them.
7 At that time, a gift will be brought for Commander-in-chief Yahweh,
from those tall, smooth-skinned people who are feared by every nation.
That very powerful nation whose land is divided by rivers.
They'll take it to Mt. Tsiyon (Zion) where Commander-in-chief Yahweh's name is known.

Yahweh's punishment for Mitsrayim

19:1 A message for Mitsrayim (Egypt):[46]
Look, Yahweh's riding on a swift cloud and he's coming to Mitsrayim.
Mitsrayim's idols will tremble in front of him,
and its people will lose their courage.
2 Then I'll stir Mitsrayim up against Mitsrayim,

44 RV 17:1-3 · Cross-ref. Jer 49:23-27; Amos 1:3-5; Zech 9:1.

45 RV 18:1-7 · Cross-ref. Zeph 2:12.

46 RV 19:1-25 · Cross-ref. Jer 46:2-26; Eze 29:1–32:32.

→so brothers will fight their brothers and neighbours against neighbours,
city against city and kingdom against kingdom.
3 Mitsrayim's spirit will be weakened from within
→and I will confuse its advice,
so they'll consult idols and the spirits of the dead,
as well as mediums and diviners.
4 Then I'll hand Mitsrayim over to a cruel master—
a strong king will rule over them.
That's what the master, Commander-in-chief Yahweh says.
5 The waters from the sea will dry up,
and any river will drop in level and empty out.
6 Then the low rivers will stink,
and Mitsrayim's canals will dry up.
The reeds and rushes will wither.
7 There'll be exposed areas at the river mouth,
and all the cultivated land along the river
will turn to dust and cease to exist.
8 The fishermen will wail and mourn—
everyone who throws a hook into the Nile will grieve,
along with all those who spread a fishing net over the surface of the waters.
9 Flax workers will be ashamed,
as will those who weave white cloth.
10 Mitsrayim's (Egypt's) foundations will be crushed,
and their hired workers will be discouraged.
11 Tsoan city's officials are foolish.
Par'oh's (Pharaoh's) wise counsellors are stupid.
How could you all tell Par'oh that you're the son of wise people—
a son of ancient kings?
12 So where are your wise advisors now?
Please let them explain to you
so they'll know what Commander-in-chief Yahweh has planned for Mitsrayim (Egypt).
13 Tsoan's officials have become fools.
Nof's (Memphis') leaders have been deceived.
Their tribal leaders have led Mitsrayim astray.
14 Yahweh has mixed a confused spirit into them,
so they've misled Mitsrayim is everything it does,
making them stagger like a drunkard in his own vomit.
15 No one in Mitsrayim can do anything—
whether head or tail, palm branch or reed.

Mitsrayim will fear Yahweh

16 When that happens, the Mitsrim (Egyptians) will tremble like women, dreading Commander-in-chief Yahweh's raised fist held against them. 17 Yehudah (Judah) (the land of Yehudah) will become an object of terror to Mitsrayim (Egypt). Whenever they're reminded of Yehudah they'll become afraid, because of what Commander-in-chief Yahweh is planning against them.

18 At that time, there'll be five cities in Mitsrayim where they'll speak out in Hebrew, and make oaths by Commander-in-chief Yahweh. (One of those cities will be called 'the city of destruction'.)
19 At that time, there'll be an altar to Yahweh in the middle of Mitsrayim, and a stone pillar to him on their shared border. 20 It'll be for a sign in Mitsrayim and a witness to Commander-in-chief Yahweh, because when they're oppressed and cry out to Yahweh for help, he'll send a saviour and defender for them who will rescue them. 21 Then Yahweh will become known to Mitsrayim, and the Mitsrim will know Yahweh that day, and they'll worship him with sacrifices and offerings, and they'll make a commitment to Yahweh and then they'll honour it. 22 Then Yahweh will strike Mitsrayim—striking then healing, and they'll turn to Yahweh and he will take notice of their requests and will heal them.
23 At that time, there'll be a highway from Mitsrayim to Ashur (Assyria), so Assyrians will go to Mitsrayim and Mitsrim will go to Ashur, and they'll worship together. 24 Yisrael (Israel) will be the third in the group with Mitsrayim and Ashur—a blessing in the middle of the region 25 when Commander-in-chief Yahweh will bless them saying, "Blessed be my people Mitsrayim, and Ashur, the work of my hands, and Yisrael, my inheritance."

The undressed prophecy about Mitsrayim and Kush

20:1 In the year before the Assyrian King Sargon sent his top army commander to Ashdod, and he attacked and captured it, 2 Yahweh told Yeshayah (Isaiah) (Amots' son), "Take off the sackcloth and the sandals that you've been wearing." So he started walking around naked[47] and barefoot. 3 Later Yahweh said, "Just as my servant Yeshayah has been walking around naked and barefoot for three years, it's a sign and a prophecy about Mitsrayim (Egypt) and Kush (Ethiopia). 4 It's a sign that the Assyrian king will lead away captives from Mitsrayim and Kush—young men and old, barefoot and naked with their buttocks exposed—to Mitsrayim's shame. 5 They'll be discouraged and ashamed because of their unfounded confidence in Kush and their boasting about Mitsrayim. 6 Those who live along those coastlines will say, "Listen, we fled there for help because that was our hope to be saved from the Assyrian king—how can we escape now?"

Bavel's coming destruction

21:1 A message for the wilderness beside the ocean:
It comes like whirlwinds sweeping through the desert,
coming from a nation that induces terror.
2 I've been given a distressing vision.
The deceitful deceive and the destroyer destroys.
Go up Eylam. Lay siege, Maday (Media).
I'll make all her groaning come to an end.
3 That's why my stomach tightens.

47 **RV 20:2 · Note** This doesn't necessarily mean that he wore absolutely nothing.

Readers' Version

Pangs of anguish seize me like a woman giving birth.
I'm stunned by what I hear.
I'm terrified by what I see.
4 My heart falters—I'm overwhelmed and I shudder.
The twilight that I longed for has turned into trembling.
5 They're setting the table and spreading out the rugs.
They're eating and drinking.
Take action you officials. Oil up your shields.
6 My master has told me to station a watchman who'll tell what he sees. **7** When he sees a rider or a pair of horses, or someone riding a camel or a donkey, he must pay attention—very careful attention.
8 Then the watchman[48] calls out,
"My master, I've stood day after day on this watchtower,
and spent the nights stationed at my post, **9** so listen, a rider is coming with a pair of horses, and he brings the news that Bavel (Babylon) has fallen, yes fallen,[49] and all its carved idols lie broken on the ground."
10 Oh my down-trodden people who've been trampled all over.
I've passed on to you all what I heard from Yisrael's (Israel's) god, Commander-in-chief Yahweh.

A message about Edom/Se'ir

11 A message for Dumah:
Someone's calling me from Edom,
"Watchman, how long will it be before the night is over?"
12 "The morning's coming but also the next night. If you all want to ask, ask now, then come back again later."

A message about Arav

13 A message for Arav:
You'll all overnight in Arav's forest,
you Dedani caravans.
14 Bring water out to meet the thirsty.
You who live in Teyma bring some food for the fugitives
15 because they've fled from the approaching army with their swords held out in front of them,
and from the taut bows and from the stress of battle.
16 Yahweh told me that in exactly one year from now,
like the end of the labourer's contract,
all the greatness of Kedar in Arav will come to an end.
17 Only a few of Kedar's archers will remain from their warriors,
because Yisrael's (Israel's) god Yahweh has spoken.

A message about Yerushalem

22:1 A message for the Valley of Vision (Yerushalem (Jerusalem)):
What's happening to you all that you've all gone up to your flat rooftops?
2 The city is full of noise and commotion.
The town is so boisterous.
Those dead bodies weren't killed in fighting.
They didn't die in battle.
3 All your leaders fled together but they were captured without an arrow being shot.
All the others were captured together, even though they had fled far away.
4 Therefore I said: Don't look at me!
I'm weeping bitterly so don't rush to comfort me
concerning the destruction of my people,
5 because it's a day of panic and trampling and confusion
from the master, Commander-in-chief Yahweh—
breaking down a wall in the Valley of Vision and crying out to the mountain.
6 Eylam picked up the quiver with chariots and horseriders,
and Kir uncovered their shields.
7 Our most productive valleys became full of chariots,
and the horseriders took position at the city gates.
8 He uncovered Yehudah's (Judah's) defences,
and that day you looked for the weapons in the Forest House.
9 You all saw that there were many breaches on the David's City,
and you fetched water from the lower pool.
10 You all counted Yerushalem's (Jerusalem's) houses,
and pulled some down to fortify the city wall.
11 You all made a reservoir between the two walls for the water from the old pool,
but you didn't put your trust in the one who made it
and didn't consider its designer from long ago.
12 Then my master, Commander-in-chief Yahweh called for weeping and wailing,
and for heads to be shaved and for sackcloth to be worn.
13 But look! There's celebration and gladness.
They're killing cattle and slaughtering sheep,
and eating meat and drinking wine,
saying, 'Let's eat and drink today because we'll die tomorrow.'[50]
14 So now, Commander-in-chief Yahweh has revealed to me: 'You all won't be forgiven for that wickedness until you die.'

A message about Shevna

15 My master, Commander-in-chief Yahweh says:
Go to the administrator who's in charge of Shevna.
16 Ask what right you have to come here to carve yourself a tomb—
chiselling a tomb to rest in, out of the tall cliff?
17 Listen man, Yahweh is about to take firm hold of you,
and he's about to hurl you away.
18 He'll swing you round and round like a ball,
tossed out into a wide open land where you'll die.
Your impressive chariots will be there,

48 RV 21:8 · Note We follow the Dead Sea Scrolls here—the Hebrew has 'a lion'.
49 RV 21:9 · Cross-ref. Rev 14:8; 18:2.
50 RV 22:13 · Cross-ref. 1Cor 15:32.

but what a terrible disgrace for your master's household.
19 I will push you out of your official role,
and he'll pull you down from your position.
20 Then at that time, I'll summon my servant Elyakim
(Hilkiyah's son) 21 and I'll put your robe and sash on him,
and give him the authority that you had. He'll be like a father to those who live in Yerushalem (Jerusalem) and right across Yehudah (Judah). 22 Then I'll place the key to David's house on his shoulder and he'll open the door that no one will be able to shut. Then he'll shut it, and no one will be able to open it.[51] 23 I'll fasten him in, like a peg into something solid, and he'll become a wonderful throne for his father's house.
24 Then they'll hang all the great things from his father's house onto him—the offspring and descendants from the small containers and cups through to the largest jugs.
25 Commander-in-chief Yahweh declares that at that time,
the peg driven into the firm place will give way, and break off and fall, and the burden that was relying on it will fail.
Yahweh has spoken.

A message for Tsor and Tsidon

23:1 A message for Tsor (Tyre):[52]
Cry loudly, you ships from Tarshish
because your home port has been destroyed. It's been reported to them from Kitim. 2 Be silent you who live along the coast, you traders from Tsidon (Sidon) who cross the ocean to be filled. 3 The grain from Shihor across the waters and the harvest from the Nile became hers, and it became the commerce of the nations.
4 Be ashamed Tsidon because the ocean has spoken.
The fortress by the sea said,
'I haven't been in labour or given birth,
and I haven't raised young men or young women.'
5 When the report reaches Mitsrayim (Egypt),
they'll be very upset about what happened to Tsor (Tyre).
6 Sail over to Tarshish.
Cry loudly, you who live along the coast.
7 Is this your happy city that's been around since ancient times—
whose feet carried her to settle in a far away place?
8 Who planned that for Tsor, the bestower of crowns,
whose traders are princes,
whose merchants were honoured around the world?
9 Commander-in-chief Yahweh planned it to dishonour the pride from all that splendour—
to treat the honoured people of the world with contempt.
10 Go across your land like the river does.
You daughter of Tarshish, there's no restraint any more.
11 He's stretched his hand over the ocean.
He's made the kingdoms tremble.
Yahweh has commanded Kena'an (Canaan) to destroy its fortresses.
12 He said, 'You won't continue celebrating, you oppressed young daughter of Tsidon (Sidon).
Take action and go across to Kupros (Cyprus) but you won't get any peace there.'
13 Look at the Kasdim' (Chaldeans') country—those people have come to nothing.
The Assyrians allocated it to animals that live in the wilderness.
They erected siege-towers against it—
demolishing its palaces and turning it into a pile of rubble.
14 Cry loudly, you ships from Tarshish.
because your fortress has been destroyed.
15 After that time, Tsor (Tyre) will be forgotten for seventy years like the lifespan of a single king. At the end of those seventy years, what will happen to Tsor will be like the prostitute in this song:
16 Take a harp and go around the city, you forgotten prostitute.
^Play many songs so that you'll be remembered.
17 Then at the end of those seventy years, Yahweh will visit Tsor. It'll return to hiring itself out and to her prostitution with all the world's kingdoms on this planet. 18 But their earnings and profits will be set apart for Yahweh. It won't be stored up or hoarded, because it will belong to those who live in Yahweh's presence for buying plenty of food and beautiful clothes.

The cursing of God of world

24:1 Listen, Yahweh is about to devastate the world
and about to leave it in ruins.
He'll twist its surface and scatter its inhabitants.
2 Then the priest won't be any better off than the people,
the master than his slave,
the mistress than her maids,
the seller than the buyer,
the borrower than the lender,
or the creditor than the debtor.
3 The world will be totally devastated and completely plundered.
It'll be plundered because Yahweh has spoken this message.
4 The land has dried up and everything has withered.
The world has declined and withered.
Its prominent people declined as well.
5 The world has been defiled by its inhabitants
because they've broken the laws,
disregarded the decree,
broken the eternal agreement.[53]

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51 **RV 22:22 · Cross-ref.** Rev 3:7.

52 **RV 23:1-18 · Cross-ref.** Eze 26:1–28:19; Yoel 3:4-8; Amos 1:9-10; Zech 9:1-4; Mat 11:21-22; Luk 10:13-14.

53 **RV 24:5 · Note** Perhaps referring to the instructions given to Noah and family in Genesis 9:1.

Readers' Version

6 That's why a curse has consumed the world,
and its inhabitants are found guilty.
Therefore earth's inhabitants will decrease
and only a few will be left.
7 The new wine has dried up—the grapevine has deteriorated.
All the people who were cheery are now groaning.
8 The happy sound of the tambourines ceases.
The loud celebrations stop.
The harp's cheery music has gone silent.
9 They don't sing and drink wine any more.
Strong drink now tastes bitter when they drink it.
10 The town is completely disorganised.
All the homes have been boarded up to keep people out.
11 There's an outcry in the streets about the wine.
Cheeriness has degraded into twilight.
Happiness has departed from the world.
12 Desolation has remained in the city.
The gates will be crushed into ruins.
13 It'll be like that all over the world—among the nations
like when an olive tree is beaten to shake the fruit off
or like the few left-over grapes when the grape harvest is finished.
14 They'll start singing with gusto and with happiness.
From the west they'll shout cheerfully about Yahweh's greatness.
15 Therefore in the east, praise Yahweh.
On the islands, praise the name of Yisrael's (Israel's) god, Yahweh.
16 We've heard songs from the end of the earth, 'Praise to the one who's always fair and right.'
Then I said, 'I'm wasting away—losing weight—I won't end well.
The treacherous have been treacherous,
yes, the treacherous have been treacherously treacherous.'
17 Terror and pit-traps and snare-traps await you,
you inhabitants of the earth.
18 The one who runs away from the sound of terror, will fall into the pit,
and those who get up out of the pits, will be caught in the snare,
because the windows in the high place have been opened,
and the earth's foundations have been shaken.
19 The earth will be totally shattered.
The earth will be split completely through.
The earth will be violently shaken.
20 The earth staggers around like a drunkard,
and sways like a hut in a gale.
Its sin will weigh it down
→and it'll fall—never to rise again.
21 At that time, Yahweh will punish the heavenly army
and the earthly kings on the earth.
22 They'll be rounded up and imprisoned in a pit.
They'll be shut up in that prison and after a long time, they'll be punished.
23 Then the moon will go shy, and the sun will hide in shame,
because Commander-in-chief Yahweh will reign on Mt. Tsiyon (Zion) there in Yerushalem (Jerusalem)
and with splendour in front of his elders.

A song for praising Yahweh

25:1 Yes, Yahweh, you're my god.
I will honour you and thank your name/reputation
because you've done incredible things,
planned long back in perfect faithfulness.
2 Yes, you can make a city into a heap of rubble,
or a fortified town into ruins.
You've destroyed some strangers' fortresses—never to be rebuilt again.
3 So yes, strong people will honour you—
The towns in ruthless nations will fear you,
4 because you've been a safe place to be shelter for those who are distressed—
a shelter from the rain and a shade from the hot sun,
because the breath of ruthless people is like rain beating against a wall,
5 and like heat in a dry land.
You subdued the uproar from foreigners,
like the shade of a cloud reduces the heat.
He'll quieten down the song of ruthless people.

Yahweh hosts a banquet

6 Then Commander-in-chief Yahweh will hold a banquet of good things for all that people on that mountain.
There'll be vintage wine and choice meat.
7 Then on that mountain, he'll swallow up the bedsheet that's covering all the peoples,
and the web that's woven over all the nations.
8 My master will permanently swallow death up.[54]
Yahweh will wipe the tears away from every face.[55]
He's removed his people's disgrace from all the earth, because Yahweh has spoken.
9 Then at the time it will be said, 'Look, that's our god.
We put our hope in him, and he saved us.
Yes, that's Yahweh—we maintained our trust in him.
We'll be happy and celebrate how he's saved us.'

The cursing of God of Moav

10 Yahweh's hand rests on this mountain to secure it.
Moav (Moab) will be trampled down like a heap of straw in

54 **RV 25:8 · Cross-ref.** 1Cor 15:54.

55 **RV 25:8 · Cross-ref.** Rev 7:17; 21:4.

Readers' Version

a dung pile.[56]
11 Yahweh will spread out his hands in the middle of it,
like a swimmer spreading his arms to swim,
and he'll cancel their pride with the skill of his hands.
12 He'll knock down your high fortress walls,
and Moav's cities will be broken right down low.

Yehudah's victory song

26:1 A song will be sung in Yehudah (Judah) at that time:
Yerushalem (Jerusalem) city is strong.
He gave us walls and ramparts to keep us safe.
2 Open the gates so a righteous nation can enter—
one that remains faithful.
3 The one with their mind made up firmly will have true peace,
because he puts his trust in you.
4 Put your trust in Yahweh forever,
because Yah (Yahweh) is a stable rock.
5 That's because he humbles those who live in high places.
He'll bring low the town that's been elevated.
He'll will lay it low to the ground—levelling it down to dust.
6 It will be trampled down by feet—
the feet of the oppressed,
the footsteps of the poor.
7 The righteous person's path is level.
You, the one who does what's right, will flatten their paths.
8 We've we've followed your instructions, Yahweh, we've kept our trust in you—
we desire to honour your name and reputation
9 From deep inside me, I have longed for you in the night—
my spirit within me earnestly waits for you,
because when people have your instructions,
the world's inhabitants learns to discern what's right.
10 If the wicked person is shown favour,
they won't learn to do what's right.
Even in a land where doing right is valued,
they act unjustly and won't get to see Yahweh's majesty.
11 Yahweh, when you take action, they don't perceive it.
Let them see and be ashamed by the people's zeal,
Also, the fire will consume your enemies.[57]
12 Yahweh, you'll establish peace for us,
because you indeed have taken action on our behalf.
13 Yahweh our god, we've been ruled over by other masters,
but you only, are the one that we honour.
14 Those dead ones won't live—those departed spirits won't rise again,
indeed you've visited and destroyed them,
and erased all memory of them.
15 You've enlarged the nation, Yahweh,
yes, enlarged it and gained honour—
you've extended all the land's boundaries.
16 Yahweh, when they were distressed,
the people went to find you with their quiet request, when you'd disciplined them.
17 Like a pregnant woman who's close to giving birth cries out from her labour pains,
that's what we were like in front of you, Yahweh.
18 It's like we were pregnant and in labour, giving birth to wind.
We haven't rescued anyone on the earth,
and the world's inhabitants haven't fallen.
19 Your dead will live—their corpses will rise.
Wake up and sing happily, you all who've lived in the dust,
because your dew is the dew that gives light
and the earth will release her dead.

Judgement is coming then restoration

20 Go my people—enter into your rooms and shut the door behind you.
Hide a little while until the indignation has passed by.
21 Listen, Yahweh is about to come out of his place, to punish all the world's inhabitants,
and the earth will reveal all its bloodshed and will no longer cover over those who were killed.
27:1 At that time, Yahweh will use his extremely powerful sword,
to punish the slithering sea monster Livyatan—Livyatan the twisting snake-like creature,[58]
and he'll kill the monster that's in the ocean.
2 When that happens, sing about a delightful vineyard.
3 I, Yahweh, will look after it.
I'll keep it watered in case someone attacks it.
I'll guard it night and day.
4 I don't have any anger—who will give me thorn bushes?
I will march against it—I'll completely burn it up.
5 If anyone takes advantage of my protection,
then they'll make peace to me—
let them make peace with me.
6 The (time) is coming when Ya'akov (Jacob) will take root.
Yisrael (Israel) will blossom and bud,
and they'll fill the world with fruit.
7 Has he attacked us like he attacked those who attacked us,
or did he kill us like he killed those who killed us?
8 By sending her away, you have contended with her.
He released his fierce breath on an east-wind day.
9 So Ya'akov's (Jacob's) disobedience will be made right again by that,
and this is all the fruit of the removal of his sin:

56 **RV 25:10-12 · Cross-ref.** Isa 15:1–16:14; Jer 48:1-47; Eze 25:8-11; Amos 2:1-3; Zeph 2:8-11.

57 **RV 26:11 · Cross-ref.** Heb 10:27.

58 **RV 27:1 · Cross-ref.** Yob 41:1; Psa 74:14; 104:26.

Readers' Version

when he'll make all the altar stones like pulverised pieces of chalk.
No Asherah poles or incense altars will remain standing,
10 because the fortified city is desolate.
That habitation is deserted and abandoned like a wilderness.
A calf grazes there, then it will lie down.
It will bring its branches to an end—
11 when its branches dry up, they'll be broken off.
Women will come and light fires with them because they're not a people with understanding.
Therefore the one who made and formed it, won't show any favour towards it.
12 Then at that time, Yahweh will thresh people
from the Perat (Euphrates) river in the northeast to Mitsrayim's (Egypt's) river down in the southwest,
and you Israelis will be gathered in one by one.
13 Then on that same day, a loud trumpet will be blown,
and those who are perishing in Ashur (Assyria) will come
along with those who were banished to Mitsrayim,
and they will bow down to Yahweh on Yerushalem's (Jerusalem's) sacred mountain.

A warning for Shomron (Samaria)

28:1 You won't end well Shomron (Samaria), you proud crown of Yisrael's (Israel's; Heb. Efrayim) drunkards
or its beauty and splendour that's fading like a flower past its prime.
There at the head of a lush valley that's struck down by wine.
2 Look, the master is sending a very powerful one,
like a hailstorm, a destructive windstorm, or a huge flood.
He'll drive it down to the ground with his hand.
3 The proud crown of Yisrael's drunkards will be trampled underfoot.
4 The fading flower of its beauty and splendour at the head of a lush valley
will be like a very early fig before summer.
The ones who see it will grab it and swallow it.
5 At that time, Commander-in-chief Yahweh will become a beautiful crown,
and a splendid diadem for the remnant of his people,
6 and a spirit of justice for those who need judgements,
and strength for those who turn the battle back at the gates.

Yehudah's drunken prophets

7 Even those reeled from wine
and stagger from strong drink.
Priest and prophet reeled from the strong drink,
and they were confused by from the wine.
They staggered from the strong drink—
reeling in vision, they stagger in indecision.
8 Indeed, all their tables are covered with vomit—
there's no place without filth.
9 Who will he teach knowledge to,
and who will he get to understand the message?
Those who've been weaned from milk—
who've already been taken off the breasts.
10 Because it's 'command to command to command, line to line to line, a little there, a little there'.[59]
11 Indeed, with stammering lips and foreign language,
he will speak to this people group[60]
12 telling them, 'This is the resting place where the weary ones can rest',
and, 'This is the place for refreshing'.
but they weren't willing to listen.
13 So Yahweh's message to them,
'command to command to command, line to line to line, a little there, a little there',
so they can go, but they'll stumble backwards and will be broken,
plus they'll become trapped and will be captured.

A vital foundation for Tsiyon/Zion

14 Therefore, listen to Yahweh's message,
you people who are always mocking,
you rulers of the people there in Yerushalem (Jerusalem),
15 because you've all said, "We've come to an agreement with death,
and we have an understanding with the grave.
When the overwhelming scourge goes past,
it won't bother us because we've made lies our shelter,
and we hide in deception."
16 Therefore, my master Yahweh says:
Look, I've put a foundation stone in place in Tsiyon (Zion)—one that's been tested.
It's a valuable cornerstone—a reliable foundation.
Anyone who trusts in it won't have to rush away.[61]
17 Then I'll make justice into a measuring stick,
and righteous into a levelling tool.
Hail will sweep away the shelter of lies,
and floods will drown the hiding place.[62]
18 Then your agreement with death will be dissolved,
and your understanding with the grave will collapse.[63]
When the overwhelming scourge comes past,

59 **RV 28:10 · Note** The Hebrew for this verse (and v13) includes 'tsav latsav, tsav latsav, kav lakav, kav lakav,' etc., suggesting that it might possibly have been intended as drunken gibberish.

60 **RV 28:11-12 · Cross-ref.** 1Cor 14:21.

61 **RV 28:16 · Cross-ref.** Rom 9:33; 10:11; 1Pe 2:6.

62 **RV 28:17b · Cross-ref.** 28:15b.

63 **RV 28:18 · Cross-ref.** 28:15.

Readers' Version

→you'll all be overwhelmed by it.
19 When it comes past, it'll take you all
because it'll come past morning by morning, and day and night.
Understanding the message will bring only terror,
20 because the bed is too short for stretching yourself out on,
and the woven blanket is too narrow to wrap around you.
21 Yahweh will take action like he did at Mt. Peratsim.[64]
He'll stir himself up like he did in Giveon valley[65]
to do his work—his special work.
To perform his task—his special task. 22 So now, don't show yourselves to be mockers
in case your chains become heavier,
because I've heard from my master, Commander-in-chief Yahweh
about complete destruction and the rest that's been determined against the entire land.

The wisdom of God

23 Listen carefully to what I say.
Pay attention to my words.
24 Does a farmer spend all day ploughing and not sow anything?
Does he just continue to break up and harrow his land?
25 Doesn't he level its surface and scatter fennel and sow cumin,
and put the wheat in rows and the barley in plots, and spelt around the border?
26 Yes, his god instructs him,
he teaches him to make good decisions.
27 Fennel isn't threshed with a threshing board,
nor is a cart wheel rolled over cumin,
but rather, fennel is beaten with a stick,
and cumin with a rod.
28 Grain for bread must be ground because anyone threshing it doesn't keep at it forever.
He can run his cart wheel over it and his horses don't crush it.
29 That too comes from Commander-in-chief Yahweh
who gives good advice—he has great wisdom.

The siege of Yerushalem

29:1 You won't end well Ariel—the town where David camped.
Year follows year—let the holidays come around,
2 but I'll bring distress to Ariel
and there'll be mourning and wailing
and it'll become like an altar hearth[66] to me.
3 Then I'll get troops to camp all around you and besiege you—
building towers and ramps against your fortified walls.
4 You'll be brought down and will speak from the ground,
and your words will come from the dust.
Your voice will sound like a spirit speaking out of the ground,
and your speech will whisper from the dust.
5 But the multitude of foreigners will be like fine dust,
and that mass of ruthless people will be like chaff that gets blown away.
and it will happen so suddenly.
6 Commander-in-chief Yahweh will send thunder, an earthquake, and a loud noise,
a strong gale, a windstorm and a fire burning things up.
7 It'll be like a dream—a vision in the night.
Many of the world's nations will go to war against Ariel.
All those will attack its fortifications and put her under distress.
8 It'll be like a hungry person dreaming and eating in the dream, then waking up with an empty stomach.
Or like a thirsty person dreaming and drinking in the dream, then waking up with a dry throat and feeling faint.
That's what it'll be like for all those nations which go to war against Mt. Tsiyon (Zion).

Compromised prophets

9 Astonish yourselves and be astonished.
Blind yourselves and be blind.
Get drunk, but not with wine.
Stagger, but not from strong drink,
10 because Yahweh has poured a spirit of deep sleep out onto you all,
and has shut your prophets' eyes,[67]
and has covered your visionaries' heads.
11 Then to you all, the entire vision will be like the words sealed in a scroll—
if it's handed to a person who's educated to read out, they'll say, 'I can't, because it is sealed up.'
12 ^Or if the scroll is given to an uneducated person to read out, they'll say, 'I can't read.'
13 My master says,
"Yes, those people come close to me with what their mouths say,
and honour me with lipservice,
but their heart is far from me,
and their respect for me is just something that they've been taught to do.[68]

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64 RV 28:21 · Cross-ref. 2Sa 5:20; 1Ch 14:11.

65 RV 28:21 · Cross-ref. Josh 10:10-12.

66 RV 29:2 · Note Here we use one of the possible translations of ''Arī'ēl' (rather than transliterating it as a name), but none of those three possible options seem to make a lot of sense.

67 RV 29:10 · Cross-ref. Rom 11:8.

68 RV 29:13 · Cross-ref. Mat 15:8-9; Mrk 7:6-7.

Readers' Version

14 Because of that, I'll confound those people again with wonder after wonder.
The wisdom of the wise will vanish,
and the intelligence of the intelligent will be hidden."[69][70]
15 Those who keep their plans down deep to hide them from Yahweh, won't end well,
and they did what they wanted in dark places, saying, "Who can see us? Who could know what we're doing?"
16 Your thinking is crazy!
It's as if the potter's clay, the thing that was made by him, would be considered to say, 'He didn't make me.'
Or if the pot said to the potter, 'He doesn't understand.'[71]
17 Hasn't it been just a little while,
and Levanon will turn into an orchard,
and the orchard will be considered as a forest?[72]
18 At that time, deaf people will be able to hear the words from a scroll,
and from their gloom and darkness, the eyes of blind people will be able to see.
19 The people of low status will be happy again because of Yahweh,
and the poor people among us will celebrate because of Yisrael's (Israel's) holy one,
20 because ruthless people and mockers will come to an end,
and all those who plan wicked schemes will be eliminated—
21 those who give false evidence against a person,
and lay a trap at the city gate for the person who arbitrates,
and who deprive the innocent person of justice.
22 That's why Yahweh (who redeemed Avraham) says this to Ya'akov's (Jacob's) descendants:
"My people will no longer be ashamed—
no longer will their faces be pale with fear,
23 because when they see their children who are the result of my work among them,
they will regard my name and reputation as sacred
and they will regard me as sacred and will show respect to me.
24 Then those whose spirits go astray, will know understanding,
and those who murmur will learn insight.

Hope for the future

30:1 Yahweh declares that you rebellious children won't end well.
You're making plans that don't come from me,
and pouring out drink offerings but not by my spirit,
thus adding disobedience to disobedience.

Yehudah's worthless treaty with Mitsrayim

2 Those who go down to Mitsrayim (Egypt) didn't ask my advice,
before trying to reach safety with Par'oh (Pharaoh),
and trying to find security in Mitsrayim's shadow.
3 But Par'oh's safety will bring you all shame,
and Mitsrayim's security will bring you all humiliation,
4 because its officials have been in Tsoan,
and its messengers have reached Hanes.
5 Everyone will be ashamed because of a nation that won't benefit them—
not help, nor advantage, but shame and even disgrace.
6 This is a message about the Negev desert's animals:
In the area of trouble and danger
from the lioness and the lion,
and the viper and the flying serpent,
they carry their wealth on donkeys' shoulders
and their treasures on camels' humps,
to a nation that can't help them.
7 Mitsrayim's (Egypt's) 'help' is futile and meaningless,
so I've called her 'Rahav who just sits there'.
8 Now go to them and write it on a tablet—
inscribe it on a scroll
so that it'll be there for a future day—
something that'll endure forever
9 because this is a rebellious nation.
They're lying children—unwilling to listen to Yahweh's instructions,
10 who tell those who see visions, "Don't see."
And tell the prophets, "Don't show us 'what's right'—
Just flatter us and give us deceptive messages."
11 Turn off the road.
Go on a different path.
Keep Yisrael's (Israel's) holy one away from us.
12 Therefore Yisrael's holy one says,
"Because you've all rejected this message
and have trusted in oppression and perversion and depended on it,
13 then that disobedience will become your downfall,
→like a bulge in a high wall that will at some unexpected time, suddenly come smashing down.
14 It'll be like the smashing of a clay jar—completely shattered.
Among the fragments, a person wouldn't be able to find a piece big enough to pick up a hot coal from the fire,
or to dip some water out of a cistern to drink."
15 So this is what Yisrael's (Israel's) holy one says,
"You'll all be saved by returning and quietly waiting.

The disobedient people

69 **RV 29:14 · Note** Septuagint: I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will hide the intelligence of the intelligent. Cited in 1 Corinthians 1:19.

70 **RV 29:14 · Cross-ref.** 1Cor 1:19.

71 **RV 29:16 · Cross-ref.** Isa 45:9; Rom 9:20.

72 **RV 29:17 · Cross-ref.** 32:15.

Readers' Version

Your strength will come from quietness and confidence,
→but you all weren't willing.
16 You all said, 'Nah, we'll flee away on horses,'
and indeed you all will flee,
and you said, 'We'll ride on swift horses,'
but those who chase after you all will prove to be swifter.
17 A thousand will flee from the threat of just one.
You'll all flee from the threat of five of the enemy
until you're left like a lone flagstaff on the top of a mountain
or like a banner poked into a hill."

Yahweh will bless his people

18 And yet Yahweh is waiting to show favour to you all,
so he takes action to show you mercy
because Yahweh is a god of justice.
Those who wait for him to rescue them will be blessed,
19 because people will live in Tsiyon (Zion)—in Yerushalem (Jerusalem).
You certainly won't weep anymore because at the sound of your crying out, he'll show favour to you.
As soon as he hears, he'll answer you.
20 My master will give you distress for your food
and oppression for your water,
and your teacher will no longer hide himself,
so you'll see him will your own eyes.
21 Your ears will hear a command coming from behind you saying,
'That's the right way to go,'
so you'll be guided whether you go to the right or to the left.
22 Then you all will desecrate your silver-plated idols
and your gold-sheathed images.
You'll throw them away like a menstrual rag
and you'll say, 'You piece of filth!'
23 Then he'll give you rain for the seed that you've planted in the ground,
→and the soil will produce plenty of food,
and your livestock will graze in wide pastures at that time.
24 The bulls and the male donkeys that till the ground
→will eat human-quality grain that's been properly winnowed.
25 On every high mountain and every substantial hill,
there'll be streams flowing with water,
at the time of much slaughter when fortified towers are defeated.
26 The light from the moon will be like the light from the sun,
and the sun's light will be seven times brighter
at the time when Yahweh bandages up his people's fracture
and when he heals their severe wound.

Yahweh's judgement for Ashur

27 Look, Yahweh is coming from far away.
He's very angry and his weight ascends.
His lips are full of indignation
and his tongue is like a consuming fire.
28 His breath is like a rushing river that comes up to the neck,
to sift the nations in a sieve that separates out worthlessness,
and with a bridle in the people's jaws to lead them astray.
29 You'll all have your own song like you would at a religious festival,
and be happy inside like when someone walks to Yahweh's mountain with their flute—
going to Yisrael's (Israel's) rock that gives protection.
30 Then Yahweh will make his majestic voice heard
and lowering his arm, he'll reveal his raging anger and the consuming flame,
as well as a windstorm, a rainstorm, and a hailstorm,
31 because Yahweh's voice will shatter Ashur (Assyria)—
he'll strike them with a rod.
32 With every stroke from the punishing rod that he puts across them,
there'll be tambourines and harps as he fights them in battle—brandishing his arm,
33 because a cremation place was arranged long ago.
Indeed, it's been prepared for the Assyrian king.
Its funeral pyre is deep and wide with the firewood piled high.
Yahweh's breath will ignite it like a stream of burning sulphur.

Yahweh's protection of Yerushalem

31:1 Those who go down to Mitsrayim (Egypt) for help won't end well.
They depend on horses and rely on chariots that are many,
and on cavalry that are very numerous,
but they don't look towards Yisrael's (Israel's) holy one,
and they don't request help from Yahweh.
2 Yahweh is also wise and he brought calamity.
He hasn't changed his mind since his messages
and he'll take action against the place of evil-doers
and against those who do wicked things.
3 Mitsrayim (Egypt) is human and not a god.
Their horses are physical and not spiritual
and Yahweh will stretch out his hand and the ones trying to help will stumble,
and the ones being helped will be defeated,
→and all of them will die together.
4 Because this is what Yahweh has told me,
"As a lion growls and the young lion growls over its prey,
even if a large group of shepherds shout at it,
→it's not put off by their voices
and it doesn't cringe because of the commotion they make,
→so too Commander-in-chief Yahweh will descend to go to war on Mt. Tsiyon (Zion) and its hill.
5 Just like birds do, Commander-in-chief Yahweh will protect Yerushalem (Jerusalem).

Readers' Version

He'll defend and rescue it—passing over it and saving it."
6 You Israeli people, return to the one that you've seriously rebelled against, 7 because at that time, everyone will reject their gold and silver idols that you've all made with your disobedient hands.
8 Then Ashur (Assyria) will fall from a sword (but not a human one),
and a sword (not a human one) will destroy it.
It will flee away from that sword,
and its young men will become forced labour.
9 Their security will pass away from terror,
and their officers will be dismayed from seeing the banner flying.
That's the declaration from Yahweh who has fire in Tsiyon (Zion)
and a furnace in Yerushalem (Jerusalem).

Predicting an honest government

32:1 Listen, a king will reign with fairness,
and officials will rule with justice.
2 Each of them will be like a hiding place from the wind
and a shelter in a rainstorm.
They'll be like streams in the desert,
and like the shade from a large rock in an arid land.
3 Then won't the eyes of those who see, look,
and the ears of those who hear, pay attention?
4 Then the heart of the hasty will understand knowledge,
and the tongue of stutterers will speak fluently and clearly.
5 The fool won't be called 'noble' any more,
and scoundrels will no longer be respected,
6 because the fool speaks foolishness
and his heart plans disobedience for doing ungodly things
and by speaking error about Yahweh.
He keeps those empty who have a hungry appetite,
and he deprives those who are thirsty.
7 As for the scoundrel, evil is his weapon.
He plans to ruin those already suffering with false stories,
and speaks against justice for the needy.
8 In contrast, the honourable person plans to do honourable things,
and they will stand on those noble actions.

Yerushalem's women in despair

9 Take action, you carefree women.
Listen to my voice you confident daughters.
Pay attention to what I have to say.
10 In just over a year you confident women will be agitated
because the grape harvest will fail and the fruit gathering won't happen.
11 Tremble you carefree women.
Be agitated you confident women.
Strip yourselves bare then put sackcloth around your waists.
12 Beat your breasts with grief over the pleasant fields
and over the fruitful grapevines.
13 My people's land has thorns and thistles growing up over it—
even in all the happy homes in the cheery town,
14 because the palace will be abandoned.
The busy city will be deserted.
The hill and the watchtower will forever be like caves—
a delight for the wild donkeys and a pasture for the flocks
15 until the spirit is poured down on us from up high,
and the wilderness becomes an orchard,
and the orchard is considered as a forest.[73]
16 Then justice will live in the wilderness,
and righteousness will stay in the orchard.
17 The result of their doing what's right will be peace,
and the service of righteousness will be quietness and permanent security.
18 Then my people will live peacefully,
and in secure homes and undisturbed resting places.
19 It will hail when the forest comes down,
and the city will be completely levelled.
20 You all who sow wherever there's water, will be blessed—
you all who untie your cow and donkey to give them free range.

Yahweh pushes Ashur away

33:1 The destroyer won't end well,
but you haven't been destroyed.
The one who acts treacherously hasn't been dealt with treacherously.
When you finish destroying, that's when you'll be destroyed.
When you've stopped dealing treacherously, that's when people will deal treacherously with you.
2 Yahweh, show your favour to us because we've waited for your help.
Be our strength each morning as well as our rescuer when trouble comes.
3 The peoples flee when they hear the commotion.
When you took action, the nations were scattered.
4 You all gather the plunder like locusts—
like locusts swarming in over it.
5 Yahweh is praised because he lives in a high place.
He will rule Tsiyon (Zion) by doing what's both right and fair.
6 He will be your constant source of stability—
a large supply of security, wisdom, and knowledge.
Respect and honour for Yahweh will be its treasure.
7 Look, their warriors have cried outside—
the messengers of peace weep bitterly.
8 The highways are deserted—
no one is going past on the paths.

73 **RV 32:15 · Cross-ref.** 29:17.

Readers' Version

Agreements are broken, people avoid cities, no one values people.
9 The land has dried up and become unproductive.
Levanon is ashamed and has withered.
The Sharon plain is like the desert,
and Bashan and Karmel are losing their leaves.
10 "Now I'll take action" says Yahweh. **Yahweh warns his enemies**
"Now I'll be praised.
Now I'll be elevated.
11 You'll all conceive chaff and give birth to stubble.
Your breath is a fire that will devour you all.
12 The people will be burnt down into ashes,
like thorn bushes cut down and burnt in a heap.
13 You who are far away, listen to what I've done.
^and you all who are nearby, feel my strength."
14 The sinners in Tsiyon (Zion) are very afraid—
trembling has seized the godless.
"How can we stay in this place with a devouring fire?
Which of us can live with continual burning?"
15 The one who does what's right,
and is honest in what they say,
who rejects dishonest gain from extortion,
and who avoids shaking hands on a deal involving a bribe,
who refuses to listen to ideas of murder,
and who won't let his eyes look into evil schemes,
16 that person will live in high places—
the mountain fortress will be their refuge.
They'll have a reliable source of food and water.
17 Your eyes will see the king in his beauty. **The ruling king**
They'll see a distant land.
18 Your heart will recall the terror.
"Where's the taxation accountant? Where's the one doing the weighing?
Where's the one who counted the towers?"
19 You'll no longer see those fierce people
whose language is too confusing to comprehend
and whose sounds are too foreign to understand.
20 Look at Tsiyon (Zion), the town of our festivals.
Your eyes will see Yerushalem (Jerusalem)—a place to live undisturbed.
No tents will be packed up and no tent pegs will ever be pulled out,
and none of its ropes will be snapped.
21 Yahweh the majestic one will be there with us—
a place with rivers and wide canals.
No ship that's rowed will be able to go over it,
and no huge sailing ships will pass along it.
22 Yes, Yahweh is our judge—he's our commander.
Yahweh is our king—he'll rescue us.
23 Your ropes are coming undone—they can't secure the base of the mast.
They can't spread the sail out.
Then the large booty onboard will be divided as plunder—
even lame people will take some spoil.
24 None of the residents will say that they're sick—
the people who live there will be forgiven for their disobedience.
34:1 Come close you nations to listen. **Yahweh punishes his enemies**
and you peoples pay attention.
The earth and everything that fills it must listen—
the world and everything that it's produced.
2 Yahweh is very angry at all the nations
and furious at all their armies.
He'll completely destroy them—
he'll hand them over to be slaughtered.
3 Then their slain will be tossed out
and the hills will soak up their blood,
and their corpses will release a stench.
4 All the stars in the sky will rot away,
and the skies will be rolled up like a scroll.
All their objects will wither like leaves falling off a grapevine,
and like withered fruit dropping off a fig tree.[74]
5 Once my sword will have drunk its fill in the skies/heavens,
look, it will descend on Edom and on the people who will receive total destruction as my judgement.[75]
6 Yahweh's sword is full of blood and fattened with fat
from the blood of lambs and goats, and from the fat from rams' kidneys,
because Yahweh has a sacrifice in Batserah,
and a great slaughter in the nation of Edom.
7 Wild bulls will go down with them,
as well as young bulls and powerful ones.
Their land will drink its fill of blood,
and the dust will be smeared with fat,
8 because Yahweh will have his day of vengeance—
a year of retribution for Tsiyon's (Zion's) sake.
9 Its streams will be changed into tar,
and its dust into sulfur,
and its land will become burning pitch.
10 It'll burn night and day and its smoke will permanently go up.[76]
It'll be a wasteland throughout the generations
and no one will ever pass through it again.
11 Desert owls and hedgehogs will take it over—

74 **RV 34:4 · Cross-ref.** Mat 24:29; Mrk 13:25; Luk 21:26; Rev 6:13-14.

75 **RV 34:5-17 · Cross-ref.** Isa 63:1-6; Jer 49:7-22; Eze 25:12-14; 35:1-15; Amos 1:11-12; Oba 1-14; Mal 1:2-5.

76 **RV 34:10 · Cross-ref.** Rev 14:11; 19:3.

owls and ravens will live there.
Yahweh will stretch the measuring line of ruin over it
and plumb lines of destruction.
12 Its leading citizens will have nothing left to call a kingdom,
and all its princes will become nobodies.
13 Thorns will grow up its fortresses.
Nettles and thornbushes will grow on its high walls,
and it'll become a place for jackals to live in—
grass for ostriches.
14 Wild animals will meet hyenas,
and the wild goats will bleat to each other.
The lilith owl[77] will rest there,
and find a place for itself to nest.
15 Owls will nest and lay eggs there,
and hatch and brood the chicks in its shade.
Indeed the hawks will gather there with their mates.
16 Look through Yahweh's scroll and read—not one of them will be missing.
Not one will lack its mate because Yahweh has commanded it,
and his spirit will gather them there.
17 He has thrown dice for them,
and his hand divided out their territory with a measuring line.
It'll be theirs forever—they'll live there throughout the generations.

The happiness of those saved by God

35:1 The wilderness and the desert will celebrate,
and the Aravah plain will be happy and blossom like a lily.
2 It will blossom widely and be glad,
even with happiness and cheery shouting.
Levanon's glory will be given to it,
as well as the splendour of Karmel and Sharon.
They will see Yahweh's brightness—the splendour of our god.
3 Strengthen the limp hands,
and steady the stumbling knees.[78]
4 Tell those with anxious hearts,
"Be strong—don't be afraid.
Listen, your god will come with vengeance—
paying them back for what they've done.
→He himself will come and rescue you."
5 Then the blind will be able to see again,
and deaf people will be able to hear.[79]
6 Then the lame person will leap like a deer
and the one who's mute will shout happily
because springs will burst out in the wilderness,
and streams in the Aravah plain.
7 The parched ground will become a pool,
and the thirsty place will become springs of water.
The place where jackals lived and relaxed
→will grow grass, reeds, and papyrus.
8 There'll be a highway to travel on
→and it'll be called 'the sacred road'.
The 'unclean' won't use it
but it'll be for those walking in the right direction—
fools won't be allowed to wander onto it.
9 There'll be no lions there
and no dangerous wild animals on it.
Those creatures won't be found there,
but those people who've been bought back will walk on it.
10 Then the people ransomed by Yahweh will return
and they'll come to Tsiyon (Zion) with a cheerful shout.
They'll always be happy and gladness and celebration will overwhelm them,
and sorrow and groaning will disappear.

Ashur threatens Yerushalem[80]

36:1 In the fourteenth year of the reign of King Hizkiyah (Hezekiah), Ashur's (Assyria's) King Sanheriv (Sennacherib) attacked Yehudah's (Judah's) fortified cities and captured them.
2 Then from Lakish, the Assyrian king sent his top negotiator to King Hizkiyah in Yerushalem (Jerusalem) with a large army. He stopped by the aqueduct at the upper pool on the road to the field where women wash clothes, 3 and Hilkiyah's son Elyakim, the palace supervisor, went out to meet him, taking Shevna the administrator, and Asaf's son Yoah the secretary. 4 The negotiator instructed them, "Tell Hizkiyah that Ashur's powerful king wants to know who or what you think you're trusting in to rescue you? 5 Your plan and war preparations are only hot air, so who are you relying on that encourages you to rebel against me? 6 Listen, if it's Mitsrayim (Egypt), that's like trusting a staff made from a splintered reed. If a man were to lean on it, it would pierce his palm—that's what relying on Mitsrayim's King Par'oh (Pharaoh) is like for those who put their trust in him. 7 But if you tell me that you're relying on your god Yahweh, hasn't Hizkiyah removed his hilltop shrines and altars, and forced all Yehudah to worship him in front of the altar there in Yerushalem?
8 "So now, make a deal with my master, the Assyrian king. Let me give you two thousand horses if you can find that many riders for them. 9 How could you even repel a captain who's one of the least of my master's servants since you've been relying on Mitsrayim for chariots and horsemen to rescue you? 10 Also, listen, I didn't come here to destroy this re-

77 **RV 34:14 · Note** See article on 'lilith' at https://www.sil.org/resources/publications/entry/111035.
78 **RV 35:3 · Cross-ref.** Heb 12:12.
79 **RV 35:5-6 · Cross-ref.** Mat 11:5; Luk 7:22.
80 **RV 36:1 · Parallel** 2 Kgs 18:13-27; 2 Chr. 32:1-19

gion without Yahweh—it was Yahweh who told me to come here and destroy this nation."

11 Then Elyakim and Shevna and Yoah asked the negotiator, "Please speak Aramit to your servants, because we understand it. Don't speak to us in Hebrew in the hearing of the people who are up on the wall."

12 But the negotiator replied, "Do you think that my master sent me to give this message just to you and your master? Don't you think that it's also for the men sitting on the wall who'll have to join you in eating their own dung and drinking their own urine?"

13 Then the negotiator stood and looked up, and shouted in Hebrew, "Listen to this message from the great Assyrian king. **14** The king says not to let your king Hizkiyah deceive you all, because he won't be able to save you. **15** Don't let him make you rely on Yahweh by telling you all that Yahweh will rescue you, and that this city won't be captured by the Assyrian king. **16** No, don't listen to Hizkiyah, because the Assyrian king says that if you all surrender and come out here, you'll be allowed to continue to harvest your own grapevines and fig trees, and everyone will be able to drink the water from their own wells **17** until I come and take you to a land like your own that has grain and new wine—a land with bread and vineyards.

18 "Don't let Hizkiyah (Hezekiah) mislead you all by saying that Yahweh will rescue you. Did the gods of any other nations saved them from the Assyrian king's power? **19** Where were Hamat and Arpad's gods? Where were Sefarvayim's gods? Did any gods save Shomron (Samaria) from my power? **20** From all those regions, which of their gods saved them from my power, so what makes you all think that Yahweh will save Yerushalem (Jerusalem) from me."

21 But those on the wall kept silent and didn't answer him, because King Hizkiyah had ordered them not to respond. **22** Then Elyakim (Hilkiyah's son who was the palace supervisor) and Shevna (the administrator) and Yoah (the secretary) returned to Hizkiyah with their clothes torn in grief and passed the negotiator's messages on to him.

Hizkiyah consults Yeshayah[81]

37:1 When King Hizkiyah (Hezekiah) heard the report, he torn his clothes too, and covered himself with sackcloth and went into Yahweh's residence. **2** Then he sent Elyakim (the palace supervisor) and Shevna (the administrator) and the elders of the priests to go to Yeshayah (Isaiah), the son of Amots the prophet, **3** and they told him, "King Hizkiyah says that today is a day of distress and rebuke and disgrace, like when children go to their mother who's about to deliver her baby but she doesn't have the strength to give birth. **4** Perhaps your god Yahweh heard the messages from the negotiator who was sent by his master, the Assyrian king, to defy the living god. Perhaps Yahweh will rebuke him for the words that Yahweh heard. So send up a prayer for the remnant of us here."

5 When King Hizkiyah's servants got to Yeshayah, **6** he told them to tell their master, "Yahweh says not to be afraid because of the words that you heard when the Assyrian king's servants insulted me. **7** Listen, I'll put a spirit in him and he'll hear a report that he needs to return to his own country, and then I'll cause him to be assassinated at home."

A further threat from Ashur[82]

8 Then the Assyrian negotiator returned to find the Assyrian king because he'd heard that he had left Lakish, and he found him fighting against Livnah. **9** Then the king heard that Kush's (Ethiopia's) King Tirhakah was marching out to attack him, so he sent messengers back to Hizkiyah (Hezekiah) with instructions, **10** "Tell Yehudah's (Judah's) King Hizkiyah: don't let your god that you trust in, deceive you by telling you that Yerushalem (Jerusalem) won't be conquered by the Assyrian king. **11** Listen, you've heard how that the Assyrian kings have destroyed all the other regions. Don't think that you'll be saved. **12** Did the gods of those other nations save them—places like Gozan and Haran and Retsef, and the people of Eden who lived in Telasar? **13** What happened to the kings of Hamat, Arpad, La'ir, Sefarvayim, Hena, and Ivah?"

Hizkiyah's Prayer

14 Hizkiyah (Hezekiah) accepted the letter brought by the messengers and read it. Then he went into Yahweh's residence and spread it out in front of Yahweh **15** and prayed to Yahweh, saying, **16** "Commander-in-chief Yahweh, Yisrael's (Israel's) god, who's enthroned above the winged creatures. You alone are God over all of earth's kingdoms—you made the heavens and the earth. **17** Yahweh, please pay attention and listen. Open your eyes, Yahweh, and look, and listen to everything that Sanheriv (Sennacherib) has said to defy the living god. **18** Yahweh, it's true that the Assyrian kings have destroyed all those nations and their regions, **19** and his men threw their gods into the fire, because they weren't gods at all—they're just crafted from wood and stone, so they destroyed them. **20** But now, Yahweh our god, save us from his power so that all of the world's kingdoms will know that you alone are Yahweh who is God.

Yeshayah's message to Hizkiyah[83]

21 Then Amots' son Yeshayah (Isaiah) sent this message to King Hizkiyah (Hezekiah): "Yisrael's (Israel's) god Yahweh says that because you prayed to me about the Assyrian King Sanheriv (Sennacherib), **22** then this is what Yahweh pronounces about him:

Tsiyon's (Zion's) virgin daughter despises you—she scorns you.

81 RV 37:1 · Parallel 2 Kgs 19:1-7

82 RV 37:8 · Parallel 2 Kgs 19:8-9

83 RV 37:21 · Parallel 2 Kgs 19:20-37

Readers' Version

Yerushalem's (Jerusalem's) daughter shakes her head at you.
23 Who is it that you've defied and insulted?
Who did you raise your voice against
and arrogantly challenged?
It was Yisrael's holy one.
24 You've defied my master by sending your servants,
and you've said that you've gone to the tops of the mountains with your chariots—
up to the remotest parts of Levanon to cut down its tallest cedars and best pines.
You've said that you'll enter the highest parts of its forest plantation.
25 It's me who has dug and drunk water,
and dried up all of Mitsrayim's (Egypt's) canals with the soles of my feet.
26 "Haven't you heard that I determined it from long ago.
I planned it since ancient times and now I'm making it happen,
→and you're about to make fortified cities into desolate heaps of ruins.
27 Their powerless inhabitants are dismayed and ashamed.
They come and go like the vegetation in the countryside,
and like how a grass roof doesn't stay green for long
and like a field as the grain crop grows.
28 "I know when you sit down and when you go in or out,
and I know your raging against me.
29 Because of that raging against me,
and your arrogance that's reached my ears,
I'll put my hook in your nose
and my bit in your mouth,
and I'll send you home on the same road that you came here on."
30 So this will be the sign for you Hizkiyah (Hezekiah):
This year you'll eat wild crops,
and next year you'll eat the self-seeded growth.
But in the third year you must sow and harvest,
and plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
31 The people of Yehudah (Judah) who've remained here
will send their roots down and their fruit will grow up,
32 because a remnant will come out of Yerushalem (Jerusalem),
and survivors from Mt. Tsiyon (Zion).
Commander-in-chief Yahweh will accomplish this through his zeal.
33 Therefore Yahweh says this about the Assyrian king:
He won't come into this city and he won't shoot an error here.
He won't bring a shield near it, and he won't build ramps up against it.
34 He'll return by the road that he came on, and he won't enter this city.
That is Yahweh's declaration 35 and I'll protect this city and rescue it for my own sake and for the sake of my servant David.

Sanheriv's retreat and assassination

36 Then Yahweh's messenger went out and killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers—when the others got up early the next morning, wow, there were corpses all around! 37 Then the Assyrian King Sanheriv (Sennacherib) left and headed back there, and he settled down in Nineveh. 38 One day he was worshipping in the temple of his god Nisrok, and his sons Adramelek and Sharetser ran a sword through him before escaping to the Ararat region, and his son Esar-Hadon replaced him as king.

Hizkiyah's sickness and recovery[84]

38:1 Then a time came when King Hizkiyah (Hezekiah) became critically ill, and the prophet Yeshayah (Isaiah) (Yeshayah, Amots' son) went to him and told him, "Yahweh says that you should put all your affairs into order, because you won't recover—your time is up."
2 Then Hizkiyah rolled over to face the wall and prayed to Yahweh, 3 "Oh Yahweh, please remember how I've served you faithfully and with integrity, and done what pleases you." Then Hizkiyah cried and cried.
4 Later, Yahweh gave Yeshayah this message, 5 "Go and tell the king that Yahweh, the god of his father David has taken notice of his prayer and seen his tears. So he'll give him another fifteen years 6 and will rescue both him and Yerushalem (Jerusalem) from the Assyrian king. Yahweh will defend this city 7 and this will be the sign from him that he will do what he's said, 8 'Look, I will turn the shadow on the steps built by King Ahaz, back ten steps.' " So the sun's shadow went back up ten steps that it had gone down.

Hizkiyah's poem of praise

9 Yehudah's (Judah's) King Hizkiyah (Hezekiah) wrote this poem after he'd recovered from his sickness:
10 I said, "I'll go through the gates to the grave in the prime of my life,
I'll miss out on the remainder of my years."
11 I said, "I won't see Yah in the land of the living.
I'll no longer look at humankind but rather those who've ceased living."
12 The body that I live in has been pulled up and removed from over me like a shepherd's tent.
I've rolled my life up like a weaver cutting me off from the loom.
From day until night, you make an end of me—
13 I lie down[85] until the morning.
He breaks all my bones like a lion would.
From day until night, you make an end of me.

84 **RV 38:1 · Parallel** 2 Kgs 20:1-11; 2 Chr. 32:24-26
85 **RV 38:13 · Note** The Hebrew could be read: I cried out or I lie down.

Readers' Version

14 I chirp like a swallow and moan like a dove.
My eyes feel weak from looking upwards.
I'm oppressed, my master, help me out.
15 What will I say? He told me and then he did it.
I'll walk slowly my remaining years because of my soul's bitterness.
16 My master, people live by such things,
and my spirit finds life in all of them.
Please restore my health and preserve my life.
17 Look, this severe bitterness was for my welfare,
and you held my life back from the pit of destruction
because you threw all my sins back over your shoulder.
18 No, the grave doesn't thank you.
Death doesn't praise you.
Those who go down into the pit don't expect you to be faithful.
19 The living, yes only the living, give thanks to you like I do today.
A father tells his children about your faithfulness.
20 Yahweh will save me and we'll play stringed instruments
at his residence for the rest of our lives.
21 Then Yeshayah (Isaiah) said, "Get them to apply a cake of figs to the boil so he'll recover."
22 Now Hizkiyah (Hezekiah) asked, "What will be the sign that I should go up to Yahweh's residence?"

Hizkiyah shows off his wealth[86]

39:1 At that time, Babylonian King Merodak-Bal'adan (son of Baladan) sent messengers with letters and a gift to King Hizkiyah (Hezekiah) because he had heard that he'd been sick and then recovered. 2 Hizkiyah happily welcomed them, and showed them his treasure house—the gold and silver and spices and high-quality oil, as well as his armoury and other storehouses. Hizkiyah showed them everything in his palace and all over his kingdom.
3 Afterwards, the prophet Yeshayah (Isaiah) went to King Hizkiyah and asked him where those men had come from and what they had said.
"They came from the distant region of Bavel (Babylon)," Hizkiyah replied.
4 "What did they see in your palace?" Yeshayah asked.
"They've seen everything that's in my palace," Hizkiyah answered. "There's none of my treasures that I didn't show them."
5 Then Yeshayah told Hizkiyah, "Listen to this message from Commander-in-chief Yahweh: 6 The time is definitely coming when everything in your palace will be carried away to Bavel—everything that your ancestors collected in the past until now. Yahweh says that nothing will be left. 7 In addition, some of your descendants, your own flesh and blood, will be taken away and be castrated so as to become servants in the Babylonian king's palace."
8 "Yahweh's message that you've passed on is appropriate," Hizkiyah told Yeshayah, "because at least there'll be peace and stability during my time."

Yahweh will comfort his people

40:1 "Encourage my people," says your god. "Encourage them.
2 Speak to Yerushalem's (Jerusalem's) heart and tell her that her period of service is ended,
because the punishment for her disobedience has been accepted.
She's received double punishment from Yahweh for all her sins.
3 A voice calls out in the wilderness[87] to clear the path for Yahweh.
Make a straight road in the Aravah plain for our god.[88]
4 Every valley will be filled in and every mountain and hill will be flattened,
and so the slopes will be levelled and the rough places smoothed out,
5 then Yahweh's splendour will be revealed and all people will see it simultaneously,
because that's what Yahweh has declared.
6 A voice says, 'Call out!' and I ask, 'What should I call out?'
Say that all people are like grass—
all their 'loyal commitment' is as temporary as a flower in the countryside.[89]
7 The grass dries up and the flower wilts
when Yahweh's breath blows over it.
Surely humankind is like grass.
8 The grass dries up, the flower wilts,
but the decree from our god will stand forever.
9 Go up onto a high hill you bearer of news for Tsiyon (Zion).
Raise your voice you bringer of news to Yerushalem (Jerusalem)—shout loudly and don't be afraid.
Tell Yehudah's (Judah's) cities that their god is here.
10 Look, my master Yahweh will be coming with strength,
and he will be ruling with power.
Look, he's bringing his reward
and his wages are there in front of him.[90]
11 He will tend his flock like a shepherd does.[91]
He will hold the lambs to his chest.

86 **RV 39:1 · Parallel** 2 Kgs 20:12-19
87 **RV 40:3 · Note** It's unclear from the Hebrew if the ***voice*** is in the wilderness, or if the ***path*** is in the wilderness.
88 **RV 40:3 · Cross-ref.** Mat 3:3; Mrk 1:3; Yhn 1:23.
89 **RV 40:6-8 · Cross-ref.** Jam 1:10-11; 1Pe 1:24-25.
90 **RV 40:10 · Cross-ref.** Isa 62:11; Rev 22:12.
91 **RV 40:11 · Cross-ref.** Eze 34:15; Yhn 10:11.

Readers' Version

He will lead along the ewes who've just had lambs.
12 Who has measured the oceans in their palm,
Not/None like of Master of Yisrael
and has marked off the sky with their handspan?
Who can count the dust grains on the earth,
and has weighed the mountains with scales and the hills with balances?
13 Who has told Yahweh's spirit what to do,
and has any person given him good advice?[92]
14 Who did he ask for advice?
Who informed him about something?
Who taught him how to judge fairly,
and taught him knowledge and helped him to understand something?
15 Listen, the nations are like a drop in a bucket,
and are as insignificant as dust on the scales.
He lifts the islands as if they just specks.
16 It's not enough to set fire to Levanon,
and it doesn't have enough animals to be an adequate burnt offering.
17 All the nations together are still nothing to him.
He considers their combined power as useless and worthless.
18 Who could you compare God with?
What is there that you all could say is anything like him?[93]
19 An idol that was cast by a craftsman,
overlaid with gold by a goldsmith,
and then decorated with silver chains?
20 The poorer person chooses a contribution of wood that won't rot.
They choose a skillful craftsman to make an idol that won't topple over.
21 Don't you all know? Haven't you heard?
Didn't anyone tell you all from the beginning?
Don't you all understand the earth's foundations?
22 He's the one who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers.
He's the one who stretches the skies out like a curtain
and spreads them out like a tent to live in.
23 He decides which officials will come to nothing.
He makes the world's judges irrelevant.
24 Indeed, they're hardly planted, yes, hardly sown.
Indeed, their stem has barely taken root in the earth,
but he also blows on them and they wither,
and the wind carries them away like straw.
25 "Who else is like me?" asks the holy one.
"Who else could be equal to me?"
26 Look up and see the stars.
Who created them?
Yahweh knows their number as he brings them out.
He calls them all by name.
Because of his great strength and mighty power
not a single one is missing.
27 Why do you talk, Ya'akov (Jacob)?
And why do you speak, Yisrael (Israel)?
Saying, 'My path is hidden from Yahweh,
and my rights disappear.'
28 Don't you know?
Haven't you heard?
The eternal God Yahweh is the creator of one end of the earth to the other.
He doesn't get tired
and he won't become weary.
You won't find a limit to his understanding.
29 He gives energy to those who are weary,
and increases the strength of those who are weak.
30 Even young people get tired and weary,
and young men can stumble clumsily,
31 but those who trust Yahweh will renew their strength.
They will rise up with wings like eagles.
They will run and not get tired.
They will walk and not become weary.
41:1 Stay silent in front of me, you islands,
Yahweh will help Yisrael
and let the peoples renew their strength.
Let them approach then let them speak.
Let's gather together for judgement.
2 Who has stirred up punishment from the east?
It meets with his feet.
He destroys nations in front of him.
He causes kings to rule.
He makes them like dust with his sword—
like chaff driven by his bow.
3 He chases after them—going forward in peace.
He comes on a path without using his feet.
4 Who has done it and has accomplished it—
calling the generations out from the beginning?
I Yahweh, am the first and the last. I am he.
5 The islands have seen and are afraid.
The whole world trembles.
They approach and come.
6 Everyone helps out their neighbours,
and tells each other to be strong.
7 The craftsman encourages the goldsmith who smooths with a hammer.
The one who strikes the anvil says that the welding is good
and the strengthen it with nails so it won't topple over.
8 But you, my servant Yisrael (Israel),
Ya'akov (Jacob) who I've chosen,
the offspring of my friend Avraham,

92 **RV 40:13 · Cross-ref.** Rom 11:34; 1Cor 2:16.

93 **RV 40:18-19 · Cross-ref.** Acts 17:29.

Readers' Version

9 I pulled you back from the ends of the earth,
calling you from its most distant corners,
and I told you, 'You're my servant.'
I've chosen you and won't reject you.
10 Don't be afraid, because I'm with you.
Don't be anxious, because I'm your God.
I'll strengthen you, indeed, I'll help you.
Yes, I'll support you with my strength—always doing what's right.
11 Listen, all those who are angry with you will be ashamed and disgraced.
Those who contend with you will be reduced to nothing and will perish.
12 You'll search for those who contended against you, but you won't be able to find them.
Those who battled against you will be useless and irrelevant,
13 because I, your god Yahweh, will hold up your right hand—
the one who tells you not to be afraid because I'll help you.
14 Don't be afraid, Ya'akov (Jacob), you worm—you Israeli people.
I will help you declares Yahweh—the one who rescues you—
Yisrael's (Israel's) holy one.
15 Listen, I'm making you into a threshing sledge—sharp and doubled-edged.
You'll thresh mountains and crush them,
and make the hills like chaff.
16 You'll toss them into the air and the wind will carry them away,
and a whirlwind will scatter them.
Then you'll be happy about Yahweh—
you'll boast about Yisrael's holy one.
17 The poor and needy people look for water, but there's none.
Their tongues are dry from thirst.
I, Yahweh, will respond to them.
I, Yisrael's god won't abandon them.
18 I'll make streams flow down from barren hills,
and will cause springs to appear in the middle of the valleys.
I'll make the wilderness into a pool of water,
and fill the dry land with springs.
19 I'll grow cedar, acacia, myrtle, and olive trees in the wilderness.
I'll plant cypress, elm, and boxwood trees on the desert plain,
20 so that people will be able to see, to realise, and to have determination and insight together
→because Yahweh has personally done this—Yisrael's (Israel's) holy one has created it.

Yahweh's challenge to idols

21 "Bring your case to me," says Yahweh.
"Present your arguments," says Ya'akov's (Jacob's) king.
22 Let them bring them out and tell us what will happen.
What happened before that?
Tell us so we can ponder them and so we can know what's been done
and then tell us what's still coming.
23 Tell the signs of the future so that we can know if you're all gods.
Yes, do something good or bad so that we can be amazed or afraid together.
24 Look, you're all nothing and your actions are worthless.
Anyone who chooses you all to worship is disgusting.
25 I have stirred up a ruler from the north,
and he's coming from the east.
He'll put his trust in me
and he'll step on officials like mud
and like a potter who works the clay with his feet.
26 Who told us that from the beginning so that we'd know?
Who predicted it so that we can now say that they were correct?
Actually, no one said or announced it—
no, no one heard your messages.
27 Firstly to Tsiyon (Zion), look they're here!
Then I sent a runner to Yerushalem (Jerusalem) to give them the news.
28 Then I looked at those idols but there was no life there.
There wasn't any advisor among them.
29 No, all of them are a delusion—they accomplish nothing.
Their cast metal images are as empty as the wind.

Yahweh's chosen servant · The first servant song

42:1 Look, here's my servant who I support—my chosen one who I'm pleased with.[94]
I've put my spirit onto him. He'll bring justice to the nations.
2 He won't cry out or lift up his head.
and he won't make his voice heard in the streets.
3 He won't break a crushed reed
and nor will he extinguish a dim oil-lamp.
He will faithfully bring justice to the people.
4 He won't grow dim or be crushed
before he's established justice in the world,
and while the islands wait for his instructions.
5 The god Yahweh who created the skies and stretched them out,
who formed the earth and all its produce,
who gives breath to the people on it
and a spirit to those who walk on it, says this:
6 I, Yahweh, have called you my servant for a godly pur-

94 **RV 42:1 · Cross-ref.** Mat 3:17; 17:5; Mrk 1:11; Luk 3:22; 9:35.

Readers' Version

pose,
and I'll take hold of your hand and watch over you.
I will make you into a promise for the people—a light for the nations:
7 to open the eyes of the blind—
to bring prisoners out of the dungeon—
to release those who live in dark prisons.
8 I am Yahweh. That's my name
and I won't allow anyone else to receive the honour that only I deserve,
and nor will I allow images to receive the praise that should come to me.
9 Listen, things said before have come to pass
and I'm about to reveal new things—
I'll let you all know about them before they come to be.

A song to praise Yahweh

10 Sing a new song for Yahweh—praising him from the end of the earth.
Those who go down to the sea and everything that fills it.
You islands and their inhabitants.
11 Let the wilderness and its cities lift up their voice—
the villages where the Bedouins live.
Let the inhabitants of Edom's capital Sela sing.
Let them shout from the mountaintops.
12 Let them honour Yahweh
and praise him from the islands.
13 Yahweh will go ahead like a warrior—
he'll stir up zeal like a man of war.
He'll raise a war cry—shouting out loudly,
and then he'll defeat his enemies.

Yahweh promises help

14 I've been silent for a long time now.
I've been still—I've restrained myself.
Now I'll cry out like a woman giving birth.
I'll puff and pant at the same time.
15 I'll make the mountains and hills dry up
and all their vegetation will wither.
plus I'll turn the rivers into islands
and dry up the pools.
16 I'll lead the blind down a path that they don't know.
I'll guide them on roads that they're not familiar with.
I'll make the dark places in front of them, light,
and the rough places into level ground.
I'll do those things for them, and I won't abandon them.
17 Those who trust in idols will be turned back and totally humiliated—
those who tell a cast metal figure, 'You're our god.'

Yisrael's stubborn deafness

18 Listen you deaf people,
and look you blind people and see.
19 Who is blind other than my servant,
or deaf like my messenger who I'll send?
Who's blind like my partner in our agreement,
or blind like Yahweh's servant.
20 You see many things but don't take any notice.
Your ears are open but you don't listen.
21 Yahweh was pleased to do what's right—
he made his instructions honourable and splendid.
22 But this is a people who've been robbed and plundered.
They're all trapped in holes and hidden away in prisons.
They've become the spoil, and there's no one to rescue them.
They've become plunder and no one speaks up to help them back.
23 Will any of you take any notice of that?
Will anyone listen or pay attention afterwards?
24 Who gave Ya'akov (Jacob) to the robbers,
and Yisrael (Israel) to the looters?
→Wasn't it Yahweh, the one we disobeyed?
They weren't willing to do what he wanted,
and they didn't listen to his instructions.
25 Then he poured out his rage and the violence of war.
The flames burnt all around, yet Yisrael didn't realise.
They burnt it up, but it didn't take it to heart.

Yahweh promises rescue and return

43:1 But now Yahweh, the one who created you, Ya'akov (Jacob),
and who formed you, Yisrael (Israel), says this:
Don't be afraid, because I've paid the price to free you.
I've called you by name—you belong to me.
2 When you pass through the waters, I'm with you,
and through the rivers, they won't carry you away.
When you walk through the fire, you won't get scorched
and the flames won't burn you up
3 because I'm your god, Yahweh—
your rescuer, Yisrael's (Israel's) holy one.
I've given Mitsrayim (Egypt) as your ransom—
Kush (Ethiopia) and Seva in your place
4 since you are precious in my eyes.
You are honoured and I love you,
and I'll give humankind in your place,
and nations in exchange for your life.
5 Don't be afraid, because I'm with you.
I'll bring your descendants from the east,
and I'll gather you in from the west.
6 I'll tell the north to hand you over,
and tell the south not to hold you back.
Bring my sons back from distant lands,
and bring my daughters from the ends of the earth—
7 yes, all those who belong to me
and who I've created as my showpiece—
those who I formed when I made them.

The calling of God of Yisrael as witness

8 Bring out the people with eyes who still seem blind,
and those who have ears but still seem deaf.
9 All the nations have gathered together,
and the peoples assemble.
Which of them could have predicted this?

Readers' Version

They announce things that have happened in the past!
Let them appoint their own witnesses so they can be justified.
Let them hear and then let them say that it's true.
10 But Yahweh declares that you all are *my* witnesses
and my servant who I've chosen
so that you all can know and believe me
and understand that I am God.
There's no other god that was formed before me,
^and none will be format after me.
11 I (and no one else) am Yahweh.
and other than me, there's no one else who can save you.
12 I have declared that I would save and I have saved,
and I have proclaimed that I have done it,
and you all are my witnesses that I am God.
That is Yahweh's declaration.
13 From the first day, I am he,
and no one can oppose my power.
I take action and who could reverse it?

The punishment of Bavel

14 Yahweh, the one who paid to set you all free, Yisrael's (Israel's) holy one, says this:
For your sake, I've sent an army to Bavel (Babylon),
and I'll bring all of them down as fugitives in boats,
and all those Kasdim (Chaldeans) in the ships that they usually cheer about.
15 I am Yahweh, your holy one
creator of Yisrael, your king.
16 I am Yahweh,
the one who made a path through the sea
and a road through the surging waters.
17 I enticed the chariots and horses out,
together with a strong army,
They fell down together and didn't rise again.
They were extinguished like how a wick is quenched.
18 Yahweh says,
Don't meditate on what happened previously,
and don't keep thinking about past history.
19 Listen, I'm going to do something new.
It's springing up—haven't you noticed it?
Yes, I'll make a road in the wilderness—
streams in that desolate place.
20 The animals in the countryside will honour me—
the jackals and the ostriches
because I've put water in the wilderness,
streams in the desolate place
to provide water for my chosen people.
21 I formed that nation for myself.
They will discuss their praise for me.

Yisrael's sin

22 But you didn't call to me for help,
Ya'akov (Jacob),
because you've grown tired of me, Yisrael (Israel).
23 You haven't brought sheep to me as your burnt offerings,
and you haven't honoured me with your sacrifices.
I haven't burdened you with grain offerings,
and I haven't made you weary by demanding incense.
24 You didn't spend any money to buy fragrant reeds for me,
and you haven't satisfied me with the fat from your sacrifices.
Nevertheless you've burdened me with your disobedience—
you've tired me out with your wickedness.
25 I'm the only one who wipes your offenses out for my own sake,
and then I won't remember your sins any more.
26 Remind me, let's plead the case together.
You retell it all so that you can be declared innocent.
27 Your founding father sinned,
and your spokesmen have disobeyed me,
28 so I'll defile your sacred officials,
and send destruction to Ya'akov (Jacob),
and insults to Yisrael (Israel).

Yahweh's chosen people

44:1 Now listen Ya'akov (Jacob) my servant,
and Yisrael (Israel) who I've chosen.
2 The one who made you and formed you in the womb,
Yahweh says this:
Don't be afraid, Ya'akov my servant,
and Yisrael who I've chosen,
3 because I'll pour water out onto the thirsty ground
and streams on the dry ground.
I'll pour my spirit out onto your offspring
and my blessing onto your descendants.
4 They'll spring up among the grasses
like poplars beside flowing streams.
5 This one will say that they're in favour of Yahweh,
and that one will out Ya'akov's (Jacob's) name out.
Another one will write 'Belonging to Yahweh' on their hand,
and others will use the title 'From Yisrael'.
6 Yisrael's (Israel's) king and the one who bought their freedom,
Commander-in-chief Yahweh says this:
I'm the first and the last,[95]
and there's no other god—just me.
7 Yes, who's like me? Let him proclaim it,
and let him declare it.
Let him recount to me the historical sequence of how this nation was established in the past,
and let them declare what's about to happen.

95 **RV 44:6 · Cross-ref.** Isa 48:12; Rev 1:17; 22:13.

Readers' Version

8 Don't dread the future
and don't be afraid.
Didn't I already declare it to you
and announce what would happen, and you all are my witnesses?
Is there some other god[96] than me?
There's no other 'rock' that I know of.
9 All those who form idols are losers
and their expectations won't be realised.

The absurdity of crafting an idol

Their witnesses can't see and they don't know anything,
so they'll be ashamed.
10 Who would form a god
or an idol that never helps them?
11 All their associates will be put to shame—
craftsmen are just human beings.
Let all of them gather together and take their stand.
Let them dread the consequences and be ashamed together.
12 The blacksmith takes a tool and works on the iron over the coals.
He hammers it with his strong arm to form it into shape.
But then he gets hungry and feels weaker.
If he doesn't drink water, he'll feel exhausted.
13 The carpenter measures a piece of wood.
He outlines it with a marker and works it with his chisels.
He outlines it with a compass and makes it like the figure of a man—
like a good-looking man who might live in a house.
14 He cuts down cedar trees
or selects a cypress or an oak.
He lets it grow strong among the trees in the forest.
He plants a fir tree and the rain makes it grow.
15 Then the wood is used by humankind to burn.
The carpenter uses some of the wood to warm himself,
Yes, he kindles a fire and bakes bread on it.
He also makes a god out of it and bows down to it.
He makes the wood into an idol and kneels in front of it.
16 He burns half of the wood for the fire,
and roasts meat on that half—he eats the meat and is satisfied.
He also warms himself and says 'Aha, I'm warm,' as he looks at the fire.
17 He uses the rest of the wood to make a god.
He makes an idol and kneels in front of it.
He bows down and prays to it
→and says, 'Rescue me, because you're my god.'
18 Those people don't know and don't understand
because their eyes are plastered over so they can't see
and their minds are prevented from having insight.
19 No one gives much thought to their actions.
They don't apply knowledge and understanding, to say,
'I burnt half of the wood in the fire and baked bread on the coals.
I roasted meat on it and ate it.
Then I'll take the remainder to make a detestable idol.
I'll bow down to a piece of wood from a tree.'
20 He eats thanks to those ashes.
He's deceived and been led astray.
He doesn't escape from his own situation and say,
'I'm holding a lie in my right hand.'
21 Remember that, Ya'akov (Jacob),
and Yisrael (Israel) because you're my servant.
I formed you—you're my servant Yisrael—I won't forget about you.
22 I've blotted out your disobedience like a cloud.
and your sins like a fog.
Return to me because I paid the price for your freedom.
23 Shout happily you skies because Yahweh has taken action.
Shout triumphantly you depths of the earth.
Sing loudly you mountains and forests and all you trees
because Yahweh has paid the price for Ya'akov's (Jacob's) freedom
and will be honoured by Yisrael (Israel).
24 Yahweh, the one who paid for your freedom
and the one who formed you in the womb, says this:
I am Yahweh who made everything,
who alone stretched out the skies and formed the earth.
Who was it who helped me?
25 Who else frustrates the sign of empty-talkers,
and makes diviners look foolish?
Who else turns wise people back
and makes their knowledge seem foolish?[97]
26 Who else confirms the words of his prophet,
and fulfills the advice of his messengers
who say that Yerushalem (Jerusalem) will be inhabited,
and that Yehudah's (Judah's) towns will be rebuilt,
and the country's ruins will be rebuilt?
27 Who else tells the deep sea to dry out,
and makes your rivers dry up?
28 Who else calls King Koresh (Cyrus) 'my shepherd',
and says that he'll do everything I want?
Who else says that Yerushalem will be rebuilt,
and that the temple foundations will be restored.[98]
45:1 Yahweh has appointed Koresh (Cyrus) and given him power

Yahweh send Koresh

to subdue other nations and defeat kings—

96 **RV 44:8 · Note** This is the only place where Yeshayah uses Eloah (singular) for God instead of Elohim (plural).

97 **RV 44:25 · Cross-ref.** 1Cor 1:20.

98 **RV 44:28 · Cross-ref.** 2Ch 36:23; Ezr 1:2.

Readers' Version

to open doors ahead of him,
and no gates will shut him out.
Now Yahweh says this:
2 I'll go ahead of you Koresh and level the mountains.
I'll break down bronze doors and cut through iron bars,
3 and I'll give you the treasures that are hidden away
and the riches stored in secret places
so that you'll know that it's me, Yahweh, Yisrael's (Israel's) god, who calls you by name.
4 For the sake of my servant Ya'akov (Jacob)
and Yisrael my chosen one,
I've summoned you by name.
Although you don't know me, I'll give you a title of honour.
5 I am Yahweh and there's no one else.
Apart from me, there's no other God.
Even though you don't know me,
I will strengthen you
6 so that from the east to the west they'll know
that there's nothing apart from me.
I'm Yahweh, and there's no other God.
7 I formed the light and created the darkness.
I bring peace and prosperity, and I cause disasters.
It's me, Yahweh, who does all those things.
8 Rain down from above you skies,
and let the clouds pour down godliness.
Let the earth open up and let salvation grow on the trees
and at the same time, let righteousness sprout up.
I, Yahweh, have created it.

Don't argue with Yahweh

9 The person who argues against their creator won't end well.
They're like a piece of broken pottery lying among all the other pieces on the ground.
Does the clay ask the potter what he's making,[99]
or ask why he didn't do a very good job making what he did?
10 Anyone who asks a father what he's fathering won't end well,
and nor will anyone who asks a woman what she's in labour for.
11 Yahweh, Yisrael's (Israel's) holy one and the one who formed it, asks this:
'Concerning the things to come, do you question me about my children?
And will you all tell me what actions that I should take?'
12 I made the earth and created humankind on it.
My own hands stretched the skies out,
and I ordered all the heavenly bodies into place.
13 I stirred Koresh (Cyrus) up to do what's right,
and I'll smooth out his paths ahead of him.
He'll be the one to build my city, and he'll release my exiles—
not for a ransom or for a bribe.
Commander-in-chief Yahweh says that.
14 Yahweh says this:
Mitsrayim's (Egypt's) produce and Kush's (Ethiopia's) profit and those tall people from Seva
will all be turned over to you and they'll belong to you.
They'll walk behind you and will be handed over in chains.
They'll bow down to you and state,
'Surely God is with you—he's the only god—there's no other.'
15 You are certainly a god who hides himself,
you god who rescues Yisrael (Israel).
16 Those who craft idols will be humiliated—
all of them will be put to shame together.
Those who craft idols will be publicly disgraced.
17 Yisrael has been rescued by Yahweh—freed forever.
You all won't be humiliated or put to shame ever again.
18 Yahweh who created the skies, is God.
He formed the earth and established it.
He didn't create it as a wasteland,
^but rather, he formed it to be lived in.
Yahweh says this:
19 I didn't speak in secrecy in a place where it's all dark.
It wasn't in vain that I told Ya'akov's (Jacob's) descendants to search for me.
I am Yahweh who says what is right and declares what is proper.

Yahweh and false gods

20 Gather together and come.
Assemble together you fugitives from the nations.
Those who carry their wooden idols don't know what's going on—
those who pray to a god that can't help them.
21 Declare and approach. Let them also get advice together.
Who predicted that in the past and then declared it?
Wasn't it me, Yahweh?
There's no god other than me—
a god who does what is right and who rescues his people.
There's no other rescuer except me.
22 Turn to me and be saved, all you at the ends of the earth,
because I'm God and there isn't any other.
23 I've solemnly promised that—
I only say what's right and I don't change my mind,
because every knee will bow to me.
Every tongue will promise allegiance to me.[100]
24 They'll say that righteousness and strength are only in Yahweh.
All those who were angry at him will come to him in their shame.

99 RV 45:9 · Cross-ref. Isa 29:16; Rom 9:20.

100 RV 45:23 · Cross-ref. Rom 14:11; Php 2:10-11.

Readers' Version

25 Yisrael's (Israel's) descendants will be declared innocent
by Yahweh,
and they'll boast about what he's done for them.

The false gods there in Bavel

46:1 The Babylonian gods Bel bows
down and Nevo stoops low.
Their idols need to be carried by animals and are burdens
for tired cattle.
2 Together those gods bend low, kneeling down.
They're not able to rescue the load
and they themselves have been taken into captivity.
3 Listen to me you descendants of Ya'akov (Jacob),
and all the remnant of Yisrael's (Israel's) families—
carried since birth,
supported since the womb.
4 I'll be there even when you age,
and I'll carry you when your hair goes grey.
I made you and I'll support you,
and I'll carry you and rescue you.
5 Who can you liken me to or say that I'm the same as,
or compare me to and say that we're alike?
6 Those who pour gold out from a bag
and weigh their silver on a scale,
hire a metalsmith to make it into a god.
They kneel in front of it and worship it.
7 They lift it up and carry it on their shoulders,
and then they put it down in its place.
It stands there and never leaves.
They call out to it for help but it doesn't answer—
it won't rescue them from their troubles.
8 Remember that and pluck up courage.
You rebels, take it to heart.
9 Think about what happened long ago
because I'm God and there's no other,
I'm God and there's no one like me.
10 From the beginning, I declare the end.
From ancient times, I announce what's still to come.
I declare that my plan will come to be,
and all my intentions will be accomplished.
11 Summoning a bird of prey from the east,
from a distant country—the man to carry out my plan.
Yes, I've spoken and I'll make it happen.
I've planned, and I'll also accomplish it.
12 Listen to me you stubborn people—
you who are so far from doing what's right.
13 I've brought my righteousness near—it's not far away,
and my salvation won't delay.
I'll rescue Tsiyon (Zion)
and display my splendour to Yisrael (Israel).

Bavel's coming judgement

47:1 Come down and sit in the dust
you virgin daughter of Bavel (Babylon).
Sit on the ground without a throne you daughter of the
Kasdim (Chaldeans),[101]
because people won't call you tender and delicate any
more.
2 Turn those millstones and grind flour.
Remove your veil and strip off your skirt.
Uncover your legs to wade through rivers.
3 Your nakedness will be exposed.
Yes, your shame will be visible.
I'll take vengeance and won't spare anyone.
4 Commander-in-chief Yahweh is the name of the one who
bought our freedom—
Yisrael's (Israel's) holy one.
5 Sit in silence and go in darkness you daughter of the Kas-
dim (Chaldeans),
because you'll no longer be called 'the queen of kingdoms'.
6 I was angry with my people—
I defiled my inheritance and handed them over to you.
You showed them no compassion—
even the old had a heavy burden placed on them.
7 You said that you'd be queen forever,
but you didn't give it enough thought—
you didn't consider its outcome.
8 Now listen to this you over-indulged woman who lives in
security,
saying in her heart, 'No one else is important except me.
I'll never be a widow or lose my children.'[102]
9 But both of these things will suddenly happen to you:
Bereavement and childless will hit in one day.
They'll come on you with completeness despite your plen-
tiful sorceries
and the power of your multiple spells.
10 You trusted in your wickedness and thought no one
would notice you.
Your wisdom and knowledge has led you astray
and you told yourself that no one else was important ex-
cept you.
11 Calamity will hit you and you won't be able to charm it
away.
Disaster will fall on you and you won't be able to avoid it—
disaster like you've never known before will come on you
suddenly.
12 Keep trusting your spells and your plentiful sorceries
that you've worked hard at since your youth.
Perhaps you'll be successful—maybe scaring disaster away.
13 You've become tired of listening to so much advice.
Please let them stand up and save you—
those ones who chart the skies and divine from moons
to discover what's going to happen to you.

101 **RV 47:1-15 · Cross-ref.** Isa 13:1–14:23; Jer 50:1; 51:64.

102 **RV 47:8-9 · Cross-ref.** Rev 18:7-8.

Readers' Version

14 Look, they've become like straw that get burnt in a fire.
They can't rescue themselves from the flames.
There'll be no coals to warm them—no fire to sit by.
15 That's what those you worked with have become—those traders from your youth.
Everyone has wandered in their own direction—there's no rescuer.

Yahweh knows and controls the future

48:1 Listen to this you descendants of Ya'akov (Jacob),
who are called by the name Yisrael (Israel) and descended from Yehudah (Judah).
You make promises using Yahweh's name,
and mention Yisrael's god,
but it's not done honestly or sincerely
2 even though they state that they're from the sacred city,
and that they're supported by Yisrael's god, named commander-in-chief Yahweh.
3 Long ago I predicted and explained what would happen,
→then suddenly, I took action and they happened
4 because I knew that you were stubborn.
Your neck muscles are like iron
and your forehead is like bronze,
5 so I announced those things in advance.
Before they happened, I informed you
so that you couldn't say that your idol did them,
or say that your carved idols and cast figures ordered them to happen.
6 You've heard—now investigate all of it.
Won't you admit that what I tell you is true?
Now I'll tell you new things,
and secret things that you didn't previously know.
7 They're activated now—not in the past,
and you hadn't heard of them happening before today
otherwise you might say that you expected them.
8 No, you hadn't heard and you didn't know
because from way back, you never wanted to hear.
Yes, I knew that you act very treacherously
and even from the womb you've been called a rebel.
9 For the sake of my reputation, I'll hold back my anger,
and so that I'm praised, I'll restrain myself from destroying you.
10 Look, I've refined you, but not like silver—
I've tested you in the furnace of affliction.
11 But for my own sake I'll take action,
because how could I allow my reputation to be damaged?
I won't allow others to take the honour that's due to me.

The chosen by God destroy of Bavel

12 Listen to me Ya'akov (Jacob),
and Yisrael (Israel) who I called.
I am he, the first, and also the last.[103]
13 Yes, my hand founded the earth,
and my right hand stretched out the skies.
I call to them, then they stand together.
14 Gather together all of you and listen.
Which of those idols has announced these things?
Yahweh's dearest ally will implement Yahweh's desire on Bavel (Babylon)
and apply his power to those Kasdim (Chaldeans).
15 I've spoken. I've summoned him.
I've brought him, and he will succeed in his mission.
16 Come close to me and listen to this:
From the beginning, I haven't spoken in secrecy.
I was there when those things happened.
My master Yahweh has sent me and his spirit.
17 Yahweh, Yisrael's (Israel's) holy one and the one who paid the price for your freedom, says this:
I am your god, Yahweh, who teaches you to prosper—
who leads you in the path that you should follow.
18 If you had paid attention to my instructions
then you would have had peace like a river
and your righteousness like waves in the ocean.
19 Your descendants would have been as numerous as the sand,
and the offspring from your womb like its grains.
It wouldn't have been destroyed
and had its name removed from my presence.
20 Go away from Bavel (Babylon).
Flee from those Kasdim (Chaldeans).[104]
Proclaim this with a happy song.
Send it out to the ends of the earth to say:
Yahweh has paid the price to free his servant Ya'akov (Jacob).
21 They weren't thirsty when he led them through the wildernesses.
He made water flow out of a rock for them—
he split open the rock and the water gushed out.
22 There's no peace for the wicked says Yahweh.[105]

Yahweh's servant · The second servant song

49:1 Listen to me you islands,
and pay attention you distant peoples.
Yahweh called me from before I was born—
he knew my name when I was still inside my mother.[106]
2 He made my mouth like a sharp sword[107] that he hid in the shadow of his hand.

103 **RV 48:12 · Cross-ref.** Isa 44:6; Rev 1:17; 22:13.
104 **RV 48:20 · Cross-ref.** Rev 18:4.
105 **RV 48:22 · Cross-ref.** Isa 57:21.
106 **RV 49:1 · Cross-ref.** Jer 1:5.
107 **RV 49:2 · Cross-ref.** Heb 4:12; Rev 1:16.

Readers' Version

He made me into a polished arrow that he hid in his quiver.
3 Then he told me, 'Yisrael (Israel), you're my servant,
and I'll be honoured by others because of you.'
4 I replied, 'I've worked with no results
and used my strength for nothing at all.
Nevertheless, my justice is with Yahweh,
and my wages are with my god.'
5 Now Yahweh has spoken—
the one who formed me from the womb as his servant—
to restore Ya'akov (Jacob) to himself,
and gather Yisrael (Israel) to him.
I'll be honoured in Yahweh's eyes,
and my god has been my strength.
6 Also he says,
'It's too insignificant for you to be my servant to raise up Ya'akov's tribes
and to bring back those from Yisrael who've been preserved.
I'll make you into a light for the nations[108]—
to be the one who takes salvation to the ends of the earth for me.'[109]
7 Yahweh, Yisrael's holy one,
the one who paid the price for their freedom
says to the one whose life is despised,
the one who's hated by the nations—a slave of rulers:
'Kings will see and stand up,
and princes will bow down
on account of Yahweh who is faithful—Yisrael's holy one
because he has chosen you.'

Yisrael's restoration

8 Yahweh says this:
I will answer you in a time of favour,
and I will help you on a day of salvation[110]
and protect you and appoint you to be an agreement for the people,
to rebuild the land so that desolate place can be redistributed as inheritances.
9 You'll tell the prisoners to come out
and those in darkness to show themselves.
They'll graze along roads,
and over all the pasture on bare hills.
10 They won't be hungry or thirsty,
and the burning heat of the sun won't beat down on them,
because they'll be guided by one who has compassion on them
and he'll lead them to springs of water.[111]
11 I'll make all my mountains into a road,
and I'll fill all the low spots on my highways.
12 Look, they'll come from far away,
and look, some from the north and from the west, and from Sinim.
13 Shout happily you sky and be cheerful you earth
and shout with joy you mountains
because Yahweh has comforted his people
and has compassion on them when they're suffering.
14 But Tsiyon (Zion) said, 'Yahweh has abandoned me,
and my master has forgotten me.'
15 Would a woman forget her young baby
or have no compassion on the child that she's given birth to?
Even if she could forget, I won't forget you.
16 Look, I've written your name on my palms.
I'm always thinking about your city walls.
17 Your children are hurrying.
Those who destroyed and ravaged you, are going away from you.
18 Look up and see all around you,
they're all gathering together—coming towards you.
Yahweh declares, As surely as I live,
you'll 'put them all on' like jewelry,
and you'll tie them on like a bride.
19 Look up because your ruined and desolate places,
and your devastated land,
will be too cramped for the coming inhabitants,
and those who swallowed you up will be far away.
20 Yet your descendants who were born in captivity will say in your ears,
'This place is too cramped for us.
Move over to make room for us to live here.'
21 Then you'll think to yourself, 'Who fathered these children?
I was bereaved and barren—taken into exile and thrown away. Who raised these children?
I was left alone, so where did these children come from?'
22 My master Yahweh says this:
Look, I'll lift my hand up to the nations,
and raise my banner to the peoples.
They'll bring your sons on their laps,
and they'll carry your daughters on their shoulders.
23 Kings will become your children's tutors,
and their noble ladies will become your wet nurses.
They'll bow down to you with their faces to the ground
and lick the dust from your feet.
→Then you'll know that I am Yahweh—those who patiently rely on my assistance won't be humiliated.
24 Can the booty be snatched from a warrior,

108 RV 49:6 · Cross-ref. Isa 42:6; Luk 2:32; Acts 26:23.

109 RV 49:6 · Cross-ref. Acts 13:47.

110 RV 49:8 · Cross-ref. 2Cor 6:2.

111 RV 49:10 · Cross-ref. Rev 7:16-17.

Readers' Version

or can captives escape from a tyrant.[112]
25 But Yahweh says this:
Even the warrior's captives will be taken from him,
and the spoils will be recovered from a tyrant,
→and I'll oppose your opponent and rescue your children.
26 I'll cause those who mistreated you to eat their own flesh,
and they'll get drunk on the wine of their own blood.
Then everybody will know that I am your rescuer, Yahweh,
and Ya'akov's (Jacob's) powerful one who paid the price for your freedom.
50:1 Yahweh says this:
Where's the divorce papers for your mother who I sent away?
Which of my creditors did I sell you all to,
because you were all sold because of your disobedience?
And your mother was sent away because of your rebellion.
2 Why did I come when there wasn't anyone there?
Why did I call when no one answered?
Was I unable to pay the ransom?
Didn't I have enough strength to rescue you?
Look, when I scold the ocean, it dries up.
I can turn rivers into a wilderness—
→its fish will stink because they'll die of thirst because there's no water.
3 I clothe the skies with darkness,
and I place sackcloth as their covering.

Yahweh's obedient servant · The third servant song

4 My master Yahweh, has given me a tongue that keeps learning—
knowing how to help the weary with a message.
He wakes me in the morning—
wakes me up to listen to his teaching.
5 My master Yahweh, has opened my ears.
I haven't been rebellious
and I haven't turned back from what I was asked.
6 I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who made them bare.
I didn't hide my face from insults and getting spat on[113]
7 but my master Yahweh will help me.
Therefore I'm not humiliated,
so I've made my face look determined like flint
because I know that I won't be ashamed.
8 The one who'll declare me innocent is close by.
Who will bring charges against me?[114] Let's stand in court together.
Who is my accuser? Let him approach me.
9 Listen, my master Yahweh will help me.
Who is it who condemns me as guilty?
They'll all wear out like clothes—the moths will eat them.
10 How many of you strive to obey Yahweh,
listening to his servant's words?
Who among you all walks in deep darkness without light?
Learn to trust Yahweh and to depend on your god.
11 Look, all of you who kindle fires and carry flaming torches.
Walk in the light from your fire and from the kindling that you're all burning.
That is what you'll receive from my hand.
You'll all lie down in pain.

Comforting words for Yerushalem

51:1 Listen to me, all of you who strive to do what's right—
you who want to follow Yahweh's instructions.
Look at the rock that you where chiselled from,
and at the mouth of the cistern that you were quarried out of.
2 Look at your ancestor, Avraham,
and Sarah who bore you all,
because I called him as one person,
→then I blessed him and made him many,
3 because Yahweh will comfort Tsiyon (Zion).
He will comfort all its ruined places,
and make her wilderness like Eden
and her desert plains like Yahweh's garden.
Joy and happiness will come from there—
thanksgiving and the sounds of music.
4 Pay attention to me, my people.
and you my nation, listen carefully,
because I will send out my instructions,
and in an instant, I'll make my justice as a light for the nations.
5 I'm ready to declare you as innocent.
My salvation will go out.
My arms will bring justice to the peoples.
The islands wait eagerly—waiting for my arm.
6 Look upwards to the skies
^and down to the earth below,
because the skies will be dispersed like smoke,
and the earth will wear out like a piece of clothing
and its inhabitants will die like gnats.
However, when I save you, you'll be free forever,
and I'll only ever do what is right.
7 Listen to me, all of you who know what is right—
people with my instructions always in their thoughts.
Don't be afraid of getting insulted by people,
and don't be dismayed by their abuse,
8 because moths will eat them like a piece of clothing,
and their larva will devour them like they do with wool.

112 **RV 49:24 · Note** Using the reading from the Qumran scroll here.
113 **RV 50:6 · Cross-ref.** Mat 26:67; Mrk 14:65.
114 **RV 50:8-9 · Cross-ref.** Rom 8:33-34.

Readers' Version

However, I will only ever do what is right,
and when I save you, you'll be free throughout the generations.
9 Wake up, wake up! Yahweh, strengthen yourself!
Wake up like back in the old days—
the generations from long ago.
Wasn't it you who pierced the sea monster Rahav and cut it into pieces?
10 Wasn't it you who dried up the ocean—those large, deep waters—
the one who made the deep seas into a way for those who've been set free to pass over?
11 Then those who Yahweh has paid the price for their freedom, will return,
and go to Tsiyon (Zion) with happy shouts,
and with happiness always showing on their faces.
Gladness and joy will overtake them—
sorrow and mourning will disappear.
12 It's me who's the one who comforts you all.
Why would you be afraid of other humans who are just mortal,
or other descendants of humankind who are a temporary as grass.
13 Then you've forgotten Yahweh who made you
and who stretched out the skies and made the earth's foundations.
You've been in dread the entire day as your angry oppressor approaches ready to destroy you.
But where is the oppressor's anger now?
14 The one who stoops over will be quickly released.
He won't die in the pit and won't lack his food.
15 I am your god Yahweh who stirs up the sea
and its waves roar.
Commander-in-chief Yahweh is his name.
16 I've given you my messages to proclaim,
and I've protected you with my hand—
planting the skies and founding the earth,
and telling Tsiyon (Zion) that you are my people.

The cup of anger removed from Yerushalem

17 Rouse yourself, rouse yourself. Get up, Yerushalem (Jerusalem)—
you who drank the cup from Yahweh's hand that was filled with his anger.
You drank the cup that makes you stagger—you drained it.
18 Despite all the children that she's borne, there's no one to lead her,
and there's no one to hold her hand out of all the children that she's brought up.
19 Those two things have happened to you:
Who shows sympathy to you after the devastation and destruction?
Who comforts you after the famine and war?
20 Your children have fainted and they lie at the end of every street like antelope caught in a net.
They're full of Yahweh's anger—the rebuke from your god,
21 so listen to this you oppressed one,
and the one who's drunk, but not from wine.
22 This is what your master Yahweh,
and your god who defends your people, says:
Listen, I've taken that cup of suffering out of your hand—
the goblet containing my rage. You'll no longer have to drink it.
23 Instead, I'll put it into your tormentors' hand—
those who told you to bow down so they could walk over the top of you,
and made your back like the ground or the street for walking on.

Yahweh will rescue Yerushalem

52:1 Wake up, wake up, strengthen yourself Tsiyon (Zion).
Put your beautiful clothes on, Yerushalem (Jerusalem), sacred city,
because the uncircumcised and the 'unclean' people won't enter you again.[115]
2 Shake yourself free from the dust.
Take action, you captive Yerushalem.
Release the chains from your neck, you captive daughter of Tsiyon
3 because Yahweh says this:
You were sold for nothing
and you'll gain your freedom without any payment,
4 because my master Yahweh says this:
My people went down to Mitsrayim (Egypt) to stay there long ago,
and then Ashur (Assyria) has oppressed the nation for nothing.
5 Now Yahweh declares:
My people were taken for no reason.
His rulers mock him
and my name is continually slandered throughout the day.[116]
That is Yahweh's declaration.
6 Therefore my people will know my name because on that day
it will be me speaking and saying, 'Here I am.'
7 How delightful is the one who brings good news across the mountains announcing peace[117]—
bringing good news that announces a coming rescuer,
and telling Tsiyon (Zion) that their god reigns.
8 Your watchmen will all call out loudly at the same time.

115 **RV 52:1 · Cross-ref.** Rev 21:2-27.

116 **RV 52:5 · Cross-ref.** Rom 2:24.

117 **RV 52:7 · Cross-ref.** Nah 1:15; Acts 10:36; Rom 10:15; Eph 6:15.

Readers' Version

They'll all shout happily because each of them will see that Yahweh has returned to Tsiyon.
9 Start shouting out happily you ruined places in Yerushalem (Jerusalem)
because Yahweh has encouraged his people—he's paid the price for Yerushalem's freedom.
10 In front of all the nations, Yahweh has revealed that he's holy and powerful,
and even the ends of the earth will see that our god rescues his people.
11 Get out, get out, leave that place! Don't touch anything that's 'unclean'.[118]
Get out from among it. Purify yourselves, all of you who carry Yahweh within you,
12 because you won't leave out in a rush.
You all won't have to flee hurriedly
because Yahweh will go ahead of you all,
and Yisrael's (Israel's) god will bring up the rear.
13 Listen, my servant will prosper—
he'll be promoted and highly honoured.

The suffering servant · The fourth servant song

14 Many people were horrified at you—his appearance was so disfigured
and his body was so disfigured that he no longer looked like a man.
15 So he'll startle many nations.
Kings will shut their mouths because even if they hadn't been told about it,
they'll see and understand what they hadn't heard about.[119]
53:1 Who has believed our message,
and who has Yahweh's power been revealed to?[120]
2 He grew in front of him like a young plant,
and like a root out of the dry ground.
He had no fancy form or splendour to look at,
and his appearance didn't attract us to him.
3 He was despised and rejected by people—
a man with a lot of pain and familiar with sickness
like someone that most people would look away from
and despise him, rather than to esteem him.
4 Despite that, he's borne our sicknesses
and carried our pains.[121]
We thought that he'd been struck down by God—
attacked and made to suffer.
5 But he was pierced for our disobedience,
and crushed for our wicked actions.
The punishment that gave us peace was on him,
and we were healed thanks to his wounds.[122]
6 We've all strayed away like sheep—
everyone's gone in their own direction[123]
and Yahweh has placed all our disobedience onto him.
7 He was oppressed and tormented
but like a lamb being led away to be slaughtered,[124] he didn't open his mouth,
and like a sheep that's silent in front of its shearers, he didn't open his mouth.
8 After oppression and judgement, he was taken away,
but how many of his peers even cared that he was cut off from the land of the living?
He was wounded because of the disobedience of my people.
9 His burial place was among the criminals,
and a rich man at his death,
although he'd committed no violent acts,
and had never spoken deceitfully.[125]
10 But Yahweh desired to crush him—
he made him sick if it would make his life a guilt offering.
He will live long and see offspring,
and Yahweh' plans will prosper through his work.
11 Due to his internal anguish, he'll be able to see.
He'll be satisfied with his knowledge.
My obedient servant will justify many,
and he will carry their disobedience.
12 Because of that, I'll allocate a portion for him.
He'll divide out the plunder to a powerful people
because he poured out his life resulting in his death.
He was included with the wicked,[126]
and he bore the disobedience of many people,
and he intervened on behalf of the disobedient.
54:1 Sing happily you barren women who has never given birth.

Yahweh's love for Yerushalem

Break into a cheery song and celebrate, you who've never been in labour,
because the desolate woman now has more children than the married woman did says Yahweh.[127]

118 **RV 52:11 · Cross-ref.** 2Cor 6:17.
119 **RV 52:15 · Cross-ref.** Rom 15:21.
120 **RV 53:1 · Cross-ref.** Rom 10:16; Yhn 12:38.
121 **RV 53:4 · Cross-ref.** Mat 8:17.
122 **RV 53:5 · Cross-ref.** 1Pe 2:24.
123 **RV 53:6 · Cross-ref.** 1Pe 2:25.
124 **RV 53:7 · Cross-ref.** Rev 5:6.
125 **RV 53:9 · Cross-ref.** 1Pe 2:22.
126 **RV 53:12 · Cross-ref.** Luk 22:37.
127 **RV 54:1 · Cross-ref.** Gal 4:27.

Readers' Version

2 Widen your tent and stretch your tent curtains further
out without restraint.
Make your tent ropes longer and drive your stakes in deep
3 because you'll spread out both to the right and to the left,
and your descendants will conquer nations
and settle in cities that had become desolate.
4 Don't be afraid because you won't be put to shame,
and don't be discouraged because you won't be disgraced,
because you'll forget the shame from your youth.
You'll no longer remember the disgrace from when you
were made a widow
5 because your husband is the one who made you—
his name is Commander-in-chief Yahweh.
Yisrael's (Israel's) holy one is your protector.
He's called the god of the whole world.
6 Yes, Yahweh has called you back
as if you were an abandoned wife with a wounded spirit,
or a young wife who was rejected.
Your god says:
7 I abandoned you for a little while,
^but now I'll bring you back with great compassion.
8 I kept away from you for a while in a flood of severe
anger,
but with my permanent loyal commitment, I'll have compassion on you.
Yahweh who paid the price for your freedom says:
9 For me, this is like Noah's flood—
just as I promised to never again to cover the earth,
so too I promise not to be angry at you or to rebuke you.
10 Even if the mountains disappear and the hills shake,
my loyal commitment to you won't disappear and my
agreement for peace won't be shaken,
says Yahweh, the one who has compassion for you.

The new Yerushalem

11 You city which is suffering like being battered in a storm
with no one to comfort you,
listen, I'll rebuild you with turquoise stones,
and place sapphires in your foundations.
12 I'll make your towers out of rubies
and your gates from beryl stones,
and all your walls from other precious stones.
13 All your children will be followers of Yahweh,
and they'll experience extended peace.
14 You'll be established with justice—far away from oppression.
You won't be afraid of acts of terror because it won't approach you.
15 Listen, no one will attack you that I haven't sent.
Anyone stirring up trouble against you will fail.
16 Look, I created the craftsman who fans the charcoal fire,
and produces weapons as his work,
and it's me who created a destroyer to cause destruction.
17 No weapon that's made to be used against you will succeed,
and those who speak out accusations against you will be
condemned as guilty.
That's the inheritance of Yahweh's servants,
and I, Yahweh, will pronounce them as innocent.

Come and freely find Yahweh

55:1 Hey, you who are thirsty, go to the water supplies,
and you who have no money, go and buy grain and eat.
Yes, come and buy grain without money,
and wine and milk with no price on them.
2 Why pay money for what's not food,
and work hard for what doesn't satisfy?
Listen carefully to me and eat good things
and enjoy rich foods.
3 Pay attention and come to me.
Listen so you all can live,
and I'll make a permanent agreement with you all—
the reliable, loyal commitment shown to David.[128]
4 Listen, I've made him a witness to the nations—
a leader and commander of the people groups.
5 Look, you'll call a nation that you didn't know,
and that nation that didn't know you either, will run to you
because of your god Yahweh,
and because Yisrael's (Israel's) holy one has caused you to be honoured.
6 Search for Yahweh while he lets himself be found.
Call out to Yahweh for help while he's near.
7 Let the wicked person abandon their behaviour,
and the evil person abandon their plans.
Then let them return to Yahweh so that he can have compassion for him,
and return to our god because he'll freely forgive them.
8 Yes, my thoughts aren't like your thoughts,
and your ways aren't like my ways.
That's what Yahweh declares.
9 Yes, just as the skies are higher than the earth,
so too my ways are higher than your ways
and my thoughts are higher than your thoughts.
10 Just like how the rain and snow come down from the skies
and don't return there, but water the land
that then makes it produce and sprout,
seed is given to the sower and bread to the consumer,
11 so too when my message leaves my mouth.
It won't return to me empty,
but when it's done what was desired,
and after having prospered in the place where I sent it.
12 You'll all go out cheerfully
and be led in peace.

128 RV 55:3 · Cross-ref. Acts 13:34.

Readers' Version

The mountains and hills will let out a happy shout,
and all the trees in the countryside will clap their hands.
13 Instead of thornbushes, cypress trees will grow up.
Rather than nettles, myrtle trees will rise up,
and it'll increase Yahweh's reputation
as a permanent sign that will never be destroyed.

Salvation for others

56:1 Yahweh says this:
Promote justice and do what is right
because the time when I'll save you is coming soon,
and my righteousness will be revealed.
2 Everyone who does that will be blessed,
and the son of humanity who takes hold of it,
who observes the rest day—not defiling it,
and who stays away from doing anything evil.
3 Don't let the son of any foreigner who's decided to follow Yahweh,
say, 'Yahweh will certainly separate me out from his people.'
And don't let the castrated slave say, 'Look, I'm a withered-up tree,'
4 because Yahweh says this:
To the castrated slaves who observe my rest days
and choose what pleases me and are faithful to my agreement,
5 I will give them a monument and a good name in my house and inside my walls
that's better than sons and daughters.
I'll give them a permanent good reputation which won't be terminated.
6 Then the children of foreigners who strive to follow Yahweh,
to serve him and to love his name, and to be his servants,
who observe the rest day without defiling it,
and who cling to my agreement,
7 I'll bring them to my sacred mountain
and make them happy in my temple where people pray.
Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be acceptable on my altar,
because my temple will be called a prayer house for all the nations.[129]
8 My master Yahweh, who gathers Yisrael's (Israel's) outcasts, says this:
I'll gather others beside those already gathered.

The judging of teachers of Yisrael

9 All you animals in the countryside, come to devour,
yes, all you animals in the forest.
10 All of its watchmen are blind—they don't know what's going on.
They're all voiceless dogs, unable to bark.
They dream about lying down—enjoying a nap.
11 The dogs have a fierce appetite—they're never full.
The shepherds know nothing and don't understand.
They've all gone their own way and make money from their illegal sidelines.
12 Come on, take some wine and let's drink strong drink.
Tomorrow will be just like today except we'll have even more.

Yisrael's idolatry is condemned

57:1 The godly people die but no one takes it to heart.
Those with loyal commitment are removed but no one knows what's going on
because the godly people are pulled back from facing evil.
2 They go in peace.
They've walked on a straightforward path
and now they rest on their beds.
3 But come here you children of a sorceress—
offspring of adulterers and prostitutes.
4 Who are you all making fun of?
Who are you speaking out against and poking your tongues out against?
You're all children of wickedness—offspring of deception
5 who burn with lust under oak trees—in fact under every green tree.
You all slaughter children in valleys under the crevices in the cliffs.
6 You stand up large, smooth stones from the riverbed
and offer them a portion of your food.
You pour out wine as a drink offering and offer up a grain offering.
Will I relent in taking action about those activities?
7 You slept up high at the hilltop shrines
where you went up to also offer a sacrifice,
8 and you've put your symbols behind the door and doorposts.
Yes, away from me you stripped off
and filled your bed with others.
You had an agreement with those whose bed you loved—
enjoying their bodies.
9 You took oil and travelled to the king,
along with lots of perfumes.
Then you sent your ambassadors to distant places,
and even descended to the world of the dead.
10 You were tired from your long journey,
but you didn't say that it's all just hopeless.
You found new things to do so then you didn't become weak.
11 Who very you so afraid of that you lie,
and don't remember me or think about me?
Haven't I been silent for a long time now
so it's not me that you're afraid of.
12 I'll talk about your activities and how you do what's right

129 **RV 56:7 · Cross-ref.** Mat 21:13; Mrk 11:17; Luk 19:46.

Readers' Version

but they won't benefit you.
13 When you call out for help, let your collection rescue you,
but a wind will carry them all away—
a breath will take them away.
But those who rely on me for safety will inherit the land,
and will take possession of my holy mountain.
14 Then he'll say:
Pile it up, pile it up, make a track through.

God will help and heal

Remove the stumbling blocks from the path for my people.
15 The one who's high and honoured, who lives forever and whose name is holy, says:
I live in a place that's holy and up high,
but also with the oppressed person and with the humble person,
→to restore the spirit of the humble and to encourage those who feel crushed.
16 However, I won't argue the point forever,
and I won't remain permanently angry,
because those who stand in front of me would faint—
the creatures that I myself made.
17 I was angry at the wickedness of their dishonest gain and I struck them.
I hid and I was angry, but they decided to go against me.
18 I've seen their ways and I'll heal them,
and I'll lead them and comfort them and their mourners.
19 I'll enable them to shout happily,
'Peace, peace, to those both near and far,'
and I will heal them says Yahweh.
20 But the wicked are like the ocean in a storm,
because it's unable to stay calm, but rather it stirs up slush and mud.
21 My god says that there's no peace for those who are wicked.

Don't fast just for looks

58:1 Shout loudly. Don't hold back.
Raise your voice like a trumpet
and confront my people with their wickedness,
and Ya'akov's (Jacob's) descendants with their disobedience.
2 They search for me every day
and want to learn about my ways like a nation that does what is right,
and they haven't abandoned the values of their god.
They ask me to make judgements that are far and right.
They want god to approach them.
3 Why did we fast, as you didn't even look?
We humbled ourselves and you didn't even notice?
Listen, when you fasted was it just for your own needs?
You all certainly drive your labourers hard!
4 Look, you all fast with strife and contention,
and strike out with vicious clenched fists.
You all don't fast today to make your voices heard up on high.
5 Is that the kind of fasting that I would choose?
A day when a person humbles themself and bows their head down like a bulrush does.
They wear sackcloth and form a bed of ashes to sit on.
Is that really a fast that's acceptable to Yahweh?
6 Isn't this the fast that I would prefer?
When you all remove chains that were wickedly put on others,
and undo the ropes from the yoke that forced them to comply?
Let go all those who've been crushed,
and break every yoke that burdened them.
7 Isn't it to share your food with those who are hungry,
and to bring the poor, homeless people into your house?
When you see someone naked, clothe them,
and don't hide yourself from your own relatives.
8 Then your light will break through like the dawn,
and your healing will quickly spring up.
Your right actions will go ahead of you
and Yahweh's honour will follow along behind you.
9 Then you'll call out and Yahweh will answer.
You'll cry for help and he'll say, 'Here I am.'
If you remove the burden of the yoke from among you,
as well as the pointing finger and wicked speech,
10 give yourself to the hungry
and give those who are suffering what they need
then your light will rise in the darkness
and your darkness will be like the noonday.
11 Then Yahweh will continually lead you
and satisfy your appetite in arid regions.
He'll strengthen your bones and will be like a watered garden,
and like a spring that never runs dry.
12 Then some of you will rebuild the ancient ruins—
you'll restore the foundations from generations ago
and you'll be called the repairer of the wall—
the one who restores streets to live in.

Blessings for keeping the rest day

13 If on the rest day, you turn back from what you wanted to do
and don't try to please yourself on my sacred day,
enjoy Yahweh's sacred and honourable rest day,
and honour it instead of doing your own activities such as finding your own pleasure or delivering a speech,
14 then you'll take delight in Yahweh.
I'll make you ride on the heights of the earth,
and I'll give you the same blessings that I gave your ancestor, Ya'akov (Jacob).
That's what Yahweh has spoken.

Yisrael's sins and punishment

59:1 Listen, don't think that Yahweh can't rescue you,
or that he won't be able to hear you.
2 However, your disobedience causes separation between

Readers' Version

you all and your god,
and your sins have made him turn away from listening to you,
3 because your hands are defiled with blood,
and your fingers with sin.
Your lips spew out lies
and your tongue works against justice.
4 No one stands up for justice,
and no one pleads their case truthfully.
They rely on being meaningless, or fancy words of no value—
conceiving mischief and advancing wickedness.
5 They hatch vipers' eggs
and weave spiders' webs
Anyone who eats any of their eggs will die—
when they're cracked open, a viper will be hatched.
6 Their weavings aren't for clothes,
so they don't cover themselves with their products.
Their products are products of wickedness,
and their hands are involved in violence.
7 Their feet run towards evil,
and they're quick to shed innocent blood.
They're always thinking about wickedness—
they walk the paths of causing ruin and destruction.
8 They don't know the way of peace,
and there's no justice on their tracks.
They've make their paths crooked—
none of those who tread on them will experience peace.
9 Therefore, justice is far from us — **Societal sinfulness**
and righteousness doesn't reach us.
We wait for light, but look, we get darkness.
We wait for gleams of light, but walk in the gloom.
10 We grope along the wall like the blind,
and feel around as though we had no eyes.
Even at midday, we stumble as if it's twilight—
among the living but behaving like the dead.
11 All of us growl like bears,
and moan mournfully like doves.
We keep hoping for justice, but none comes,
for rescue, but it's far away
12 because our transgressions in front of you are many.
Our sins have testified against us
because our transgressions are with us,
and as for our iniquities, we know them.
13 We've rebelled and denied Yahweh,
and turned away from following our god—
promoting oppression and rebellion instead.
We've conceived and told lies as if they were the heart-felt truth.
14 Justice is driven right back,
and righteousness stands off at a distance,
because truth has stumbled in the public square,
and honesty can't enter.
15 So then truth went missing,
and the one who turned away from evil got robbed.
Yahweh saw it and wasn't pleased that there was no justice.
16 Yahweh saw that there wasn't anyone to make a stand, — **The assisting of Master of his people**
and was appalled that there was no one to intervene.
So he applied his own power to bring salvation,
and his own desire to do what's right, sustained him.[130]
17 He put righteousness on like armour,
and a helmet of salvation on his head.[131]
He dressed in clothes of vengeance
and wrapped himself with zeal like a robe.
18 He will repay his enemies for the evil things that they have done.
He will repay the islands with the appropriate reward.
19 Then those in the west will respect Yahweh's reputation,
and in the east, will respect his splendour,
→because he'll come like a swift river with Yahweh's wind driving it.
20 Then a redeemer will come to Tsiyon (Zion)
and to those descendants of Ya'akov (Jacob) who repent of their disobedience.
That's what Yahweh declares.
21 Then Yahweh says:
This is my agreement with them.
My spirit which is on you and my messages that I've put in your mouth,
they won't leave your mouth or the mouths of your descendants,
even the distant generations from now and forever onwards.
That is Yahweh's declaration.
60:1 Take action, shine, because your light has come, — **Yerushalem's future splendour**
and Yahweh's brilliance has risen to shine on you,
2 Yes, listen, darkness will cover the earth.
and thick darkness will blanket the nations,
and then Yahweh will dawn over you,
and his brilliance will appear over you.
3 Nations will come to your light,
and kings to your rising brightness.
4 Look up and all around and see all of them gathered together.
Your sons will come from far away,
and your little daughters will be carried back on the hip.
5 Then you'll see and be radiant,
and your heart will be in awe, and broaden,

130 RV 59:16 · Cross-ref. Isa 63:5.

131 RV 59:17 · Cross-ref. Eph 6:14-17; 1Th 5:8.

Readers' Version

because plenty of international shipping will come to you,
6 Plenty of camels will cover your land—
young camels from Midyan and Eyfah.
All of them will come from Sheva.
They'll bring gold and frankincense
and will announce praises to Yahweh.
7 All the flocks from Kedar will be gathered for you.
The rams from Nevayot will serve you.
They'll be accepted to go up onto my altar,
and I'll decorate my house beautifully.
8 Who are these who fly like a cloud,
and like doves to their windows?
9 The islands wait for me, and the ships from Tarshish
will be first to bring your sons from far away
along with their gold and silver to honour your god Yahweh
and for Yisrael's (Israel's) holy one because he's honoured you.
10 The sons of foreigners will rebuild your city walls,
and their kings will serve you,
because although I struck you in my severe anger,
yet in my favour I've had compassion towards you.
11 Then your city gates will be always open—
they won't be shut day or night,
so the wealth from other nations can be brought to you,
with their kings being led captive.[132]
12 Yes, any nation or kingdom that won't serve you will perish,
and the nations will be completely destroyed.
13 Levanon's best will come to you—
cypress, fir, and cedar timber all at once,
to make my sanctuary beautiful
and I'll honour the place where I stand.
14 The descendants of those who oppressed you will come to you
and all those who despised you will bow down at your feet.[133]
They will call you Yahweh's city—
Yisrael's (Israel's) holy one—Tsiyon (Zion).
15 Instead of your being abandoned and hated, with no one passing through you,
I'll make you a thing of perpetual pride—the joy of future generations.
16 You'll suckle the milk from the nations,
and feed from the breast of kings,
and you know that I, Yahweh, am your rescuer and your redeemer—Ya'akov's (Jacob's) powerful one.
17 Instead of bronze and iron, I'll bring gold and silver,
and instead of timber and stones, bronze and iron.
Then I'll appoint peace as your overseer,
and righteousness as your supervisors.
18 Violence won't be experienced in your land—
no more devastation or destruction in your territories.
You'll realise that salvation protects you like city walls
and praise like your city gates.
19 The sun will no longer be your light during the day,
nor will the moon's brightness shine for you,
but rather, Yahweh will be your perpetual light,
and your god will be your brilliant light.[134]
20 Your sun will no longer set,
and your moon will no longer disappear,
because Yahweh will be your perpetual light,
and your days of mourning will be over.
21 As for your people, all of them will do what is right.
They will permanently possess the land—the shoot that I planted—
my handiwork to showcase my greatness.
22 The little one will become a thousand,
and the little nation will become powerful.
I, Yahweh, will quickly accomplish it at the appropriate time.

The assisting of Yisrael

61:1 My master, Yahweh's spirit is on me
because Yahweh has chosen me
→to bring good news to those who are suffering.[135]
He's sent me to bandage up the brokenhearted,
to decree freedom for those taken captive,
and to liberate those who are chained up.
2 He's sent me to proclaim the year of Yahweh's favour,[136]
and a day of our god's vengeance,
and to comfort all those who mourn.[137]
3 It'll be a time to give Tsiyon's (Zion's) mourners a nice turban instead of ashes on their heads,
oil to show joy on their faces instead of mourning,
a cloak of praise instead of a discouraged spirit.
Then they'll be called 'oaks of righteousness' that Yahweh planted to display his splendour.
4 They'll rebuild the ancient ruins—
restoring the places that had become deserted.
They'll rebuild the devastated cities,
and places that have been in ruins for generations.
5 Strangers will stand out in your fields and shepherd your

132 **RV 60:11 · Cross-ref.** Rev 21:25-26.
133 **RV 60:14 · Cross-ref.** Rev 3:9.
134 **RV 60:19 · Cross-ref.** Rev 21:23; 22:5.
135 **RV 61:1 · Cross-ref.** Mat 11:5; Luk 7:22.
136 **RV 61:1-2 · Cross-ref.** Luk 4:18-19.
137 **RV 61:2 · Cross-ref.** Mat 5:4.

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flocks,
and sons of foreigners will take care of your farms and vineyards.
6 Then you'll all be called Yahweh's priests,
and it'll be said that you're servants of our god.
You'll consume the wealth from the nations
→and you'll also boast because there'll be so much of it.
7 Instead of shame, you'll all have a double blessing,
and instead of dishonour, they'll shout happily about their portion,
Yes, they'll possess a double portion in their land
and they'll have permanent happiness
8 because I, Yahweh, love justice and hate theft and crime.
Due to my faithfulness, I'll repay them for what they've been through,
and I'll make a permanent agreement with them.
9 Then their descendants will be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the people groups.
Everyone who sees them will recognise them
because they are the people who Yahweh has blessed.
10 I'm going to really celebrate Yahweh.
My inner being will be glad about my god
because he has dressed me in clothes of a free person.
He's clothed me with the robe of a person declared innocent
like the groom puts on a nice turban,
and the bride adorns herself with jewelry.[138]
11 Just as the soil produces growth,
and as the seeds in the garden start to sprout,
so too my master, Yahweh, will make righteousness grow
as well as praise towards all the nations.

Yerushalem's coming rescue

62:1 For the sake of Tsiyon (Zion), I won't be silent.
and for Yerushalem's (Jerusalem's) sake, I won't be quiet,
until its righteousness proceeds as brightness
and its salvation like a burning torch.
2 Then the other nations will see your righteousness,
and all kings will see your glory.
and you'll be called by a new name that Yahweh himself will give.
3 You'll be a beautiful crown in Yahweh's hand,
and a royal turban in your god's palm.
4 They won't claim any longer that you've been abandoned,
and they won't say again that your land has been deserted,
because you'll be called 'the place that Yahweh likes'.
Also, your land will be called 'married'
because your land will be married to him.
5 Just like a young man marries a young woman,
your sons will marry you,
and as the groom is full of happiness about his bride,
your god will be full of happiness about you.
6 I've put watchmen on your walls, Yerushalem (Jerusalem).
They'll never be silent—night or day.
You all who are reminding Yahweh, don't ever stop to rest—
7 don't let him rest until he reestablishes Yerushalem,
and until he makes it something to be praised by the world.
8 Yahweh has using the strength from his power,
and raised his right hand to make a promise:
I'll won't give your grain to your enemies again for their food,
and foreigners' children won't be drinking the new wine that you worked so hard to make,
9 because those who harvested the grain will eat it,
and those who collected the grapes will drink in my sacred courtyards.
10 Go through, head out the city gates. Clear the way for the people.
Build up, build up the highway. Clear away the stones to raise up a banner for the nations.
11 Listen, Yahweh has proclaimed to the ends of the earth:
Tell Tsiyon's (Zion's) daughter to look because her rescue is about to happen.
Look, he's brought his reward with him,
and his wages go ahead of him.[139]
12 The ones that Yahweh has paid to have freed
will be called 'the sacred people' by others.
Also, you'll be called 'the desirable city'—
the one which hasn't been abandoned.

Yahweh's vengeance

63:1 Who's that coming from Edom,[140]
coming from Batserah dressed in crimson?
This one dressed like an honoured person,
marching in the greatness of his strength?
It's me, Yahweh, proclaiming what's right—powerful to rescue.
2 What's that red on your clothes?
Your clothes look like you've been treading grapes in a wine-pressing pit?
3 I've trodden in the wine-pressing pit alone,
and there wasn't anyone from the nations with me.
I trod them in my anger,
and trampled them in my fury.[141]
and their blood is splattered onto my clothes.[142]

138 **RV 61:10 · Cross-ref.** Rev 21:2.
139 **RV 62:11 · Cross-ref.** Isa 40:10; Rev 22:12.
140 **RV 63:1-6 · Cross-ref.** Isa 34:5-17; Jer 49:7-22; Eze 25:12-14; 35:1-15; Amos 1:11-12; Oba 1-14; Mal 1:2-5.
141 **RV 63:3 · Cross-ref.** Rev 14:20; 19:15.
142 **RV 63:3 · Cross-ref.** Rev 19:13.

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All my clothes are stained
4 because I had decided that this was the day of vengeance,
and the year had come for me to buy my people's freedom.
5 I looked and there wasn't anyone to help,
and I was appalled that no one assisted,
but my power gave me victory,
and my rage sustained me.[143]
6 I trod down peoples in my anger,
and in my rage, I made them drunk,
and I poured their blood out on the ground.

Remembering Yahweh's goodness

7 I'll tell others about Yahweh's loyal commitment—
praising him for his treatment of us.
Yes, for his amazing goodness to Yisrael's (Israel's) descendants,
which he's shown us according to his mercy,
and according to his incredible loyal commitment,
8 and he said, "They're definitely my people—
children who wouldn't be disloyal,"
and he became their rescuer.
9 In all their suffering, he also suffered,
and his messenger went ahead of him to rescue them.
In his love and mercy, he paid the price for their freedom,
through that era, he lifted them up and carried them.
10 However, they rebelled and grieved his holy spirit,
→so he turned into their enemy who fought against them.
11 Then his people recalled that era with Mosheh (Moses),
Where is the one who brought them up from the sea
along with those shepherds of his flock?
Where is the one who sent his holy spirit to be among them,
12 who transferred his glorious power to Mosheh,
who then divided the sea in front of them[144]
to gain himself a lasting reputation,
13 who led them through the depths?
Like a horse in the wilderness, they didn't stumble.
14 Like cattle going down a valley, Yahweh's spirit gave them peace,
so you led your people to give yourself an incredible reputation.

The mercy

15 Look from heaven
and see from your wonderful, holy residence.
Where's your actions full of zeal and power?
Your inner motivation and your compassion have restrained themselves from me.
16 Yes, you are our father, although Avraham doesn't know us
and Yisrael (Israel) doesn't recognise us.
You, Yahweh, are our father
and the one who bought us our freedom long ago.
17 Yahweh, why do you make us wander from your paths—
hardening our hearts so we don't want to obey you.
Return for your servants' sake—
the tribes who are your inheritance.
18 For a while, your holy people possessed your sanctuary.
Now our enemies have trampled over your sacred place.
19 We've become like those who you never ruled over—
like those who never called to you for help.
64:1 If you'd torn the skies open, then had come down,
the mountains would have shaken in front of you.
2 Just as fire ignites twigs and boils water,
making your name known to your enemies will make the nations tremble in front of you.
3 When you did amazing things that we weren't expecting, you came down.
The mountains shook in front of you.
4 Since ancient times, no one has heard,
and people's ears haven't listened to anything like that.
No eye has seen any god other than you,
→who takes action for those who wait, expecting his help.[145]
5 You meet the one who is happy and who does what is right—
who remembers your instructions.
Listen, you were angry because we sinned over a long period
but now we will be saved.
6 We've all become like someone 'unclean'
and all the good things we do are like a used menstrual rag.
Because of our acts of disobedience,
all of us have been like leaves that withered and were carried off like the wind.
7 There's no one left who calls on your name—
no one who stirs themself up to take hold of you,
because you've hidden yourself from us
and allowed our acts of disobedience to dissolve us away.
8 But now, Yahweh, you are our father.
We are the clay, and you're our potter,
and all of us are the your handiwork.
9 Don't be excessively angry, Yahweh,
and don't remember our disobedience forever.
Wow, please look here—all of us are your people.
10 Your sacred cities have become a wilderness:
Tsiyon (Zion) has become a wilderness.
Yerushalem (Jerusalem) became a desolation.
11 Our sacred and beautiful temple, where our ancestors praised you,
has now been burnt,

143 RV 63:5 · Cross-ref. Isa 59:16.

144 RV 63:12 · Cross-ref. Exo 14:21.

145 RV 64:4 · Cross-ref. 1Cor 2:9.

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and everything that we liked there is in ruins.
12 After those, will you restrain yourself, Yahweh?
Will you remain silent as you make us suffer so much?
65:1 "I let myself be consulted by those who hadn't asked,
Judgement from Yahweh
I let myself be found by those who hadn't searched for me.[146]
I said, 'Here I am. Here I am.' to a nation that wasn't even calling out my name.
2 All day long, I held my hands out to a rebellious people,[147]
who do just what they want rather than walking the good path—
3 a people who continually provoke me to anger.
They regularly sacrifice in gardens
and burn incense on brick altars.
4 They sit among graves and spend the night in such places.
They eat pork, and soup made from 'unclean' meat,
5 saying, 'Don't come near me because I'm more holy than you!'
Those people make me angry like a fire burning all day long.
6 "Listen, it's written in front of me.
I won't stay silent because I'll repay—
I'll repay where it hurts—
7 your disobedience and that of your ancestors together."
Yahweh says, "They burnt incense on the mountains,
and taunted me on the hills,
so I'll measure out their wages where it hurts."
8 This is what Yahweh says:
When juice is found in some grapes on the vine,
then someone will say, 'Don't destroy it because there's good in it,'
so too for the sake of my servants, I won't destroy everyone.
9 I'll bring descendants out of Ya'akov (Jacob),
and someone to possess my mountains out of Yehudah (Judah),
and my chosen ones will take possession of it,
and my servants will live there.
10 The Sharon plain will become a pasture for the flocks,
and the Akor valley[148] will be a resting place for cattle
for my people who search for me.
11 But you all who abandon Yahweh,
who forget my sacred mountain,
who prepare a table for Gad,
and fill mixed wine for Meni,
12 I'll appoint you all for the sword.
You'll all bow down for slaughter
because I called and you all didn't answer.
I spoke and you all didn't listen,
and did what I considered to be evil
and you chose what I didn't like.
13 So my master, Yahweh, says this:
Listen, my servants will eat, but you'll all be hungry.
Look, my servants will drink, but you'll all be thirsty.
Watch, my servants will celebrate, but you'll all be put to shame.
14 Listen, my servants will shout happily as they celebrate,
^but you'll all cry out from mental anguish,
and you'll all wail because of your broken spirits.
15 Your names will remain in your language as curse words for my chosen ones,
but my master Yahweh will put you to death,
and then he will call his servants by another name.
16 Anyone who blesses themself on earth, will bless themself by the god of certainty,
and anyone who makes a vow on earth, will promise by the god of certainty,
because their former troubles will be forgotten because they'll be hidden from my eyes.
17 Listen, I'm about to create new skies and a new earth,[149]
Yahweh's new creation
and then the previous things won't be remembered or thought about
18 because you'll celebrate and be forever happy with what I'm about to create,
because listen, I'm about to create a happy Yerushalem (Jerusalem) with celebrating people.
19 Then I'll celebrate about Yerushalem and be happy about my people,
and the sounds of weeping and distress will no longer be heard there.[150]
20 There won't be any more babies die there at a few days old,
or an elderly person who doesn't enjoy their full life.
Someone who's a hundred years old will seem like a young man,
and someone who doesn't reach one hundred will be considered cursed.
21 They'll build houses and live in them,
and they'll plant vineyards and get to eat their fruit.
22 They won't build then end up having someone else live there,

146 **RV 65:1 · Cross-ref.** Rom 10:20.
147 **RV 65:2 · Cross-ref.** Rom 10:21.
148 **RV 65:10 · Cross-ref.** Josh 7:24-26.
149 **RV 65:17 · Cross-ref.** Isa 66:22; 2Pe 3:13; Rev 21:1.
150 **RV 65:19 · Cross-ref.** Rev 21:4.

and they won't plant then end up with someone else eating the produce,
because my people will live as long as trees,
and my chosen ones will fully enjoy everything they've worked at.
23 Their work won't be wasted, and they won't end up discouraged,
→because they'll be Yahweh's children who are blessed, along with their descendants.
24 Before they even call out, I'll answer them—
while they're still speaking, I'll hear them.
25 The wolf and the lamb will graze together,
and the lion will eat straw like the cow.
The snake's food will be dirt and they won't cause any harm,
and nothing will be destroyed on my sacred mountain says Yahweh.[151]

66:1 Yahweh says this:
The heavens are my throne[152] and the earth is my footstool.[153]
Where then, could you all build a house for me,
and where could be a place for me to relax?
2 My hand made all those things
and they came to be by Yahweh's declaration.
The people that I take notice of
are those who are humble and contrite,
and who sincerely respect and honour my message.

Hypocrisy in worship

3 The same person who slaughters a bull (to sacrifice), also murders a person.
The one who sacrifices a lamb, breaks a dog's neck.
Someone who brings up a grain offering, also brings pigs' blood.
A person who offers incense as a memorial, blesses wickedness as well.
→They've chosen their own ways, and enjoy their detestable behaviour.
4 So I will choose their punishment,
→and I'll cause their fears to come to be.
because I called but no one answered.
I spoke and no one listened.
They did evil things as I watched,
and chose to do what I didn't like.
5 Listen to Yahweh's message you who respect and honour it.
Your relatives who hate you and who exclude you all for my name's sake, have said,
'Let Yahweh be honoured so we can see your happiness,'
however, they'll be put to shame.
6 There's a sound of uproar from the city—
noise coming from the temple:
the sound of Yahweh giving his enemies what they deserve.
7 Before it went into labour, it already gave birth.
Before the pain hit it, it delivered a son.[154]
8 Who's heard anything like that before?
Who's seen those sorts of things?
Can a land be given birth to in one day?
Can a nation be born in an instant,
→because Tsiyon (Zion) gave birth to her children so soon as she went into labour?
9 "Do I bring a baby to the birth canal and then not deliver it?" Yahweh asks.
"Or do I bring it to the point of delivery and then hold it back?" asks your god.
10 Celebrate with Yerushalem (Jerusalem) all of you who love it, and be glad.
Happily celebrate with it, all of you who mourned over it,
11 because you'll all suckle and be satisfied from her comforting breasts.
Yes, you'll all drink deeply and delight yourselves from her gushing nipple,
12 because Yahweh says this:
Listen, I'm about to extend peace to Yerushalem like a river,
and the wealth of the nations to her like an overflowing stream.
Then you'll all suckle and be carried on the hip,
and bounced on her knees.
13 I'll comfort you all like a mother comforts her child,
and you'll all be comforted in Yerushalem.
14 You'll all see that and it'll warm your heart,
and your bones will sprout like the grass.
Yahweh will reveal his power to his servants,
and he'll be indignant at his enemies,
15 because listen, Yahweh will come in fire with his chariots like a windstorm,
→to bring his raging anger and to rebuke with flames of fire.
16 Yes, Yahweh judges all humanity with fire and his sword,
and many people will be killed by him.
17 Those who consecrate themselves, and purify themselves for the gardens,
and those who eat pork, rats, and other detestable things, will all be destroyed together.
That is Yahweh's declaration.
18 I know their thoughts and what they've done. The time

151 **RV 65:25 · Cross-ref.** Isa 11:6-9.
152 **RV 66:1 · Cross-ref.** Mat 5:34; 23:22.
153 **RV 66:1 · Cross-ref.** Mat 5:35.
154 **RV 66:7 · Cross-ref.** Rev 12:5.

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is coming to gather all the nations and the language groups,
and they'll come and see my glory. **19** I'll perform a miracle
among them, and will send survivors from them to the nations: Tarshish, Put, Lud (home of archers), Tuval, Yavan
(Greece), and to the distant islands where they haven't heard
about me or seen my splendour. They'll tell other nations
about my greatness. **20** Then they'll bring all your relatives
back from all the nations to my sacred mountain Yerushalem
(Jerusalem), on horses, and in chariots and wagons, and on
mules and camels, as an offering to Yahweh like how the Israelis bring a grain offering in a clean vessel into the house
of Yahweh.
That's what Yahweh says.
21 Then I'll choose some of them to be priests and temple
workers.
That's what Yahweh says.
22 Just as the new skies and the new earth will stand in
front of me,[155]
so your descendants and your name will endure.
That's what Yahweh declares.
23 Then from month to month and week to week,
all creatures will come to bow down in front of me.
That's what Yahweh says.
24 Then they'll go out and see the corpses of those who rebelled against me,
because the maggots won't die and their fire won't be extinguished,[156]
and all creatures will find them abhorrent.

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155 **RV 66:22 · Cross-ref.** Isa 65:17; 2Pe 3:13; Rev 21:1.

156 **RV 66:24 · Cross-ref.** Mrk 9:48.